Chilled Careers

Career Progress

Ed Campion

Former science teacher Ed gained a Masters Degree in Food Production Management before moving into the industry. His first role was with Greencore where he quickly progressed and was able to take advantage of the opportunities he was offered. He moved to Pukka Pies in January 2020. We spoke to Ed when he was working with Greencore.

What is your current job title and what does it involve?

I am Quality Assurance Manager. The role involves managing the Quality Assurance Supervisor Team. I have responsibility for ensuring food safety and food quality standards are maintained and improved. The role also involves microbiological investigations, answering customer complaints, carrying out internal audits and dealing with the pest control contractor.

Thinking back to school days, did you know what you wanted to become?

I didn't know what I wanted to do. I just knew that I liked science, so I studied for a BSc in Biochemistry in Dublin.

What were/are your main interests, e.g. science in general, food?

Science was my primary interest and I am now a lot more interested in food and how to maintain food safety.

What qualifications do you have?

BSc Biochemistry
PGCE in Science Teaching
MSc in Food Production Management

In rough outline, what was your job pathway – companies and job titles, plus anything of particular note, e.g. level of responsibility, exposure to any particular developments/issues?

After five years of teaching Science and Biology in secondary schools I decided to take a Masters in Food Production Management at the University of Nottingham.

Then I joined Greencore as my first job in the food industry. I started as a Quality Systems Technologist in the Technical Services Department, where I learned so much about Greencore and the food industry.

After about a year, I was successful when an opportunity came up for a management position in the same department. A year later I was lucky enough to be given a development opportunity, which involved swapping my role with a Quality Assurance Manager. This was supposed to last two months, but I stayed in the role for almost a year.

In January 2020, I made the move to Pukka Pies in Leicester. I hope this will broaden my horizons and knowledge in a new food category, which will undoubtedly challenge my technical understanding so that I am prepared for the future of food. Above all, I wish to be able to continue to make food processing safer and allow quality to improve.

What were your aspirations when starting your career and what are they now?

My aspiration when I started was to become a Technical Manager after five years in the industry, and it is still my aspiration today.

What single piece of advice would you offer someone curious about working in the Sector?

There are a lot of opportunities within the food industry especially in Fast Moving Consumer Goods. If you are curious about the industry, then go for it!

What would you say to encourage them further? i.e. what is the best bit?

The best bit about working at Greencore is the fast-paced nature of things. Everything happens quickly and is therefore really exciting. I loved it. Tasting the food on an almost daily basis is also a big plus.