



**Darragh Martin**

## **Cross Industry Graduate Programme**

As the water services industry in Ireland continues to transform, Irish Water is delighted to work with our industry partners to collaborate in a unique programme, the first of its kind in Ireland at a national level, to train engineers to become specialists in the water engineering space.

We talk to Donegal native Darragh Martin from Donegal Town who has secured a full-time position in Irish Water following the completion of the Cross Industry Graduate Programme. The programme involved a one-year rotation in Irish Water, a year in one of the participating consultancy firms (Jacobs Engineering; Nicholas O'Dwyer; RPS; Ryan Hanley); and another year with one of the contractors (EPS; Glan Agua; Veolia; and Ward & Burke).

Darragh's qualification on entering the programme was a BEng in Mechanical Engineering and Renewable Energies from Athlone Institute of Technology. He explained why he applied for the Cross-Industry Graduate Programme: "I applied for the programme because I wanted to use my qualifications as a springboard into an exciting career. This programme offered a unique opportunity, so I applied and was delighted to have been accepted. For me it was a great opportunity to start an exciting career after college.

"My first year was with Irish Water's Capital Programmes Team, within Asset Delivery from October 2017-October 2018. My role was to support the delivery of programmes of work on wastewater sites from conception to contract execution and management.

“I then worked for a year as a Mechanical Site Engineer with Ward and Burke Construction from October 2018-October 2019. I worked on the closeout of the €16.3m Enniscorthy WwTP Upgrade and moved on to the €9m Ballybofey/Stranorlar WwTP Upgrade.

“My third and final placement was in the wastewater department of Nicholas O’Dwyer Consulting Engineers from October 2019-October 2020. My roles included contract administration, preparation of tender documents and submissions, pump station design, report writing and drawing preparation for multiple large-scale utilities and transport infrastructure projects.”

The Cross Industry Graduate Programme is designed to give participants on the job training and mentoring and there are a number of permanent positions available to participants upon completion of the programme in Irish Water and the consultancy and contractor firms involved.

Darragh was lucky to qualify for one of these roles in Irish Water: “After the programme finished In October 2020, I re-joined Irish Water as a Programme Management Co-Ordinator with the Wastewater Portfolio in Asset Delivery. In my role I offer support to the delivery of projects on the Treatment Plant Upgrades Team, whether that is by assisting in budgetary control, resource management, construction project management and health and safety management for the projects. I also assist the wider wastewater team on similar tasks.”

The next Cross Industry Graduate Programme will be commencing in September 2021 and details will be advertised in advance.