

POSITION: Group Health and Safety Manager
ORGANISATION: SENAD Group
INDUSTRY/SECTOR: Education and care
SOCIAL:



Member Profile:

Sam Kendall, FIIRSM

In this interview, Sam Kendall highlights her career to date, the reasons why she became a risk and safety management professional and how joining IIRSM can help you build and strengthen your skills, and support professional development

Tell us about your background, your current role and IIRSM membership grade

I am currently working as Group Health and Safety Manager for SENAD Group and support services in the education and care sector in the UK.

When it comes to health and social care, health and safety, and risk management are incredibly important. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the dedication and commitment that education and care staff in this sector have played.

The pandemic has also emphasised the important contribution that risk and safety management professionals have played to keep staff working in this sector safe both physically and psychologically, so they have been able to continue to provide high-quality support to vulnerable people.

I first joined IIRSM as an associate member in June 2012 and became a full member that December. I worked towards becoming an IIRSM Fellow and achieved this membership grade in June 2020.

As a member I have contributed to IIRSM's COVID-19 recovery panel to share some of my knowledge and skills.

What prompted you to become a risk and safety management professional?

I have always had a calling to provide a service to others. My work in the military as a nurse and my experience with the police made that feeling stronger. However, I also wanted to prevent harm and I have found my true vocation as a risk and safety management professional. It has been a hard journey. I studied long hours and had to fit this around my work most evenings and weekends.

Tell us about why you joined IIRSM and how it has helped you

I joined IIRSM for many reasons and have found my cheerleaders with this professional body. These are the people who have encouraged me to be the best that I can be.

Becoming a member has helped to improve my confidence. IIRSM has also provided guidance, resources and support to improve my knowledge and skills.

I always read the magazine's articles and attend webinars. I am involved in

local committees where I can network with very experienced and talented professionals.

How can IIRSM membership help risk and safety management professionals?

IIRSM recognises that although its members are working in different industries and bring different specialist knowledge to the table, collectively, we can provide support to each other in any country in the world. Every member is included and valued. IIRSM's vision is not only about safety but risk across other areas.

IIRSM also focuses on progression, which means that the future of risk management will evolve as new risks emerge. The mentoring that IIRSM provides its members means that no one is alone. It can be a lonely profession but it isn't when you have IIRSM behind you providing support.

The journey to be competent is an endless one; in this field, you are a lifelong student. The mentoring, the networks, the resources and webinars that IIRSM offers make continuing professional development and personal development so much easier.