

Student Story: Finlay Mahoney



Just over two years ago, I was struggling with low self-esteem. I was on benefits, drifting through life, without purpose or motivation. Although I've always been interested in campaigning, I felt disillusioned with it, as it was always 'against' something, very negative, providing no alternative.

I came across an advert for a Permaculture Design Certificate which was supported by the Workers Educational Association, so free for people on benefits, and I attended. It was so much more than I expected. The tutors and fellow learners we're just incredibly friendly, a lovely bunch of people. It is a very social and co-operative learning experience, you get to meet and talk to people, discuss about things we all really care about.

I enjoyed the PDC so much, I did it twice! I love how Permaculture is a viable alternative to our current way of thinking. Permaculture has changed my life, I now feel like I have so much potential. Now, I take part at my local community allotment, I'm making my own designs, and I've just started my own ethical business. Anyone can practise Permaculture!

- Finlay Mahoney, 2013