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THE ONLY GRADUATE CAREER GUIDE TO

The Actuarial Profession

2020/21

32nd Edition

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The actuarial profession is for those who consider all the factors surrounding a decision. Featuring expert advice from industry professionals on the different areas of work, salary trends, interview and application advice and the essential IFoA qualifications required to reach your full potential. As well as first-hand reports from actuaries at various career levels, this guide will take you through the basics and beyond of the actuarial profession.

After you have made use of all this information, you can use the **Employer Directory** and **Job Finder** to help you find your future employer, before applying for the vacancies featured on **www.actuarialcareers.co.uk**.

"The most informative guide to the actuarial profession"
Rosie Ellis, Aon

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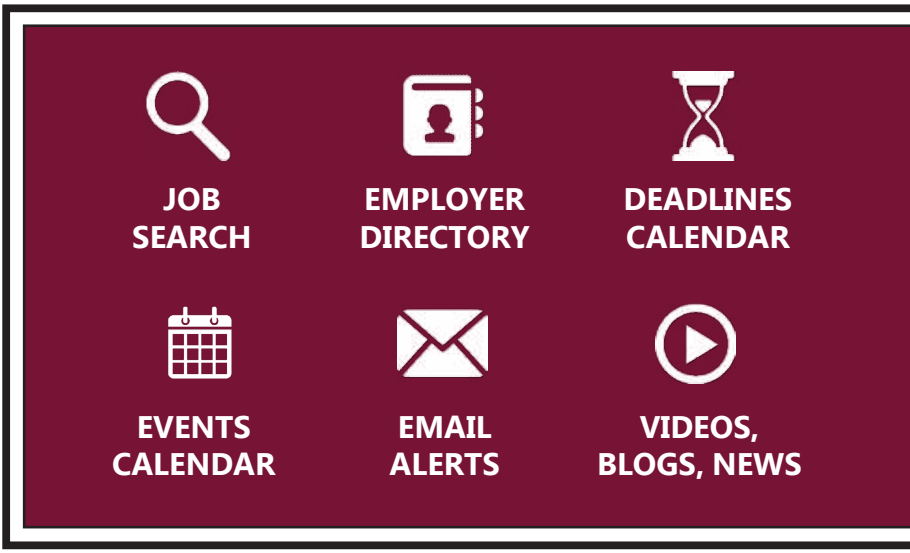

CONTENTS

GRADUATE PROFILES

SENIOR PROFILES

THE IFoA & QUALIFICATIONS

FURTHER STUDY

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

JOB FINDER

Provides summary information on employers recruiting trainee actuaries.

INTRODUCTION FROM THE INSTITUTE AND FACULTY OF ACTUARIES

Introducing *The Actuarial Profession Guide 2020/21* is The Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA). They tell us more about the actuarial profession and the developments and changes that are being made in order to keep up with new technologies.

When you first think of an actuary, you may immediately think of pensions and insurance. However, as experts in risk, actuaries help to solve real-world problems, and not just in pensions and insurance, but increasingly in climate change, cyber security, population growth and so much more. They apply maths and statistics to help individuals and society manage the risks we all face.

Actuaries simplify complex problems, communicate them effectively, and translate the outcomes into meaningful actions. Balancing numerical skills with technical skills and commercial acumen, the actuarial profession is a varied, demanding and fulfilling career that tackles some of society's greatest global issues. From climate change to social care, actuaries work tirelessly to help businesses and governments to navigate complex issues in a rapidly changing world.

Now more than ever actuaries not only need to be smart and analytical, but also curious and adaptable to prepare for the risks of tomorrow. Technology will no doubt play a huge role in how the actuarial profession develops with big data, machine learning and artificial intelligence, providing opportunities to develop as a profession and seek out new ways to make an impact. The reputation, professionalism and commercial awareness that actuaries possess not only make them respected by employers, but also provide them with a trusted skillset that helps organisations navigate uncertainty and plan for the future. ●

The IFoA is the UK's only chartered professional body dedicated to educating, developing and regulating actuaries based in the UK and internationally.

THE PROFESSION

FINDING THE RIGHT JOB

WHAT IS AN ACTUARY?

'Being an actuary is the best job you probably haven't heard of' – Philip Arthur, XPS Pensions Group. If you are looking for an opportunity to apply your mathematical skills to real life problems, then the actuarial profession could be for you.

Much of an actuary's work is about risk management; they predict and measure emerging risks and then help reduce them by putting financial safeguards in place.

An actuary analyses past and present data in order to solve real business problems. Therefore, they have a deep understanding of how businesses operate. Actuaries keep up to date with legislative changes, long-term demographic trends and have a high degree of commercial and economic awareness.

