Luke Calver 0:15

Hello and welcome. This podcast has been brought to you from UHI and the careers employability team. My name is Luke calver. And in this episode, we'll be focusing on the BA Child and Youth Studies degree showcasing one of the many career paths that you could take once graduating. I'm joined by Dr. Mei-Li Roberts, programme leader for Child and Youth studies, as well as alum Jamie, who were talking about their career path over to Mei-Li.

Mei-Li 0:37

Hello, and welcome, Jamie, and thanks for agreeing to speak to us today. I thought we'd just start if you could just give us a little bit of an introduction about yourself and when you graduated.

Jamie Titterton 0:49

Yeah, absolutely. So I'm Jamie from Campbelltown in Kintyre, and I graduated on the BA Honours child and youth studies programme in 2018. I was trying to remember back in 2018, it was it's flown by.

Mei-Li 1:06

That's for that, Jamie. So yeah, so it doesn't seem so long ago, actually, that you were with us. So you did the full honours degree you did up to fourth year before you left?

Jamie Titterton 1:16

Yeah. Did the four years. Yeah.

Mei-Li 1:19

So what's your career path been since leaving the degree? And can you tell us a little bit about what your current role is?

Jamie Titterton 1:26

Yeah, absolutely. Well, the degree just gave me all the kind of knowledge and understanding that I needed to take the next step. So I started the degree because I wanted to move into youth work. That was something I always wanted to do after I left school, and yeah, so after finishing the degree, I then went on to Glasgow uni where I did my post grad diploma and Community Learning and Development specialised in youth work. So that was a one year's course. And that allowed me to get CLB Standards Council registration, so essentially became qualified and youth work. And then luckily enough this job back in Argyll and Bute just came back up that summer, just when I finished my post grant, so I was able to come back home and do what I wanted to do, which was just fantastic. So I'm currently Community Learning worker for the lever gal community learning team. And still based in Kintyre, in Campbelltown. So I'm currently the the local youth work lead for that. So we work alongside young people locally to kind of try and facility programmes and projects for kind of opportunities for development and learning so that hopefully young people can find some pathway to kind of social or personal development.

Unknown Speaker 2:40

Thanks, Jamie, it sounds like everything came into alignment for you as well with the job role as well as you know, what, after you finished your training? So what could you tell us just a little bit about what you find most enjoyable, enjoyable about your current role as a youth worker, and just give a bit more insight for students? People listening?

Jamie Titterton 3:02

Yeah, absolutely. I think, the most enjoyable things, also the most challenging thing, it's trying to work alongside young people and find out what their genuine needs and interests are, so that they can take the lead on projects, they can take the lead on programmes, and they can take ownership of it. So it's not just about us, assuming what their needs and interests are, and putting things on and inviting them along to it, it's about finding ways to kind of engage with them and work alongside them. So that we can really kind of get into the the how and why of what they need and what we can do for them and what we can facilitate to try and bring about some sort of development. So it's, I think that's the most challenging part of it. That's not an easy thing to do. But it's, it's definitely the most enjoyable when it works when you see that kind of sense of ownership and young people really taking the lead and yeah, bringing about their own their own social progress. It's brilliant.

Mei-Li 3:58

Thanks for that, Jamie. And in terms of completing the Child and Youth Studies degree and then going on to do your post grad, how do you feel that the degree itself helped you in the role that you're currently in and also just in terms of your, your overall career journey?

Jamie Titterton 4:15

I think it was, it was vital. The course obviously, as you'll know, and say don't mainly it's very holistic from from my point of view, it was very holistic. I mean, it looks at the theory, it looks at kind of legislation and strategic level stuff, it looks at ethical issues, social economic health determinants, child development, everything that just covers the whole shebang. So it just gave me the necessary can a knowledge and understand that I needed to a go on to do a post grad and can I feel comfortable and confident doing that? And yet it made it so much easier, being able to take that kind of that next step to the next level and kind of get qualified and I'm still drawing on the knowledge and understanding that I got now in my job as well. It's every day you know, it's invaluable and I think this up I got from all the staff. And just because it was such a positive experience, I mean, in four years genuinely, I didn't have one kind of bad experience thinking back there was no, there wasn't really anything, you know, even though it's all remote, and you would assume there'd be more difficulties. But actually, it was it was, it was far less than so that gave me the confidence and the enjoyment that I needed to actually yeah, I want to do another years in education, you know, I'm ready to do more of it. So yeah, it was brilliant.

Mei-Li 5:25

Yeah, if you don't mind me just asking a couple of questions around that, as just, you said, you're still drawing on some of the things that you covered alone throughout the degree and obviously, prep T for doing the postgrad, would you be able to just tell us a little bit more about that?

