

## Simon Deakin

**Simon Deakin is a Managing Director and Owner of SD Instrumentation Ltd. He provided these notes to Student Careers and Skills on 19th February 2016.**

**1) *What did you study? When did you graduate?***

Engineering Science 1979 to 1982. Subsequent training allowed me to gain Chartered Engineering status.

**Compared with other students for whom going to university was more likely to be expected:**

**2) *Did you experience any additional challenges with settling in and getting started?***

Yes. Entering as a mature student (21 years old!) I had no A levels & although I had an electronic technician's certificate it was inadequate to prepare me for the maths & quantum physics side of things. At the start of my first year and immediately after sitting through my first quantum phenomena lecture I went up to the lecturer afterwards and asked him what advice he would give to someone who understood absolutely nothing about what he'd just talked about. I recall that he replied saying the first year is to bring everyone from different backgrounds and levels up to the same level. Still, I recall being rocked by it. The first year was particularly hard competing and trying to keep up with my cleverer compatriots. Implications of no A levels meant I struggled mainly in the 1st year. Managed to scrape through without retakes though. Warwick social life was tremendous and that added to the difficulties in keeping the academic part in check.

**3) *Did you experience any additional challenges in thinking about, planning and organising for what happened for when you finished?***

No. I worked as a design engineer then later as technical director for my father's company.

**4) *Was there anything the university could have introduced, or done better, which would have helped?***

There wasn't any more that Warwick could have done to help. My personal tutor, Professor Bowen, helped & encouraged me. My uni years were fantastic and I'm very grateful Warwick allowed me in despite having less than the proper and ideal entry qualifications. I'm proof perhaps that you can still gain an honours degree without necessary having the normally stipulated entry qualifications and background.