

A day in the Life – Security Officer Linda Rogers

When I had the opportunity to apply to become a Security Officer at Southampton Airport I jumped at the chance, as security is such an important part of the running of the airport.

Security Officer's ensure that both passengers and staff, are kept safe and secure at all times. Each day brings different challenges, and for me that's one of the reasons which makes the job so interesting. Every day we meet a variety of passengers; from young to elderly, and from different countries and cultures. Excellent communication skills are a really important part of our role, and as a smile is understood in any language, greeting our passengers with a smile can make all the difference to their journey.



We work shifts, comprising of three early shifts, three late and three days off. There are many benefits to shift work, firstly you don't get caught up in the rush hour traffic, you can get to the shops, banks and appointments on your days off, and after or before your shifts, when most other people are at work. For me personally, it fits in well with my home life as I can attend my niece & nephews school assemblies & concerts and watch them at their swimming lessons during the day too!

A typical early shift will start at 05:00 or 05:30 and finish at 13:30 or 14:00, and the start times for a late shift can vary between 12:30 and 14:00 and, depending on your start time will finish between 21:00 and 23:00.

Passengers will usually only see security officers at the entrance to security checking your boarding cards or within the Central Search area. The Central Search area is where hand luggage is screened and you pass through the archway metal detector before entering the departure lounge. Within this area Security



Officers are responsible for operating the X-ray equipment, searching passengers when the archway alarms go off, searching hand luggage, and also carrying out extra security checks on items such as liquids. Working in Central Search can be demanding especially during very busy times, however, we are there to help our passengers on their journey, so it is very rewarding when all your colleagues work together as one team and know that you have helped the airport to provide that breeze through experience which Southampton Airport prides itself on.

There is much more to security than the search area though. For example, did you know that every vehicle and driver that enters the airfield has to be searched at a separate entrance? Well, as a Security Officer that is another job that we are responsible for. We also carry out foot patrols throughout the day, both inside and outside of the terminal, and also around the airfield. We also carry out the screening of the checked-in baggage and oversized baggage area, and we deal with bags that may be left unattended. We are also there to assist in ensuring the building is cleared promptly should a fire alarm activate.

The role of a Security Officer can offer a lot of variety as we rotate around the different working areas, and to know that we are helping to keep our passengers safe and secure gives us a lot of pride. Southampton airport is a really friendly place to work, so why not come and join Team Security.