

Graduate Profile, M.Eng. Aeronautical Engineering, University of Limerick, Ireland
JAMES AHERN

MR. JAMES AHERN

**Technical Services Engineer
Ryanair Ltd, Dublin, Ireland**

www.ryanair.com



Education and Training

- M. Eng. (Hons) Aeronautical Eng, University of Limerick, Ireland, 2012
- B.Eng. (Hons) Aeronautical Eng, University of Limerick, Ireland, 2011

Current Position

Title	Dates	Employer
Technical Services Engineer	Aug 2012 - present	Ryanair

Previous Positions

Title	Dates	Employer
Aircraft Engineer	June 09 - Feb 10	Inflite Engineering services (Southend)
Cork Airport (ATC)	May 05	Cork Airport

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

From: Kilkenny City
Now in: Park West, Dublin

Please describe your current job

I am currently working within the systems grouping within Ryanair's Technical Services department.

The Technical Services Department controls and oversees Maintenance Documents (AD's, SB's, SIL's, etc.), reoccurring aircraft defects, Part 21 Subpart J Aircraft Modifications, aircraft and component reliability, etc. With over 300 aircraft in the fleet and over 300 on order (as of March 2015) there is always interesting engineering work on a daily basis. The five separate groupings in Technical Services review the aircraft and their components in order to maintain a safe, efficient and of course an on time operation.

With an ever-growing 70+ bases throughout Ireland, the UK and Europe, there are wide ranging operating environments and challenges to overcome, with opportunities to travel to maintenance facilities within the network and work with great engineers from many different nationalities.

Day-to-day I review aircraft defects, coordinate lease hand back aircraft, review shop reports from component manufacturers, provide technical support to engineering, liaise with Boeing, review aircraft incidents, to mention a few. There are always new challenges especially with variations of components between aircraft as technology improvements are incorporated.

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

I will always describe my path from Masters to my current job as "finished on a Wednesday and started working on Monday". I found the Masters program made me sharper as an engineer and honed my skills, a sort of "cherry on the top".

The postgraduate careers services at UL were also suitably excellent in adding to those benefits of the Masters course, again by honing interviewing skills and techniques for which I benefitted greatly.

What made you choose the M.Eng. Aeronautical Engineering at UL?

I felt when graduating from the B.Eng at UL in 2011 that there were very few if any opportunities within the aerospace industry in Ireland at the time. I also wanted to complete a Masters at this stage of my life rather than returning years later. So knowing Limerick, the university and faculty at UL made undertaking the Masters course a natural choice for me.

Are you glad you did?

100%. The benefits of having a Masters were evident to me straight away. I had a job before I finished the course and for later in life when positions higher up the ladder come within my experience level, I will have the education requirements to back that up. Within a global industry it can only be of added benefit to my career.

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

Having spent 5 years in UL it feels like a second home. I always love going back to Limerick and when I am around I like to stop by UL and walk around, or at least take a quick spin through the campus. It's such a great place to be.

Academically, the courses are great. Everyone is in the same boat and there is a great team spirit getting work done. I'd have to say the best parts for me were the Design, Build, Fly (DBF) and the Jetstream 31 Flying Lab. There were such great experiences which I would love to do over and over again.

What advice would you give prospective students considering choosing the M.Eng. Aeronautical Engineering at UL?

I would say do it! It's helped me in my career so far. It will help you secure a job and be beneficial in the long run.

What advice would you give future fresh graduates of the course?

Apply with your CV to companies you would like to work for. Ring them or if possible call in and ask to make an appointment to speak with someone. Get your name known and network.

If you'd like to add anything else here, feel free....

Above all do what makes you happy.

The expendables aircraft in PIK



The Russians in DUB



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There are benefits to working for an airline

TFS holiday 😊

