

## Gas Networks Ireland – Student Placement Campaign

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**What course are you studying?**

Mechanical Engineering in Cork Institute of Technology

**How did you find out about Gas Networks Ireland's placement programme? How was the application process?**

Through the college work placement programme, I gave my CV to my work placement co-ordinator, he got back to me saying I had gotten an interview. A week after the interview I was told that I had secured a place on the Gas Networks Ireland's placement programme.

**What has your role been in Gas Networks Ireland?**

The department in which I carried out my work placement is Asset Strategy, within Asset Management. Asset Management is responsible for the strategic development of both the Transmission assets including 3 compressor stations, South West Scotland Onshore System interconnector and distribution assets CNG and biomethane assets. Asset Strategy is responsible for identifying and defining the policies and strategies related to the optimum performance of the Network Assets. The team identifies, plan and develops investment programmes while achieving an optimal balance between customer requirements, asset efficiency and risk.

**What were you expecting before you started?**

I really didn't know what to expect, I had spoken to previous students that had gone through the placement programme and told me the basics but as for my specific role all I knew was I would be working in Asset Strategy, mainly involved with compressor stations.

**What's been your favourite moment?**

In mid-July I got to travel to see the Beattock compressor station in South West Scotland, getting to see the facilities and the equipment up close was a great experience, I had spent most of my time here doing work for compressor stations so it was great to see what I had been working on.

**What's been the biggest thing you've got out of your time here?**

Real experience of what life after college will be like, as a student I'm often told of all the positives and negatives of work life but it is impossible to fully understand without experiencing it. The lifestyle, and responsibilities are completely different going from working in a solo environment in college to everything being team orientated it's a big change, there are extra skills learned in the working environment that can't be picked up in college and are needed to be successful in a career as a mechanical engineer.



**What are you most looking forward to when you return to college?**

Using all the skills I've learned during work placement in projects. Also getting to see the theory behind the real world applications.

**What's your advice for next years' group of students?**

Get involved in everything you can, and get to know as many people as you can this will open new avenues for you. Work placement is about getting as much experience as possible so the more people you get involved with the more different experiences you'll be offered.