

NISRA JOB PROFILES

Name: Daragh Robinson

Primary degree: BSc Mathematics with Statistics and Operational Research

Year obtained: 2011

Post graduate degree (if applicable): N/A

Year obtained (if applicable): N/A

Previous post-university employment: Temporary Assistant Statistician within NISRA (2011-2013)

Year of joining NISRA: 2013

Current grade: Assistant Statistician (Staff Officer)

Current branch: Analytical Services Unit

Current department: Department for Communities

What are you responsible for?

I am a member of the Universal Credit team within Analytical Services Unit (ASU). As a team, we are tasked with modelling how the current benefit system shall change with the introduction of Universal Credit. I use statistical software (SAS) in order to analyse data in order to answer both internal and external queries, as well as undertaking a variety of long term projects such as examining the impact of the proposed Benefit Cap in Northern Ireland.

What is a typical day's work like for you?

On a standard day, I will be involved in using SAS to analyse data in some shape or form. This may involve performing simple tasks such as filtering data, merging data files together or creating new variables to help solve a particular query. I often have to write up my findings in an email and/or written report. Additionally, I use Microsoft Excel on a regular basis to present my results in tables and sometimes charts/graphs.

Which aspect of your job do you enjoy the most?

Working in the Universal Credit team has ensured that there have been constant challenges throughout my time in ASU. These have helped me to continually develop and progress. I have greatly enjoyed my time here to date, and the variety of work I have been faced with throughout has been a major part of that.

What do you see as your accomplishments since joining NISRA?

I have been involved in a wide range of work in my time here, with one of the major projects being the analysis surrounding the introduction of the Benefit Cap in Northern Ireland. Over a number of months, I completed a range of analysis using SAS to identify the estimated households that would be affected by this policy change, when introduced. I went on to present these findings at the annual NISRA conference in February 2013. This is one of the largest pieces of work I've been involved in since working in ASU and is something that has been re-ran since in order to see how the estimated figure has changed since more recent data has become available.

How would you like to see your career progressing?

I feel that I have developed in a number of ways since joining NISRA, particularly in terms of my ability to work both independently and as part of a team. Over the coming years, I hope to progress even further in terms of taking the lead on more projects within my team and also in terms of increased dealings with clients. I hope to continually strive and challenge myself to be better.

Would you recommend NISRA as a good place to work? Please provide a reason for the response given.

All in all, I would highly recommend NISRA as a good place to work. There are many developmental opportunities available, and the people I've worked with have been both extremely welcoming and friendly to me as a new member of staff. The work atmosphere is excellent, and the constant challenges posed to me within ASU have helped me develop both in terms of the quality of the work I've been able to produce, and increased my confidence in dealing with peers and clients.