

MY CAREER PATH

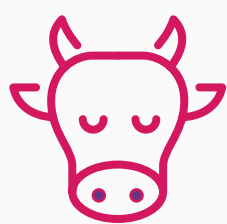
KATRINA



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publicjobs

Katrina is Deputy Consul General of Ireland in Hong Kong and Macao (3rd Secretary level) with the Department of Foreign Affairs.

“I would 100% recommend the public sector. The amount of opportunity is unbelievable. The ability to transfer to different roles and undertake different work over the course of your career is likely unparalleled.”



My first job ever was when I was 14 years old and worked in a veterinary practice assisting with TB testing of cattle. My dad worked in Telecom Eireann which at that time was a civil service job. From his experience, I knew that the civil service is a reliable career.



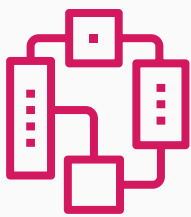
I graduated with an Undergraduate Degree in 2008 and a Graduate Higher Diploma in 2009. I worked briefly as a freelance online content writer in Buenos Aires, Argentina. I returned to Ireland for a short time and worked in retail. I obtained a CELTA qualification in 2012 and moved to Seoul, South Korea to teach English. I was there for 1.5 years, I then moved to Hangzhou, China for 1 year and subsequently Tokyo, Japan for 1.25 years.



I decided to return to Ireland in 2016. Almost immediately I applied to the open Clerical Officer competition. In the meantime, I worked in retail. I began in Publicjobs.ie in January of 2017. On my first day, I was encouraged to apply for the Executive Officer competition.



In September 2017, I was appointed as an Executive Officer in the Department of Foreign Affairs. I worked in the HR section. I was interested in becoming a Third Secretary because of my experiences living abroad. I truly could see the real world impact of Irish representation abroad. Also, since childhood, I wanted to become a writer and diplomats certainly do a lot of writing!



In mid-2018, I was approached to become a ‘Pathfinder’ – the project manager for opening our new Embassy in Bogotá, Colombia. I applied in 2017 to the Third Secretary competition but was not successful at final interview. I applied again in 2018. I was appointed a Third Secretary in March 2019 while still in Colombia.



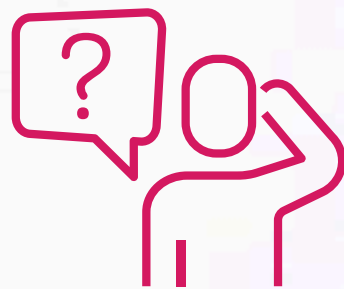
I am Deputy Consul General which means I have responsibility for oversight of all operations in the Mission including health and safety, security, financial reporting and other governance matters. I also oversee citizen’s services such as consular assistance and passports.



Aside from this I am responsible for stakeholder engagement with the Irish community. I also promote Irish culture and economic interests. I oversee all our public diplomacy on social media.



The skills required are an interest in other people. I would say that you have to enjoy meeting new people and of course going to new places. Language skills are important as in an interest in writing.



I have a lot of opportunity to develop my skills. The Department of Foreign Affairs has provided me with every support to acquire the skills I need to develop in my role. They have helped me to gain an understanding of diplomacy, how Missions work, in depth understanding of the implementation of government policy and language training.

Job Specification – 3rd Secretary

DEPARTMENT	Department of Foreign Affairs
SALARY	Starting at €38,369 per annum *subject to change – AO Equivalent
ROLE DESCRIPTION	<p>The mission of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is to promote and protect abroad the values, interests and economic well-being of Ireland and its people.</p> <p>The high level goals of the Department are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supporting peace and reconciliation at home• Serving our communities• Driving the European agenda• Strengthening and protecting the global multilateral system• Enhancing Ireland’s global engagement and prosperity• Strengthening DFA’s effectiveness.
ROLE DESCRIPTION	<p>Essential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The competition is only open to persons who have Irish Citizenship on or before the closing date for applications• Applicants for this position must, on or before the closing date: <p>(i) Hold a first or second class honours degree (minimum of Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications)</p> <p>Or</p> <p>(ii) Have qualified as a Solicitor or as a Barrister</p> <p>Desirable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working knowledge of a major foreign language.• Experience of policy areas relevant to the work of the Department of Foreign Affairs including international relations, economic and trade promotion and development cooperation.
APPLICATION PROCESS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Register up for job alerts on publicjobs.ie to know when opportunities become available2. Apply online at Publicjobs.ie before closing date3. Online Assessment Questionnaire4. Interview