

A FIRST FOR ORIGIN

AUTUMN 2017

Congratulations to Origin PA, Fatime Zuberovics for achieving her Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care and being our first PA to do so under the Origin, Learn While You Earn, education scheme for PAs.

Fatime says, 'I have been working as a carer for two and a half years, without any formal qualification, but when I had the opportunity to apply for a course, just over a year ago, I thought, it would be nice to be a bit more professional and have a deeper look about things that health and social care involves.'

Fatime undertook her studies in her free time whilst working, often finding the evenings the best time for writing essays and reading. She was supported throughout by Origin, from selection of the course to providing evidence based information, as required by her distance learning course.

'The course changed my views and taught me a lot about co-operation and made me realise that with new understanding I could see a better way to work and avoid some of the unintentional mistakes I had made, early on as a PA. It was also very interesting to see how other types of care settings work and how the care sector developed the way it is nowadays and what sort of further improvements would need to be done'.

Learn while you earn@Origin

Origin's 'study while you work' training arrangement lets you develop skills and gain work related qualifications, whilst working as a PA. Use this opportunity to achieve a better understanding of the role of a PA or gain qualifications for your career advancement – Origin's training agreement and fee support package for further study can help you gain access to valuable training whilst earning. Vocational or academic training options.

ASK YOUR CARE MANAGER FOR DETAILS

Benicassim Festival

'When I'm travelling and need a PA I use Origin PAs, they are always, spot-on!' says rugby player and music fan, Shaun who also has his own PA.

Shaun recently returned from his 5th visit to Benicassim rock and indie festival in Spain, with a group of friends, taking Origin PA, Brett with him. John definitely recommends the event, in Valencia, to others in wheelchairs.



'We go to see as many bands as we can. Benicassim has just three stages and around 20,000 visitors. Being on concrete it is easy to get around in a chair and it's dry. It can be hot in the daytime but fortunately the music is on in the evening when it's cooler. They have top, well known bands there and some we'd never heard of. This year we enjoyed Red Hot Chilli Peppers and Kasabian but also a couple of Spanish bands we'd never heard of before. One in particular had an amazing act with their own 'wheel on bar' and someone making cocktails and a guy dancing the Flamenco in his underwear! Believe me, you had to see it!!

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NEWS

ORIGIN

We stay in the same hotel – one with AC! Camping is just too hot for me. Having done this trip before we've got it nicely set up now, arranging for a Benicassim minibus to pick us all up from the airport in Barcelona for easy transport to the hotel!

One of my mates, Dave, also took an Origin PA with him on this trip. Alex the Care Manager at Origin does a brilliant job matching us up with PAs. Both Dave and I have each used the same PAs a couple of times now – that's how good they are. Easy going, good for a laugh but top rate PAs.'

Shaun's wish list for his travel PA included; someone who likes music and socialising and isn't averse to a few late nights (and long lie-ins in the morning); male or female, no preference but must be able to manage board transfers with ease and like a laugh.



A Foot in Both Camps

When SIA, Forward magazine's editor, Breda Duggan, was planning an extended feature dedicated to living with and managing carers/PAs she invited our director, Peter Henry to share his insights.

Peter's article 'A Foot in Both Camps' explains his unique position of being a spinal injury care user and provider and how recent government policy changes and lifestyle expectations are affecting live-in care provision.

You can read the full article at: <http://www.origincare.com/news-information/>

CLEARED FOR TAKE OFF

Ten years after his spinal injury, Origin client Will has taken to the skies over his home city of Liverpool – at the controls of a Piper light aircraft, thanks to aviation charity, Aerobility.

'I had parachuted and bungee jumped before my accident but this was a first for me. I arrived at Liverpool airport, a week ago, completed some paperwork, had a safety and information briefing in a hangar and was then hoisted into the cockpit of the plane ready for my flight. People shuffled me into the pilot's seat and after take-off and a little time getting used to being in the air, I was given control of the plane.

My injury means I have limited hand movement but I easily managed the yoke with all the hand controls, flying the plane to the left, right, up and down. The plane had dual controls and I was with an experienced pilot. Controlling such a light plane in a strong crosswind left my arms pretty tired by the end of the flight, but the instructor was able to take over control anytime I needed a rest or when conditions became more demanding'.

The flight time was approximately 45 minutes (extended a bit as air traffic was particularly busy, causing some circling/holding). Will's flight followed the Mersey and across to Aintree racecourse before returning to the airport to squeeze a landing ahead of a scheduled EasyJet flight.



Will's plane had no adaptations, except for hand controls replacing pedals.

'Fortunately my PA, Courtney was able to accompany me on the flight and probably had a more relaxing time than me as there is a lot to remember and do when you are piloting your plane! But we both agreed it was a great experience – one that I'm keen to repeat, particularly when it can be done locally.

The cost was £64.00 for an hour, which rises to £125.00 for further flights. If you are looking for a feeling of exhilaration and freedom, then it's definitely worth a go. I would recommend using Aerobility, who were very helpful and professional. I'm always keen to do things on an even playing field with able-bodied people and flying certainly fits the bill.'

Aerobility is a registered charity founded in 1993 offering disabled people, without exception, the opportunity to fly an aeroplane. For some, just that amazing first flight is enough to change their outlook on disability forever. Aerobility is run largely by disabled aviators, for disabled people.