

Born and raised in Carlow Town, I was amazed to find such facilities on my doorstep. After taking the momentous decision to re-educate myself after the economic downturn of 2008, I found Carlow College very welcoming and encouraging to my status as a mature student. Everyone in the college – students, maintenance staff, librarians and lecturers alike – are all on first names basis in a warm and helpful environment. The English and History course was a revelation. The range and scope of such a course allows students to study books that vary from the literary masterpiece that is James Joyce's *Ulysses* to Stephen King's international bestseller *The Shining*; as well as providing in-depth knowledge on major historical periods and events that cover such topics as the rise and fall of the Roman Empire, The Great Irish Famine and the true context of the 1916 Rising. Getting my Bachelor of Arts degree from Carlow College will be the proudest moment of my life.

Pat Thompson, Fourth Year Student, English & History