



Aidan Loughlin

Background

Aidan attended Magh Ene College in Bundoran, Co. Donegal. His favourite leaving cert subjects included Geography, Biology, and Maths. Aidan enjoys fishing in his spare time. While at IT Sligo, he completed his work placement at Response Group and is currently employed by Veolia. Aidan graduated from IT Sligo in 2017.

What have you been up to career wise since graduating from IT Sligo?

When I finished college I did a number of interviews for different jobs. Luckily I got offered two jobs, which was a blessing and a curse, on the one hand I was spoiled for choice, on the other they were both great opportunities and I had to decide early on what career path I wanted to take. I went with the Cross Industry Graduate Program, it was a once in a lifetime opportunity, with over 1000 applicants only 12 were selected. It is a three year program which covers a number of different aspects. I will spend 1 year in each of the following fields, a contractor, a consultant and an administrator.

What kind of tasks do you complete on a typical working day?

Carrying out lab analysis of water and wastewater samples, reading documents in relation to tenders and contracts from employers. Going on site visits to determine if everything is running correctly at plants and to assess new locations to determine environmental impacts.

What skills are important for your job?

Lab Skill, being able to analyse data to determine if there are any problems, communication skills, openness to new ideas, flexibility, time management.

Favourite things about your job?

It's so diverse, one day I could be in the office and then I could be sent on site visits or into the lab, it never gets mundane. There's always something new to learn or do.

Why did you choose environmental science @ IT Sligo?

I wanted to pick a career that I knew there would be jobs in and both fortunately and unfortunately the environment is in a bit of a mess, which created great opportunities for people like me and my fellow graduates. I also enjoyed the idea of science but didn't want to be stuck in the lab all the time, with environmental science it allows you to be out and about with some time in the lab also.

What were the best things about Environmental Science @ IT Sligo?

The course had such a wide variety of different things, which allowed a wide variety of people to come together and learn from each other. The lecturers were also a help, I think it's one of the only colleges in Ireland where the lecturers cared about how you were doing and were always there when you needed them. This is a great support when it comes to things like projects and assignments.

Advice to 2nd Level students in choosing a 3rd level course

Have a good look at what's going on in the world, find out where the jobs will be, don't pick a course for the sake of doing it because it's in Galway/Dublin or your friends are doing it. Think about what you want and like and do that, some of the best and closest friends you'll ever have are the ones you make in college.