

## Articulation in practice: Abi was made for media!



*Abi Paola Riva is currently undertaking the third year of a BA Media Studies at Aberdeen Business School in Robert Gordon University.*

During her fourth year at High School, Abi decided that she would go to college after completing six years at school. When selecting a course at Aberdeen College, she was torn between Journalism and Creative Industries: Television. After much deliberation, she chose the HND Creative Industries because of the placement opportunity during the second year of study.

Due to articulation agreements in place between Aberdeen College and the Robert Gordon University, Abi was able to use SCQF credit transfer for her HND to articulate straight into year three at university. She says, "I think that the Uni-link programme is really good because you experience two different environments; College and University. I felt that College was a relaxing environment and really prepared me for University level study. Aberdeen College examinations consisted of continuous assessment but at University there is more emphasis on self-study and you have exams at the end of the first and second semesters. At University you have more independence and it's up to the student to hand in coursework and be prepared for exams."

When recruiting, many companies, and the media industry in particular, require hands on experience. Abi continues, "I think that the course at Aberdeen College was great in preparing me for the media industry, because there was a good balance between practical and theory work in the course. I really think it should be 50/50. I enjoyed the teaching and study method as I think it prepared me for University and made the transition easier. College also provides students with an introduction to making films as well as the opportunity to make films. Just great! At Robert Gordon University lecturers are helpful and easy to contact. Whenever I email lecturers they are great at getting back to me quickly. I'm enjoying learning new skills such as using Flash on Mac computers and working in teams for projects. At University I often film events which are run by the Business Society. I have definitely enjoyed studying in the two different institutes. College is a stepping stone to University and University prepares you for working life." Students also have the opportunity to progress onto Postgraduate courses, so Abi intends to stay at Robert Gordon University for fourth year and then take up a Postgraduate course in teaching to broaden her job options. Abi has the following advice for other students: "Speak to your guidance tutor, find out what your options are and explore which Universities have a link with your College. Have fun at College and, when it comes to University, get your head down and study!"