



Karen Brick

Supply Chain

Snr Manager



PEPSICO



Hi everyone, I'm Karen Brick and I'm a Supply Chain Sr manager in PepsiCo. My role is based in Ireland, but my responsibilities cover all 8 of our global locations (from South America to Singapore). As part of my job, I make sure our plants are getting ingredients and planning production in an efficient way. I also ensure we are not dumping a large amount of unused material so we save money for PepsiCo and contribute to our environmental goals.

Although I work in Supply Chain today, I graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering! Leaving college, not knowing what I wanted to do, I went straight into a 2-year graduate program with PepsiCo. During this time I spent 6 months working in Uruguay and 6 months in China. I couldn't believe my luck that I found a job that would pay for me to live abroad - the experience was amazing.

When I came back to Ireland, I continued in engineering before transitioning into Supply Chain on a new plant build - another exciting role where I got to spend time in Mexico City. 9 years later I'm still in supply chain and have changed roles 4 times.

So 14 years after graduating I am still in PepsiCo! The opportunities I've had to grow, develop and travel the world, coupled with the fantastic people I work with and the overall good that PepsiCo does as a company, mean I have stayed motivated and inspired to this day.

Looking at my own career and that of my friends and peers, the only thing I can say for sure is that everyone's journey is different. Some of us might end up in the same place but our starting point is almost never the same and no one really know their final destination. Knowing this I think the best advice I could give my younger self would be to focus on what motivates and energises you. If you understand yourself then you can find a way to a career that you'll thrive at, no matter where you start from!

I WISH

What option subjects did you choose to Leaving Cert?

Economics, Biology and Physics.

When did you complete your Leaving Cert?

2004.

Did you have a part-time job after school?

Yes, I worked 1 day a week (weekend) in a carpet shop as a sales assistant from transition year

Did you play sport when you were in school?

Yes I played Hockey

Did you go to college? If so, what college did you attend?

I attended U.C.C.

What college course did you study?

Chemical Engineering.

Share some details about any industry roles you have had in your lifetime.

Always worked in Pepsi since graduating – have held roles in Project Engineering, New plant build Supply Chain lead, Ingredients purchasing and Inventory manager for largest region, Business Continuity global manager (what happens if a plant burns down....)



What skills you have developed over the years?

There are too many skills to mention but below are the 2 that I think have been most powerful in helping me progress in my career

- Influencing: people's perspective is their reality, and we all see the world differently (this is the beauty of diversity! The world would be very boring if we were all the same). That means we all get motivated by different things. Being able to understand this and use it to help getting work done is called influencing

- Self-reflection: We can all be our own worst critics, especially when we are younger. One skill I have learned through my career is the ability to self-critique in a positive way so I can learn and get better. We all have things we're great at and things we are not so great at – no one is 'perfect'. Loving yourself for who you are but being able to look at your own behaviours and see where you did great and where you could improve and do better is a very powerful skill

What is your current role?

Supply Chain Sr Manager working in a global role to define strategies for ingredient purchasing, materials disposals, inventory Management and production planning.

Why would you recommend a career in your industry?

Our industry is extremely dynamic which means no one day is the same and every day is a school day – there is never a shortage of things to learn. The regulation and red tape in our sector is also less stringent than some others so you have more autonomy on making changes and decisions internally.

