



The Responsible
Business Network
Northern Ireland



Andrew
Maguire

Communications
Officer

What does your job entail?

I'm a Communications Officer with Business in the Community (BITC), working within the communications team. My job entails communicating the goals, initiatives and successes of BITC and our partners to members, external organisations, and the general public. I work in particular with the Education and Jobs team to support and promote their projects and events.

How did you get into this line of work?

I studied English with Creative Writing, then an MA in Creative Writing, at Queen's University Belfast, so my background is as a writer. From there I started as a Digital Marketing Intern at South West College, which got me started in the world of marketing and communications.

Outline your career to date

I started an internship in the marketing department at South West College and stayed in the role for around eighteen months before applying and being appointed as a Creative Writing and Publications Officer there. I've also written freelance work for local newspapers and magazines and for national organisations including UNILad and The Irish Times, as well as delivering creative writing workshops for both school students and adults.

Tell us about your qualifications and training

My BA in English and MA in Creative Writing provided me with a lot of writing and communication skills, but my experience working as part of a Marketing team at South West College provided me with a lot of invaluable on the job training and experience which has probably be my most important learning experience.

What qualities are required for your job – personal and professional?

Good communication is naturally essential, both in terms of working within a team and then communicating stories and information to a wider audience. Personally, it's also important to be able to get on well with people and form good working relationships with them.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I'm an avid reader and writer. I've had a few short stories published in journals and anthologies, and one broadcast on RTE Radio One. I'm also chair of the Omagh Literary Festival, a small, annual arts festival that brings internationally renowned authors to Omagh as well as promoting local writers, performers, and musicians.

Tell us an interesting fact about yourself

I played for the Northern Ireland Pool Team at the 2022 European Pool Championships. I've played snooker and pool most of my life and had previously played for the Queen's University Belfast teams and the NI Under 21 team at the World Pool Championships.

Who has inspired you most in your life?

I was lucky to have a few fantastic English teachers when I was at school, all of whom had a big impact on me. They certainly inspired me to study English at University which has directly and indirectly led to a lot of things since.

What advice would you give your 16-year-old self?

Fortunately, I look back at that stage of my life pretty fondly, so I don't think I'd tell myself to change too much. Maybe I'd just tell myself to relax a bit, because most things invariably turn out OK.