Jamie Titterton 5:42

Well, I mean, just thinking about, particularly when you're kind of working with young people who maybe have kind of additional needs and things. I mean, that's not something that in my role, we have any kind of we try and get what training we can, but it's not something that I'm, you know, obviously qualified. And but, so being able to kind of think back on the kind of social issues and kind of disadvantages that might affect young people, but as well as developmental issues, or all these things we can cover during the degree programme, kind of there was individual modules on each one. So you get quite a thorough understanding on all these things. And so you pick up on that when you're working with young people on a daily basis. So yeah, it was just, it was very holistic. And it's very useful to be able to kind of think back and kind of draw drawn that drawn those studies. And think about how you can adapt your work kind of, you know, on the sport to kind of best kind of engage and work with young people with all sorts of needs and abilities.

Mei-Li 6:42

Thanks, Jamie. It's good to hear that you're still able to kind of draw on all that knowledge and that kind of foundation in your current role. I was just wondering as well. I mean, obviously, we we flee mentioned, you mentioned about the degree being remote and the kind of support that you got, I just wonder if you could share a little bit about kind of that experience of of studying online, and then obviously, would have had a different maybe different experience for your postgraduate qualification?

Jamie Titterton 7:08

Yeah. Well, that was one of the things that attracted me to the degree in the first place. Because I was I was working at the time. And I was looking for something that was flexible, that I could fit around my own work and my own life at the time, and it wasn't easy initially. But once you get into your routine, absolutely fine. It was, I was able to fit it around all my other things that I had going on. And yeah, it was, it was great. And although, you know, the staff aren't local to you necessarily. I mean, they're just they're an email or a phone call away. And they were always there when you needed them. And yeah, so it was it was very good. And yeah, when I went to do my postgraduate, Glasgow, it was more face to face. And you were in kind of in doing kind of workshops and things like that, and lectures, lecture halls and whatnot. So it was a bit different, but the actual delivering things otherwise as much the same, you know, in terms of how it's kind of how the programmes can lead, though. And yeah, how you work through it progressively.

Mei-Li 8:08

That's for that, Jamie. And just in talking about kind of, you know, these other kind of soft skills like employability skills, graduate attributes, obviously, we talk a lot about press your attributes, the EHR, and you'll remember doing the cover sheet, I think, what would you say as some of the kind of key attributes you learned, developed at uhci? And how those skills could have helped you in terms of your working world? Yeah,

Jamie Titterton 8:30

I think, for me, the main one was critical, critical thinking critical thinking skills, because that's something obviously at school, you don't really develop, you're not really taught to question things, not in the same way. But obviously, in this degree. I mean, that was all we did. That's what I remember. And I really enjoyed that. And always asking why, what will? Why is it like that? Who makes that decision? Why, and that's something that we do in our job, we've got to do it in order to genuinely find out why things are the way they are for young people, because only when we figured that out, can they and can ask, can I find a way for them to progress? And can I try and solve that problem? But also for us, as practitioners, you know, it's our practice is all about self reflection. So we constantly kind of keep notes and reflect on what we're doing, evaluate everything we do. So asking why we're doing things, why are we doing that? And whose interest is it and how can we do it better. So it just allows us as practitioners to always try and improve what we do in our service and countries stay true to our values, I think to try and kind of make as much a difference as possible.

Mei-Li 9:36

That's for that, Jamie and it's good to hear that has been helpful in terms of your current role in terms of just thinking about our kind of current students. If you are going to give some advice to kind of current or future students, and based on your experiences, what would it what, what would that be?

Jamie Titterton 9:55

I think again, because it's such a holistic programme, but you obviously get to choose You so many of your modules, and we're where the direction that you take it. And I think it's just for me finding things that I was interested in, like genuinely interested in and passionate about, and choosing those modules that can run true to what I want you to do. And I think that's, I think that's a big key because I think studying something that you're interested in makes it so much easier. But also just kind of remembering why you're doing it in the first place and the difference that you want to make afterwards, when you move on to whatever career it might be. I think that's really important to remember, and making sure that you understand why you're doing it and just focusing on things that you're interested in that will help you make a difference when you finish.

Mei-Li 10:38

See me that's very inspirational. That's the end of all my main questions.

Luke Calver 10:44

Thank you very much melee and Jamie, we hope that this podcast has helped you show a potential career path from outside of the Child and Youth Studies degree. If you do have any questions about the degree, do contact uhci And if you are a current student have any questions on the career path do contact the careers team. Thank you very much for listening and thank you again, Jamie for participating in this podcast episode. What's up, good forward being

Unknown Speaker 11:16

here.