Depending on where their career takes them, an actuary could be involved in determining the cost of insurance premiums, advising a company on their pension's plans or managing financial assets and liabilities.

An actuary has excellent communication skills and will offer expert advice on difficult topics to non-specialists on a regular basis.

Entry requirements

The actuarial profession demands a high level of academic attainment, regardless of whether you are a graduate or a school leaver.

The traditional route into a career as an actuary is to achieve at least a 2:1 in a numerical undergraduate degree or equivalent, and a B at Maths A Level. However, joining the actuarial profession straight out of school is becoming more common and in this case, employers would typically require 5 GCSEs at grade A*-C, including a grade B in Maths (or grade 6 if you have taken your GCSEs in 2017 or later).

How do you become a qualified actuary?

To become a qualified actuary, you must complete at least three years' of practical experience alongside your professional exams. A lot of actuarial firms support trainees by covering the cost of exams and study.

Where can I work as an actuary?

Traditionally, actuaries are found working in the following areas:

- Life and general insurance
- Pensions
- Risk Management
- Finance and Investment
- Banking

However, actuaries are also moving into other areas of the financial sector where their analytical skills can be employed, such as banking and capital project management. We go into more detail about where a career as an actuary can take you in our Areas of Work article later in the guide

What next?

Find out more about the actuarial profession, interview and application tips as well as first-hand accounts of actuarial internships and graduate roles in the rest of the guide as well as at ***www.actuarialcareers.co.uk*** ●

SEVEN REASONS TO BECOME AN ACTUARY

From job security to financial reward, there are many reasons why an actuarial career is perfect for you. We've narrowed these reasons down to our top seven...

1. Influential Role

Whether it's in traditional fields such as insurance and pensions or emerging fields like climate change, actuaries will have a role in analysing the challenges of today to prepare for the risks of tomorrow. With growth in areas such a Data Science there is will be opportunities to support businesses as they navigate the increasingly complex world of technology. Whichever area you work in, there will be a variety of roles available both in-house and through consultancy firms.

I'm excited about the broadening scope of areas where actuarial skills are being applied.
Chris Cowen – Capita

2. Intellectual Challenge

As an actuary, you will often be faced with intellectually challenging problems. To be successful in this field, you will need to demonstrate excellent analytical thinking and the ability to solve complicated financial problems. Solid commercial and economic understanding, as well as being able to interpret and communicate complex information in a clear way are also essential.

3. Valued Profession

It is not easy to qualify as an actuary, and the exams are rigorous. You will have to have focus, determination and the ability to cope well under pressure. What you will gain, however, is a world-recognised qualification at the end of it.

I've always enjoyed mathematics and statistics.
This career path has allowed me to develop skills to solve complex problems using practical methods rooted in maths and stats.
It's certainly challenging, something I consider a huge plus.
Carmen Loots - Willis Re Speciality

4. Excellent study support and training

On average, you will spend between 15 and 20 hours a week studying for your qualification. This requires a huge amount of commitment and dedication. However, the help and support given by employers is generous as many offer paid study leave, cover the cost of external tuition and exam costs as well as offering mentorship schemes.

5. Make an impact

Actuaries help form high-level business decisions and solve real-life problems in a range of industries. From influencing investment decisions to designing pension schemes that could affect thousands of people, becoming an actuary means that the decisions you make impact people's lives.

Actuaries work with complex data and reporting systems on a daily basis...
Alastair Mason – Pacific Life Re

6. A Good Work-Life Balance

The actuarial profession is both challenging and hugely rewarding. Not only will you have a career that is intellectually challenging but as many actuaries report, one that allows you to balance your work and home life. Although this will differ across sectors and companies, this is one benefit that actuaries often enjoy throughout their career.

I enjoy the technical aspect of the role but even more so the communication of results, decision making and strategy that goes alongside that in working with clients.
Joanne Gyte FIA – Hymans Robertson LLP

7. Financial Reward

While actuaries certainly work hard, they enjoy high financial reward. The average basic salary for a graduate last year was £29,143 and this can rise to above £200,000 for senior positions.

As you can see, joining the actuarial profession means you are joining a hugely prestigious industry that means you are constantly challenged and gives you the opportunity to make a positive impact.

Despite working in the industry for well over a decade, I regularly come across new and complex areas. The nature of our work is constantly evolving due to world events, changes in markets and ever-changing legislation.
Paul Butfield FIA – Buck

AREAS OF WORK

While actuaries have historically been employed by the insurance industry, today they work in a variety of industries all over the world.

