

our students say



DECADE



DUNDEE AND ANGUS
COLLEGE

Megan Sanderson

A D&A Spotlight Interview

Organising Success: Megan's Journey from Reception to Executive Coordination.

Meet Megan Sanderson, Executive Team Coordinator at D&A. Megan's journey from school to a pivotal member of the Executive Office is a testament to her dedication and lifelong learning at Dundee and Angus College.

When you were younger? What did you dream of doing as a job?

"When I was younger, I didn't really have a clear vision of what I wanted to do. I knew I always wanted to work and earn money from a young age. I started working at the age of 14 in a Saturday job, at the Botanic Gardens Cafe. I always thought I would like a job that incorporated a bit of travelling, such as cabin crew. That really wasn't for me, I thrive on routine and structure in my life!"

"I never enjoyed studying at school, however, this changed when I was at College. I looked forward to my classes and attending each week because I was seeing results and doing something I enjoyed."

Can you share a bit about yourself and what you were up to when you first joined D&A?

"I joined D&A when I left school. I attended College to study HND Administration and Information Technology. I have always been a well-organised person, in my personal life and work life, however, I still didn't know what job I wanted to do."

Thinking about your time at D&A, what are some standout moments or experiences that you still carry with you?

"I remember being in year 2 of my HND and an opportunity came up for a student in the class, to take part in a paid internship at the reception at the College, one day a week. I was nervous and never really believed in myself, however I went for the interview and was successful in gaining a place on the internship. This was the start of my career at Dundee and Angus College."

How did your experiences at D&A lay the pathway for your career? Are there any classes or staff that set you on your path?

"I owe everything to my lecturers at the time, they encouraged me to go for the internship interview and helped me through my course. I really started to believe in myself and gain the results I wanted, whilst enjoying my course and studying."



What were the first steps you took after finishing your course, and how did your time here shape your career choices?

"I finished my course and my internship around the same time. I was then offered a full-time job at reception; however, I was also planning on going to university. I took a part-time job at reception and started university. I still had the work ethic mentality, but university wasn't for me. I didn't enjoy it as much as I enjoyed my College course. I left University and went full-time working on reception, across the Kingsway and Gardyne Campuses. I loved working at the reception as it gave me an insight into the College and all the different departments. Everyone was so kind and helpful which made such an impact on my early career."

Where has your career taken you since those early days?

"The opportunity came up to work in the Executive Office as the Executive Secretary. At the age of 19, I went for an interview and was successful. Thanks to my lecturers and work colleagues' encouragement and my qualifications, I believed in myself that I could do the job. I oversaw the Depute and Vice-Principals diaries and schedules and supported the PA to the Principal. I loved my job and still do, from the minute I started in the Executive Office."

Looking at your journey so far, what are some moments or accomplishments that make you particularly proud?

"Looking back, I am proud of myself, and my younger self would also be proud. As someone who never believed in themselves, to go for an interview for a job in the Executive Office and to be successful at a young age is a great achievement. Since the minute I got my job, I never doubted myself and I showed myself I had the ability to do the job well."

I am proud of the career and the job I have today being the Executive Coordinator. I manage all the Executive Team and some Senior Leadership Team (SLT) member's day-to-day diaries and schedules as well as attend the SLT meetings to pick up on any actions that may occur and assign them to relevant staff across the College. I truly believe

everything happens for a reason and am genuinely grateful to those who gave me the opportunity."

If you could share a piece of advice with current students based on your experiences, what would it be?

"Go at your own pace. I learned this, you see everyone at different stages of life and question yourself why you aren't there yet. You get there in the end and everything works out the way it should be. Don't beat yourself up if you aren't enjoying a course, speak to your group tutor or the amazing student support teams and find a course that's right for you."

For younger students, you don't need everything all mapped out when you leave school either, you may find your dream career whilst studying."

What are your hopes for the future?

"In a strange way, I've grown up with Dundee and Angus College and writing this has made me proud of my journey, since leaving school. I have been in my role as Executive Coordinator for nearly two years, however, I am still learning every day and will continue to do so."

"My hopes for the future are that I enhance my skills even further in my job and keep doing the best I can, it's so easy when you are in a job that you love."

