



Weddings are a passion of mine

My Career: Brid Ryan — Wedding, Conference & Banqueting Sales Co-ordinator

BRID RYAN always knew she wanted to work in the hospitality trade — since she was 12 and got a job in her local hotel collecting glasses!

Describe your job in five words:

Challenging, exciting, satisfying, rewarding and enjoyable.

Describe yourself in five words: I'm

self-motivated, hardworking, a team-player, trustworthy and outgoing.

Personality needed for this kind of work?

You need to be hardworking and goal-orientated.

How long are you doing this job? Two years.

How did you get this job? In 2006, I began studying in the Shannon College of Hotel Management. My first year of work placement was in the Four Seasons, Provence a Terre Blanche.

When I returned in 2008, I worked for the Cork International Airport Hotel as Breakfast Supervisor for the summer. I really liked the team there, but returned to finish my studies for a further two years and a final year in NUI Galway.

In June 2011, I began my second work placement for the Marriott Renaissance in Washington DC.

I was thrilled to come back to the Cork International Airport Hotel as Conference and Banqueting Sales Co-ordinator in July 2012.

I always knew I always wanted to work in hotels, so much so, that when I was 12 I started collecting glasses in a hotel in my hometown. My aim is to climb the ladder to Sales Director.

Do you need particular qualifications or experience? Yes, my degree in Hotel Management gave me the basics and theory of running a hotel but you need as much hotel experience as possible ranging across all departments.

Describe an average day at work: The

work I do for the Cork International Airport Hotel varies from day to day!

The first thing I do in the morning is print a daily report to get an overview of all the events in-house for the day. Then I meet with the conference and banqueting porters and discuss how we will manage the day's activities.

It's also an important part of my job to meet and greet event organisers. I answer conference and banqueting phone calls and reply to all emails with quotes for all functions — from small christenings, to large weddings and conferences.

Weddings are a real passion of mine and I love working with brides-to-be in shaping the most special day for them. Because I love it, I'm always creating ideas and cost-effective ways to make weddings at our hotel really fabulous. The venue is magnificent and we have a great chef and hotel team, so together we develop some fantastic wedding solutions.

Throughout the afternoon, I complete the sales and marketing activity and collect guest feedback. I also forecast and budget room hire and group lunches.

Before I leave, I walk through the hotel to make sure everything is up to standard and hand over to the conference and banqueting porters and the Duty Manager.

How many hours do you work a week?

Between 39-60 hours a week.

What do you wear to work? Trouser suit.

Is your industry male or female dominated? It's 50/50.

Does this affect you in any particular way? It's good to have a mix in any role as it makes the workplace more diverse, with different strengths and qualities.

Is your job stressful? Rate it on a scale of 1-10: I'd rate it as a seven-eight.

Do you work with others or on your own? I work as part of a team and really enjoy being part of the Cork International Airport

Hotel team. It's such a great place to work, with a low turnover of staff, so you really know the people you are working with very well — and that makes for great working relationships.

When do you plan to retire or give up working? I would love to retire in my 50s and go to live in the Seychelles.

Best bits: From weddings to christenings to conferences, my work is never boring, there's something new every day. I love meeting new people — my work is sometimes challenging but always rewarding. It's a fantastic feeling when goals and targets are achieved.

Worst bits: Long hours — it goes with this business!

Advice to those who want your job? You should work hard and put in the hours. Motivate your team and treat your colleagues as you would your customers. Give positive feedback to your team daily.

● The Cork International Airport Hotel “desk to 5k” charity run for Cork Penny Dinners, in association with Juliet Murphy Fitness, will take place on March 9, 2014 at 2pm at the Cork Airport Business Park.

Name: Brid Ryan

Age: 26

Lives: Douglas

Job title: Wedding, Conference & Banqueting Sales Co-ordinator for the Cork International Airport Hotel

Salary bracket: €20-30,000

Education background: St Mary's Secondary School, Newport Co. Tipperary. Shannon College of Hotel Management. Final year: NUI Galway

Hobbies: In my spare time I love travelling, cooking and dancing.

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Brid Ryan, Wedding, Conference & Banqueting Sales Co-ordinator for the Cork International Airport Hotel.