

Buying (Trading) Graduate

At Musgrave, we've been Growing Good Business for over 140 years. And we're not stopping there. In fact, we're just getting started. As Ireland's Largest private sector employer, we welcome talented people who want to be part of a thriving business with real purpose. Every role at Musgrave is a chance to define what Growing Good Business means.

We are currently recruiting for our award-winning Graduate Development Programme and we want you to bring your good to our business and develop your career with us.

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| Role: | Buying (Trading) Graduate | Location: | Cork, Dublin and Belfast |
| Type: | 2-year contract | Travel Required: | Occasional business travel |
| Department: | Trading | Rotations: | 2 x 12-month rotations in buying teams in Cork, Dublin or Belfast |

Purpose & Scope

In Musgrave, we support thousands of retail and foodservice family businesses. Every day we feed one in three people in Ireland through 11 marketing-leading food and beverage brands that include SuperValu, Centra, Daybreak, Mace and Musgrave MarketPlace. At Musgrave our values and purpose challenge and inspire us to do the right thing, with a focus on practicing good, fair and honest business, a commitment to profit with purpose and working relentlessly to innovate and lead the way in our market. The remit of our buying teams is to ensure we have the right products, at the right price and at the right time for our customers. Our buying teams are key stakeholders in our supplier relationship model and are responsible for delivering competitive offers through professional, competitive and efficient buying processes, controls and performance.

Our brands are successful because they meet the changing needs of today's shoppers and are developed in collaboration with outstanding local entrepreneurs based in the communities they serve. Our Buying teams work closely with internal stakeholders in Marketing, Sales, Own Brand Development and Supply Chain in ensuring the right product range is available, delivering competitive promotions to drive sales and innovating to meet the needs of our customers and upcoming trends. They also work with our retail partners, foodservice customers and use customer insights data to provide the best solutions.

Our Buying (Trading) Graduate Programme is a key commercial talent pipeline for us to grow our own talented buyers. We are looking for emerging talent with a passion for business, food, and customer experience. The purpose of this role is to hone your commercial, negotiating and influencing skills to meet the commercial needs of our customers and our business. Our Programme has proven to be highly successful at developing our commercial talent with former graduates progressing to senior roles in the business. This is an excellent opportunity for graduates with a keen interest in the food and beverage retail/wholesale industry and who are results-driven, commercially focused and with a desire to drive business performance.

The scope of the Buying (Trading) Graduate role comprises of a two-year experiential development programme. To support your commercial development and business knowledge, you will work in at least two different buying teams across Cork, Dublin or Belfast over the course of the Programme. The Programme will provide you with wide experience across retail and wholesale brands and buying for different market requirements.

Key Activities

Depending on the rotation, activities and responsibilities may vary depending on the relevant market and portfolios. The key activities across the business include:

- Supporting and learning the management of the portfolio product range, product quality and category plans to ensure that it reflects both market and consumer trends.
- Managing the sourcing and introduction of own label product in conjunction with the product development teams.
- With the support of the Trading Manager, negotiating the total purchase cost of products for Musgrave and our Retail Partners for the relevant portfolios.
- Developing excellent long-term relationships with key stakeholders including suppliers, retail partners and foodservice customers. Retailer/supplier/site visits as required.
- Assess market and competitor trends in your product area and manage the product range to capitalise on/counteract trends.

- Price positioning: assess current pricing and margin performance, review competitor price positioning and look to maximise retailer margins and competitive position within the market.
- Promotion planning: plan events and promotions as per event calendar and brief, communicate to suppliers and review proposals to ensure they meet stated criteria. Conduct post promotional analysis. Brief suppliers on promotional requirements, review proposals and negotiate improvements to offers.
- Profitability: Learn to design and deliver compelling shopper / consumer propositions that are operationally efficient, commercially successful, and which deliver optimum End to End profitability for Musgrave and our Retail / Foodservice partners.
- Performance Management: Learn to take accountability for the delivery of Sales, Margin, and Income metrics
- Work with TM on Development & implementation of joint business plans with key suppliers
- Managing supplier service levels/Availability
- Develop strong cross functional working relationships with key stakeholders including sales, marketing, operations and finance promoting a strong customer focused offer at all times.
- Support project development and rollout within the category.
- Administrative activities linked to accurate maintenance of product/pricing files, promotional handbills, etc.
- Participation in the Musgrave/Irish Management Institute Graduate Development Programme.

Primary Relationships

- Trading Manager
- Assistant Trading Manager and/or Trading Assistants
- Marketing and Sales Teams
- Suppliers
- Retailers

Secondary Relationships

- Trading Director
- Graduate Mentor
- Early Careers Manager
- IMI Programme Director
- Other graduates

Essential Qualifications

- Honours Degree (Level 8); all disciplines accepted

Desirable Qualifications

- Practical internship or experience in a commercial role is an advantage

Essential Skills

- Desire to work in a commercially-focused role in the food and beverage retail/wholesale industry
- Strong analytical skills and the ability to use data to inform decision making
- Strong influencing skills and the ability to manage challenging discussions for win/win outcomes
- Microsoft Office experience
- Ability to deliver to aggressive targets and timelines
- Prioritisation skills to manage workload and competing demands

Desirable Skills

- Experience of influencing/negotiation situations
- Strategic thinking capability
- Experience of working in the food and beverage or retail/wholesale industry

Our Values

At Musgrave our values and purpose challenge and inspire us to do the right thing. We work in alignment with our values of: ***building and sustaining long term stable relationships built on a bedrock of honesty, working hard, achievement and not being greedy.***

