

California woman's surfing skills net her a job

What was going to be a pleasant hobby for her retirement has turned into a new job for a 58-year-old Falkirk woman.

Jessie Young was keen to learn more about website design and took an evening course at Edinburgh's Stevenson College.

She used her ILA (Individual Learning Account) Scotland to help pay for the cost of her course and never looked back

Jessie – a union learning rep for the Public and Commercial Services Union – works for the Crown Office in Edinburgh, where she is based in the library.



Thanks to her newly acquired web skills, Jessie is now responsible for the Crown Office's local intranet, an organisational internet which is used by their staff in offices all over Scotland.

"I had looked on the website design course as something I would enjoy doing when I retired, more like a hobby than anything else. Within six months I had moved my job, I am working on the website here and I enjoy it very much," she said.

Jessie began her learning journey with a European Computer Driving Licence course. She wanted to take it further and did the Advanced ECDL in Excel, which proved very useful in her previous role in the Procurator Fiscal's cash office.

"I find that a kind of blended learning works well for me. When I was doing the ECDL I had books in the house so I could do a bit from them, then back it up with time at the college or online. I found some of the subjects easier than others because I had been doing a word processing and Excel at work," explained the mum of two from California.

After that, Jessie feels she got into the way of learning. "I would see what courses were on offer and by going to the college one night a week, could learn something totally new. I really enjoyed the sense of achievement and I would recommend it to anyone," she said.

To find out about similar courses in your area go to the Course Search page or call the ILA Scotland helpline free on **0808 100 1090**.