Whether it's in traditional fields such as insurance and pensions or emerging fields like climate change, actuaries analyse the challenges of today to prepare for the risks of tomorrow.

Actuaries tackle the risks and uncertainties that financial businesses face, working in the interest of both customers and owners.

As actuarial skills are becoming increasingly recognised across industries, the range of opportunities for a qualified actuary is always growing. Some of the traditional areas include pensions, insurance and investment.

However, there are now growing areas relating to cyber risk, data science and systems thinking where actuaries are making an impact.

Where do actuaries work?

Every area of business is subject to risk, which is why you'll find actuaries working within the public and private sector – in finance, government departments, health care and much more.

Pensions and Benefits

The pensions sector has become increasingly complex in the past few years, so there is an increasing demand for specialist advice. Actuaries are therefore heavily involved in designing and advising on occupational pension schemes. From formal valuations for one person's benefit to a whole scheme with one million members, actuaries are invaluable to the pensions industry.

Insurance Industry

LIFE INSURANCE

Working in companies that provide life insurance, pensions and other financial services is a traditional area for actuaries. They are involved at all stages of the product development, pricing, risk assessment and marketing of the products.

Actuaries also fill key roles in financial management and the investment of policyholders' money by developing strategies to ensure that customers get a good return.
In a global business world, mergers between life companies are now quite frequent. When life offices are bought and sold or life funds merged, actuaries tend to be retained by both sides.

GENERAL INSURANCE

Whether it be working within insurance companies, consultancies or at Lloyds of London, actuaries can also be found working in general insurance.

General insurance includes personal insurance, such as home and motor insurance, as well as insurance for large commercial risks, and general insurance companies will employ actuaries to assist with their financial management. You can also find roles in reinsurance and broking operations.

Statistical models are a key part of an actuary's work, as actuarial and statistical techniques are used extensively in the analysis of substantial amounts of data. This analysis is then used to rate risks and to ensure that claims reserves are adequate to meet the eventual settlement of insurance claims.

Terrorist attacks, natural disasters and industrial diseases are all examples of insurance liabilities where actuaries have been integrally involved in estimating ultimate costs into an uncertain future.

Risk Management

An actuary's aptitude for analysing specific risks make them well suited to work in risk management.

They develop models that they can leave with a business to minimise their own future risks. An actuary will then have to explain the model well enough to the business so they can use it to full effect. Therefore, the ability to convey

complex information in layperson's terms is vital in this role.

Finance and Investment
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT
For decades, actuaries have been involved in investment management. They are involved in buying and selling assets, investment analysis and portfolio management. In addition, actuarial techniques are ideal for use in measuring investment performance.

Banking
As an increasing number of insurance companies have their own banking operations, demand for actuaries in the banking field is growing and many actuaries are now filling some of the senior roles in finance and risk. Actuaries are also found in retail banks as many are recognising that the longer term approaches advocated by actuarial professionals can add value to their business. And, with insurance companies hedging their risks, there has been an increase in actuaries from investment banks that provide hedge products.

Emerging Fields
Whether it's the impact of new technology or the consequences of a rapidly changing world, businesses are facing challenges they have never encountered before. As experts in risk, actuaries are expanding into new areas of practice that support businesses as they prepare for an uncertain future. These include areas related to Data Science, Cyber Security and Climate Change.

As actuarial skills are becoming increasingly recognised across industries, the range of opportunities for a qualified actuary is always growing.

Opportunities Abroad
There are thousands of IFoA members based in countries all over the world including India, South Africa and China. The IFoA also works with other international actuarial bodies to offer mutual recognition of the professional qualifications between the different bodies. Some of these include institutes in Australia, Canada and Japan.

Want to find out more about these areas of work? Take a look at our profiles to read about what it's like working in the the areas touched upon here. ●

For more careers advice:
www.actuarialcareers.co.uk/career-advice

SKILLS YOU NEED TO BE AN ACTUARY

Whilst actuaries need numerical and specialist skills to be successful, there are many other skills that are valuable in this profession; the IFoA explain a few important skills you would need to be an actuary....

Actuaries are problem solvers and strategic thinkers who use their skills to help measure the probability and risk of future events. You must be bright, determined and ready to work hard. You'll also need to have a real passion for maths and a desire to use these skills to really make a difference. However, it's not all about maths, here are just some of the other skills you should develop if you want to become an actuary.

Communication
As an actuary you will need to be able to communicate complex technical concepts to your colleagues, who may not have a deep understanding of mathematics or statistics, in a way that is easy for them to understand. Being able to express your ideas in a simple but confident way can help you build trust with your colleagues and become a leader in your field.

