

MR. RONAN LAFFEY

**TECHNICAL SERVICES ENGINEER
SHANNON AEROSPACE LTD
SHANNON, IRELAND**

www.shannonaerospace.com



Education and Training

→ B. Eng. (Hons) Aeronautical Eng, University of Limerick, Ireland, 2006

Current Position

Title	Dates	Employer
Technical Services Engineer	2008 - Present	Shannon Aerospace Ltd

Previous Positions

Title	Dates	Employer
Design Engineer	2007	Seabulk Systems Inc, Vancouver, Canada

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

Caltra, Galway

Please describe your current job

I work in the CAMO / Technical Services Department at Shannon Aerospace. We provide onsite support for the owners of the aircraft. A lot of aircraft today are owned by banks who lease them to the airlines. The banks hire us when they want to evaluate the current status of the aircraft. So we go onsite and inspect the aircraft and its documentation to ensure it is airworthy and report back our findings to the owner.

The work is very often at short notice and so I always must be prepared for a phone call informing me that I have to go somewhere (usually in Europe). I've met a lot of great people and every new project is a chance to learn more.

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

I took a year out after 3rd year and went to New Zealand where I did a lot of

snowboarding and travelling. I came back highly motivated and focused on getting my degree. This might not have worked for some people but for me it was the best thing I ever did.

After graduating in 2006 I went to Vancouver, Canada and ended working at a Design Engineering Consultants firm. This was a really great job and although it was Marine Engineering I was able to use the skills I had learned at UL and apply them to a different field. We were a small firm so from the start I was very involved and worked side by side with very experienced design engineers. The work involved a lot of brainstorming and then I would have to draw everything up using AutoCAD. I learned a very important skill here too and that was how to write a technical report.

What made you decide to study Aeronautical Engineering at UL?

My 17th birthday present was a flying lesson at Abbeyshrule. It was my first time in a plane and I flew it! I always had a keen interest in aircraft but from that moment on I was completely hooked. Maths and Sciences were always my strongest subjects so I felt this was the ideal course for me. I was also very impressed by the modern campus and excellent sports facilities at UL.

Are you glad you did?

Yes, most definitely. The student life is great at UL and at the end of it you get a degree that is internationally recognised.

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

The friends I made. I didn't really know anyone when I moved to Limerick but the friends I made there are my friends for life.

Where did you do your COOP?

FLS Aerospace at Dublin Airport. I enjoyed my time at FLS, I got some great experience in three different roles. It was very useful to my career as I developed very strong skills in AutoCAD and Excel.

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

You need to be very strong at maths and physics. Languages are a great asset after you graduate so try to work hard on these also while in school.

What advice would you give future graduates of Aeronautical Engineering?

It's very hard to get noticed after you graduate. Don't be afraid to contact employers even just to ask them for advice.

Great technical report writing is a very valuable skill to have.