

The law of the land

From park ranger to legal defender, Glasgow city council worker Paul McCandlish is well on the way to getting a law degree.

“I was always passionate about the law and interested in human rights, and I wanted to do something challenging, exciting, rewarding and different.”

“The time came when I got sick of shouting at the TV, and decided to do something about it.”

A manual labourer without the minimum qualifications to get into university, Paul sat a mature student’s entrance exam - and got a place on a part time law course.

Now preparing for his third year of university, Paul is looking forward to going back, but knows the course is more of a marathon than a sprint

“It’s a huge undertaking but every year I pass is a success, and a year closer to getting my degree. This morning I watched a podcast on property law – that’s how sad I am, the course doesn’t start again til September!”

Paul qualifies for £100 towards the cost of learning each year with the ILA Scotland scheme.

“A friend of mine was telling someone about the ILA Scotland scheme, and this person said it was pointless because you’re not going to turn bin men in to doctors. So my friend said to him, what would you think of a park ranger training to be a lawyer? Because I know someone who’s doing exactly that.”

“It’s never too late to learn. You should never let yourself be labelled or pigeonholed.

“If I can get into higher education as a 38 year old park ranger doing a part time law degree, there are no boundaries. The opportunities are out there to be seized.”

