

Meet our Graduates - Katrina

"I wanted a grad role in an organisation that I believed in and would be proud to work for."

Degree: Bachelor of Business (HR Major)
Graduate Cohort: 2009
Rotations: Generalist HR experience in Commercial Planning and in our New Zealand business, HR Shared Services, Industrial Relations
Current Role: HR Manager, Flight Operations



Why did you choose the Qantas Graduate Program?

It's cliché but true – I knew from the start that I wanted a grad role in an organisation that I believed in and would be proud to work for. Plus, I knew I would get to work across a whole range of areas, in both operational and corporate teams.

What were your coolest experiences in the program?

As a grad there's a big focus on getting to learn about as many parts of the business as possible, which was great.

I've been trained in evacuating an aircraft, helped prepare meals in our Catering Centre and even flew an A380 under the Harbour Bridge! Don't worry, it was in a simulator.

What was your biggest misconception about working for an airline?

I definitely underestimated the size and breadth of the company. The number of people that come together across different departments from more than 30 ports around the world to service our customers every day is amazing!

To give you an idea, in one day we move 160,000 people on more than 1,000 passenger flights, serve more than 133,000 meals, move more than 73,000 pieces of luggage and make more than 4,000 shipments of freight.

How has being part of the Graduate Program supported your career path through Qantas?

As you would expect, you have a lot of support through your managers and colleagues as well as the additional experiences and development opportunities you get by being part of a formal program.

But in a more informal way, one of the best things that continues to help me with career decisions is the relationships I've made with both my previous managers and my fellow grads and peers.

What tips do you have for those applying for the Qantas Grad Program?

Be yourself – authenticity is important.

Be unique – think about what sets you apart from others and make sure you highlight that.

Be confident, but not over-confident – there's a big difference!