

The Learning Ladder



Issue 2

The Fire Brigades Union Lifelong Learning Newsletter

Website: <http://www.fbueducation.org/>

Twitter: [@FBULearn](https://twitter.com/FBULearn)

New Courses for 2015/16

Our Matrix Standard Learning Centre can deliver the following courses direct to our members:

- Common Health Conditions
- Equality and Diversity
- ECDL Extra* (Only in selected regions)
- Customer Service
- Understanding Nutrition and Health
- Awareness of Mental Health problems
- Team Leading
- Information, advice and guidance
- Principles of Dementia Care
- Functional Skills* Maths & English (Only in selected regions)
- Working with individuals with Learning Disabilities

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For more details and to enrol visit fbueducation.org

Stroud Learners

At the start of the academic year a group of firefighters from Stroud Fire Station, Region 13 Gloucestershire, enrolled onto some of the distance learning courses that the FBU are offering its members and this is what a few of them had to say;

Firefighter Jim Harley, White Watch, Stroud Fire Station.



I found out about the union learning courses when I was searching for something else on the FBU website, the banner advert popped up and I then started researching the courses. I quite like the idea of learning something new to get my brain engaged as it's been about 5 years since I've done anything like this.

I chose the Health & Nutrition course as I found this was the most relevant to my interests. It was really easy to get enrolled; we had a visit from Tim Davis who was full of helpful advice and information. I found the tutors to be helpful and the feedback useful. I will hopefully use what I've learnt in both my work and home life and I would definitely sign up for another course as I found the whole experience very worthwhile.

Firefighter Abi Handley, Red Watch, Stroud Fire Station

My Branch rep told me about the courses being offered. It's been about 16 years since I was last part of a learning experience so I felt this would be a positive thing to sign up to. The subject matter really interested me on the Mental Health Awareness course and I could see how this would have benefits for both in and out of work time, as it's allowed me to understand much more about people who suffer Mental Health issues and what problems they can face daily. I found enrolling really easy and Tim (the man who enrolled us) was really helpful and full of information. The course itself was really enjoyable and I found the tutor left useful comments, I will definitely look at doing another course and I'm looking forward to seeing what's on offer this academic year.



The FBU ULF is now on Twitter

Firefighter Rosie Tully, White Watch, Stroud Fire Station

My colleague found the courses offered on the FBU website, we liked the look of what we saw so applied online, Tim Davis (Project Support Organiser) then rang me and we arranged an enrolment day along with another 6 people from my station who were interested.

Enrolment was easy and really informative of what to expect. I decided on the Mental Health Awareness course as this was very close to my heart and it has benefitted me both in and out of work already.

I found the feedback from the tutors useful and was very proud of myself when I completed the course as it's been many years since I did anything like this, I surprised myself at how enjoyable the learning experience was, if only school had been the same!



I'll definitely be signing up for another course and I'd actively encourage anyone else to do so too.

Well done Jim, Abi and Rosie for completing 3 worthwhile courses and gaining a valuable level 2 qualification, it's great that all of you wish to continue your learning with the FBU.

Also, well done to your other colleagues who also completed their chosen courses

Higher Level and Advanced Apprenticeships

In October, there will be an opportunity for FBU members to enrol onto higher and advanced level apprenticeships at Levels 3, 4 and 5. These opportunities will be promoted on our website and through our usual network of Learning Centre, Project Support Organisers and Union Learning Reps.

These apprenticeships will require a commitment over a twelve month period.

