



Fergal Maguire

Background

Fergal attended St. Mary's High School, Belleek, Co. Fermanagh. His favourite leaving cert subjects included Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Maths, and Ag Science. Fergal enjoys hill walking, orienteering, mountain biking and other outdoor pursuits in his spare time. He completed his work placement at Tracey Concrete in Enniskillen and is currently employed by ABP Food Group as Group Environmental Licencing Manager. Fergal graduated from IT Sligo in 2016.

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

I worked in England immediately after college for 5 months. I then applied for an environmental job with ABP Food Group, where I was successful. I moved down to Cahir in South Tipperary where I started working in ABP Food Group's head environmental office.

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

Consulting and liaising with ABP Food Group sites, the Environmental Protection Agency, Inland Fisheries, Local Authorities, Consultants and other companies.

Depending on future proposals and developments some sites will require Industrial Emissions Licence (IEL) reviews. The site General Manager, site Environmental Officer and myself will discuss the best options for that site regarding the IEL review process taking into account best environmental and energy practice.

An Industrial Emissions Licence Review application will then be prepared and submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency. As Group Licencing Manager, I liaise with the Environmental Protection Agency throughout the IEL review process so both the EPA and ABP Food Group are happy with the outcome.

The IEL review application process involves preparation and submission of all documentation the Agency require for the application including Environmental Impact Statements for larger developments.

What skills are important for your job?

Interpretation of environmental legislation, time management, interpersonal skills, working off my own initiative, problem solving skills, troubleshooting, understanding environmental and energy management systems such as ISO 14001 and ISO 50001, being approachable to colleagues.

Favourite things about your job?

I get to travel throughout Ireland and the UK, meeting new people.

Why did you choose environmental science @ IT Sligo?

IT Sligo has one of the best Science Departments in Ireland. I felt working in this environment would be of great benefit to me.

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

Getting both the practical and theory in environmental science at IT Sligo was great. I have many friends studied environmental science in larger universities and they received little to no practical experience throughout the duration of their studies. The course really prepares you for the real world.

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

Take advice. But at the end of the day choose something YOU are interested in and you will enjoy.