



Matthew

Allison

Airfield
Operations Officer

What does your job entail?

The main objective of my role is to ensure that the safety of all passengers, staff, aircraft, equipment, and infrastructure is maintained by ensuring all published Airside Operational Policies & Procedures are adhered to. I achieve this by carrying out safety audits on various airside activities, undertaking aerodrome inspections including airfield lighting & paved surfaces, performing Wildlife Hazard Control duties, accident investigation, issuing of airside work permits & the control of contractors and performing essential tasks when required in winter such as snow clearing, de-icing & runway surface assessment. I am also responsible for allocating parking stands for arriving aircraft & ensuring the hold baggage screening system remains operational.

How did you get into this line of work?

I became interested in aviation during a work placement year when I was at university. I was lucky enough to be selected for a 15-month internship based at Los Angeles International Airport in the USA. I enjoyed it so much that I decided to pursue a career in aviation once I finished my studies.

Outline your career to date

I finished studying in 2004 and got a job with a company called Aviance at Belfast International Airport. Initially I was in a passenger facing role where my duties included check-in, boarding & ticketing. After a few months I became a flight despatcher. This role involves providing a load sheet for the flight crew and ensuring that the turnaround of an aircraft (the time between landing & take-off), is timely and efficient by organising the various services that the aircraft might require while it is on the ground. In December of 2005 I started my current role at Belfast City Airport.

Tell us about your qualifications and training

After completing my A-Levels (Business Studies, Economics & Geography), I went to the University of Ulster at Jordanstown where I studied an HND in Business & Related Studies. During my employment I have undertaken many training courses on a wide variety of subjects related to my job such as accident investigation and carrying out risk assessments.

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

In my job, I never know what the next phone call is going to bring so I think it is very important to be able to react to any situation quickly. It is also important to react in the right way so being able to keep a cool head while under pressure is extremely important, so that I make the right decision. I am also dealing with a lot of different people every day, so being approachable and being able to communicate with others effectively is also extremely important.

Tell us an interesting fact about yourself

I got a \$100 tip from the actor Matt Damon for checking him in for a flight during my placement year in LA!

Who has inspired you most in your life?

I played hockey when I was younger, and every coach I had inspired me. They always pushed me to improve and to learn from my mistakes, this not only made me a better player, but a better person too.

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

The best advice I ever received was from a teacher back in school, he said never stop learning and even when you succeed at something try to learn from it so you can grow & improve.