

Graduate Profile, Aeronautical Engineering, University of Limerick, Ireland
MARTIN HOUSTON

MR. MARTIN HOUSTON

MECHANICAL DESIGN ENGINEER
MOOG INC.
DUBLIN
IRELAND

www.moog.com



Education and Training

- B. Eng. (Hons) Aeronautical Eng, University of Limerick, Ireland, 2000
- Diploma in Space Studies, International Space University, 2003
- MSc Aeronautics and Astronautics, University of Washington, Seattle, 2004
- Private Pilot License, 1998

Current Position

Title	Dates	Employer
Mechanical Design Engineer	2009-Present	Moog Inc., Dublin, Ireland

Previous Positions

Title	Dates	Employer
Space Mechanisms Design Engineer	2006-2009	EADS ¹ Astrium, UK
Spacecraft Operator	2003-2006	LSE ² GmbH (Lightweight Structures Engineering), Germany
Young Graduate Trainee	2000-2001	ESA ³ , Netherlands

¹EADS - European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company

²LSE - Lancaster Software Entwicklung GmbH

³ESA - European Space Agency

"Home" Town(s)/County(s)

Stranorlar, Co. Donegal

Please describe your current job

My day to day job involves designing and test of components and assemblies for Rocket engines, for both launchers and in-space propulsion. The job is based just outside Dublin and I was happy such a job opportunity existed in Ireland.

The most interesting part of the job is coming up with creative ideas for new designs for rocket engine parts and then seeing your designs being made and tested, and hopefully working!

Please describe your career path since graduating with your B.Eng. Aeronautical Eng.

My career path was kicked off well with my Co-op with Boeing in Seattle while in my 3rd year at UL. This opened doors for all future jobs really. I was able to do a young graduate trainee job at the European Space Agency straight after the B.Eng. and this helped a lot also. My passion was always for Space studies so I went for a Masters in the US where I could learn more about that. From then on I would have taken any space job but was happy to work in spacecraft operations in Germany where I got to control satellites orbiting the Earth which was lots of fun. After a few years of that I wanted to get back into old school engineering so I was lucky enough to get a job working in the Cryogenics Systems Group in Astrium-UK. This was also an eye opener of a job which helped convince me that mechanical design in space systems was the road for me. After a few years of that I wanted to get back to Ireland and was lucky enough to get the job in Dublin working on Rocket engines which was my main goal from when I was studying in UL, so it all worked out pretty well!

What made you decide to study Aeronautical Engineering at UL?

It was by accident, I actually chose mechanical initially as i wasn't sure what to do.

Are you glad you did?

Yes, see above.

What did you most enjoy about studying at UL - academically, and also non-academically?

The Co-op in Seattle was the highlight. My final year project was also enjoyable, as it was on a rocket engine!

I was very involved with a student society interested in all things space, and that was very enjoyable.

Where did you do your COOP?

See above.

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What advice would you give school-goers considering choosing Aeronautical Engineering?

Take some flying lessons

What advice would you give future graduates of Aeronautical Engineering?

Take any engineering job that sounds interesting, most engineering basics are the same. Also try to work for a small company as well as in a large company, see which works best for you. Don't stay in the same place for too long, especially in your early career.

