



The Responsible
Business Network
Northern Ireland



Aaron McNeill

Barclays LifeSkills Facilitator

What does your job entail?

My role entails delivering Barclays LifeSkills workshops in post-primary school and further education settings to those aged 11-19 years old, helping them develop the skills required for work and life.

How did you get into this line of work?

I initially got my start in training (on my days off from working full-time in retail) as a volunteer supporting 16-24 year olds with special educational needs.

Soon after, a full-time employment opportunity came up within the business and I submitted my application, drawing heavily from the experience that I gained as a volunteer.

Outline your career to date

I undertook additional training and restudied at university to support my career, my ambitions, and my goals. In the past, I progressed into leadership positions. From this I was able to develop a deeper understanding of business procedures and wider knowledge of the business environment in which we operated. Now, I have over 10 years' experience in delivering and assessing accredited training for government funded programmes. I have a passion for training and really enjoy being a LifeSkills Facilitator at Business in the Community.

This career was not without its difficulties. I faced several major setbacks and challenges. Like many others, I saw these as an opportunity to evolve and grow, developing new skills and attributes... especially resilience. What I have learnt throughout my career is that 'you can take a step back to make a leap forward'!

Tell us about your qualifications and training

I have a:

- Level 7 Postgraduate Certificate in Business Analysis and Consultancy;
- Level 5 Foundation Degree Creative Multimedia;
- Level 4 Certificate in Teaching;
- Level 3 Assessors Awards for Assessing Vocational Achievement and Occupational Competence in the Work Environment;
- Level 3 Certificate in Retail Knowledge;
- Level 3 Diploma in Supply Chain Management; and
- Seven GCSEs including Maths and English, an AVCE (equivalent of two A-levels) in Media and an AS in Sociology.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I am a huge martial arts fan, both traditional and mixed martial arts. In my spare time I like to train, read about, and watch martial arts and MMA.

Other than martial arts, I enjoy reading for learning and developing new skills.

What qualities are required for your job – personal and professional?

Integrity; reliability; adaptability; patience and confidence.

What is the best advice you have ever received?

My great uncle Geordie once told me "You can only get out of something what you put into it". It wasn't until many years later that it finally made sense to me! I quote that a lot.

What advice would you give your 16-year-old self?

Read more, talk less.