

Case study

Amanda Evans

A great CV, a strong work ethic, and an eagerness to learn, can land you the job but the process of returning to work after a long career break can be very daunting.

When Amanda Evans decided to return to work after a career break, she didn't beat around the bush. Every morning after dropping her children to school, she sent CV after CV, getting only one interview after six months.

Then one Sunday morning, after reading an article about a programme abroad which helps women return to work, she decided to see if something similar was available in Ireland.

"After lots of Googling, I came across the Women ReBOOT programme from Software Skillnet and spoke to the team who informed me of an upcoming information evening about the programme,"

Amanda says. "I was astounded to see so many women in a similar situation and it felt good that I was not alone".

When Amanda was accepted onto the programme, she jumped for joy and felt something she hadn't felt in a long time: hope.

Taking part in Women ReBOOT was an eye opener, and meeting other women in similar situations to hers helped her to overcome challenges — and believe in herself.

"I realised I still have a lot to give professionally, not just as a wife and mum. Pulling us out of our comfort zones, we had been in for some years, was so scary but knowing that I was not alone which was brilliant."

Amanda says the holistic approach of the programme did wonders for her confidence and she now feels that she's on a clear and focussed path towards returning to work and what she wants to do with the next stage of her career.

"Following my work placement I have been offered an IT project management contract with a market leading company in digital commerce for travel retailers. The company are so lovely and very helpful, and I'm also studying towards my Scrum Manager certification."

She's looking forward to graduating from the Women ReBOOT programme in June.

