

equip



Who
we
are!

Equip is the education
and training department
of Horse Racing Ireland.

Looking to start a career
in racing? Already working
in the industry and want
to develop? We are your
go-to resource and expert
support group.



Mick Halford

Racing is not just a job for me. It is a vocation and a way of life. It takes hard work and dedication to make your way, but the opportunities are there and with a bit of luck you can make a success of it. Racing has really shaped my life, but I would be nowhere without the people around me. The many people that work in my yard every day are vital to everything we do. We are only as good as our staff and I would be lost without them.

There are wonderful opportunities for education and training in Ireland, such as RACE or the Irish National Stud course. Especially for people new to the sport, there is a great structure there to build on, as well as opportunities to grow and develop a successful career.

Here in Ireland we are lucky to have everything you need for a world-class racing and breeding industry. We have the horses, the farms, the land, and the breeding stock, but really it is all about the people. The people in Irish racing are special. They work in racing because they love it and as Ted Walsh often says, "Do what you love and you will never work a day in your life."

"Do what
you love and
you will never
work a day in
your life."

Contact our
friendly team to
learn about job
vacancies, education
opportunities, and
the many career
paths Irish racing
offers.



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Education & Training

Choosing what professional path to take can be daunting. Thankfully, Irish racing has a host of respected education and training opportunities to help you build a bright future. The Equip team are here to provide any info or assistance you might need along the way. Check out a selection of the racing-related courses available in Ireland below and get in touch to learn more:

RACE



Irish National Stud Course



Godolphin Flying Start



Third Level Degrees



First Aid



Career Development Support



Careers

Irish racing offers a range of exciting and fulfilling careers, whether you were born on horseback or are completely new to the game. Almost 30,000 people work in Irish racing, directly and indirectly. Each and every one of these people play a part in making us truly world-class in the sport. See below a selection of the many careers available and contact Equip to take the next step:

Bloodstock Agent



Farrier



Groundstaff



Journalist



Stable Staff



Sales & Hospitality



Willie Gibbons

Leopardstown Racecourse Track Manager

My name is Willie Gibbons and I am the track manager at Leopardstown Racecourse. I've been based at Leopardstown my whole life, my dad, John Gibbons, was the track manager before me and I used to spend my weekends and holidays helping my dad with maintenance, and working as a hurdle man on racedays. I am a qualified electrician by trade and began working full time in Leopardstown Racecourse as the electrician in July 1986. Two years later my dad retired and I took on his role as track manager.

The main priority of a track manager is to ensure that the racetrack is safe and ensure the best ground is used from one meeting to the next. To do this we work in conjunction with the manager of the racecourse and the clerk of the course to decide if rails must be moved and if the track needs watering or covering. Working with six full-time staff it also our responsibility to allocate stables on race day, ensure that the stables have bedding and are safe, the moving of stalls, building and maintaining the hurdles and fences, following the horses around the course during the race to provide screens if the horse is injured, and alert jockeys, using flags, if a fence has to be bypassed.

To do this job or be a part of the track team you must be able to apply yourself well. There is no room for shortcuts as your dealing with the safety of both horse and rider. Also you have to like working outside, having knowledge of working with wood or metal and driving machinery would also be a big advantage.

I get great gratification at the end of a day's racing when I see all horse and riders get around safely, that's how you know you have done a good job.



Sophie O'Hare

Digital Marketing Manager

My name is Sophie O'Hare and I am the Digital Marketing Manager for Horse Racing Ireland. Horses have always been a huge part of my life, my family owns a stud farm just outside of Naas and we breed sport horses for eventing. I've always had a creative streak so when I finished secondary school I enrolled in the National College of Art and Design where I obtained my degree in industrial design. My part-time job when I was attending college was working for Tote Ireland as a counter clerk. When I finished college a job came up in the Tote head office to cover maternity leave for the marketing manager. When my contract expired I continued to work for Tote as their Technology and Marketing Executive.

About a year later Horse Racing Ireland advertised for a Digital Marketing Executive, I applied for the job because I enjoy working with social media and wanted to be more involved with the industry rather than the betting side of things. I am currently finishing my degree in marketing in the Smurfit Business School as I didn't take the usual route to gain a job in marketing.


My job is mainly office based and my main responsibilities include the day-to-day management of our overall digital presence (goracing.ie, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter), digital media for events, planning and coordinating social media and campaigns for award ceremonies, trade events, and festivals. I also research, maintain and report on market analysis/competitors.

To do this role you must have degree in marketing, have a good understanding and be proficient in photoshop, have strong web development skills, and have knowledge of the racing industry.



Industry Assistance Programme (IPA)

When life throws up challenges, it can be difficult to know where to turn. Those working in Irish racing can always come to Equuip. We have established the Industry Assistance Programme, offering free and confidential support, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.



"The future
depends on
what you
do today."

Mahatma Gandhi

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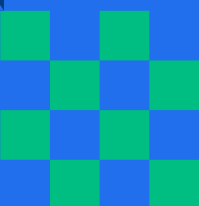
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GET CONNECTED



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