Business and Financial Knowledge
As an actuary your colleagues and clients will rely on you to help them make strategic decisions. Having an understanding of how businesses are structured and the world of economics can help you apply your skills and experience in a strategic way that supports wider business objectives.

> Although many employers will teach you these skills on the job, having them on your CV can help you stand out as an applicant.

Problem Solving
Breaking down problems and finding effective solutions is a regular part of your day as an actuary. You will be presented with a variety of problems that you will need to solve in a calm and effective way, making problem solving an essential skill for all actuaries.

Critical Thinking
Another essential skill you will develop as an actuary is critical thinking. As an actuary you will be presented with vast amounts of

information, not all of which will be useful or relevant to the problem you are solving. Understanding what is important and the different approaches you can take, will help you reach the best outcome for your clients and colleagues.

Perseverance
The actuarial profession is a hugely rewarding career, but like many professions it can take time to progress. There are a number of exams to complete before you qualify which you will complete while working. You will need to be organised, motivated and most of all be determined to succeed.

Breaking down problems and finding effective solutions is a regular part of your day as an actuary.

Other skills
There are a number of other practical skills that you may want to develop to get a head start in your career. Excel is widely used within the actuarial profession making it a vital skill to pick up. You may also want to consider learning the basics of some programming languages such as VBA, SQL, SAS or R. Although many employers will teach you these skills on the job, having them on your CV can help you stand out as an applicant. ●

The IFoA is the UK's only chartered professional body dedicated to educating, developing and regulating actuaries based in the UK and internationally.

For more careers advice:
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SALARIES & BENEFITS

Being an actuary has many benefits and one those being excellent financial reward. Here we, along with Hays, have provided an overview of the expected earnings for actuaries, from graduates through to senior partners.

Throughout 2019, salaries have risen by a similar rate at all levels. Hiring has remained steady, and the starting pay for graduates is higher than the UK average salary. This rises as you become qualified and, as you can see, salaries can get well into six figures for more senior partners.

There is more of a need for insurance in the current climate. With the rise of environmental and cyber security issues, this has led to an increased demand for actuaries and a wide range of opportunities to work in different areas. For example, an actuarial consultant can progress to a senior risk management role with a steady salary increase as they work their way up.

An actuarial career can be quite demanding as you begin, however it is bolstered by excellent pay and benefits packages, on-the-job training and generous support from your employer. Also, in the past decade, actuaries at all levels of the profession, particularly more senior roles, can also receive a generous annual bonus depending on the company.

A career as an actuary is a desirable one and is often referred to as one of the best professions to work in. There are many reasons for this (many we have already outlined) including salary, job security and satisfaction. That's not to mention that many finance companies tend to offer extensive benefits packages such as private health care, gym memberships and life assurance.

Hays is the leading global specialist recruitment group, and the market leader in places such as the UK, Germany and Australia. They are the experts in recruiting qualified, professional and skilled people across a wide range of specialised industries and professions. The results reported here come from their Hays UK salary & Recruiting Trends 2020 Guide (www.hays.co.uk/salary-guide)

ACTUARIAL SALARIES BY SENIORITY

Level	Average Salary
Graduate	£29,143
Actuarial Analyst/Consultant	£36,643
Senior Actuarial Analyst/Consultant	£54,929
Manager	£68,786
Senior Manager	£90,714
Director	£138,143
Chief Actuary	£156,571
Chief Risk Officer	£189,857
Associate Partner	£205,143
Partner	£270,857

Source: Hays UK Salary & Recruiting Trends 2020 Guide - published by Hays, www.hays.co.uk/salary-guide

HOT TOPICS: AN OVERVIEW OF IFRS 17

It is important to keep up to date with the topics that are impacting the actuarial profession. In this article, James Nicholl, Senior Actuarial Associate at APR LLP, explains everything you need to know about IFRS 17 and how it affects the actuarial industry.

What is IFRS 17?

International Financial Reporting Standard 17 is the new insurance accounting standard published in 2017 by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). It is expected to be adopted by most countries worldwide (with the USA and Japan being among the more notable of the exceptions). The standard relates to insurance business of insurance companies that report their profits using IFRS (which is a big majority) in any country that adopts the new standard, and will apply to both existing policies and new business sold. It was due to take effect from 2021 onwards, but the IASB has voted twice to delay the implementation, most recently until 1 January 2023, to allow insurance companies sufficient time to prepare.

The primary aims of IFRS 17 are as follows:

- **To increase consistency** in accounting of insurance business across companies and countries.
- **To increase the transparency** of insurance accounts.
- **To match realisation** of profits more closely to the underlying insurance business.

What are the changes it is delivering?

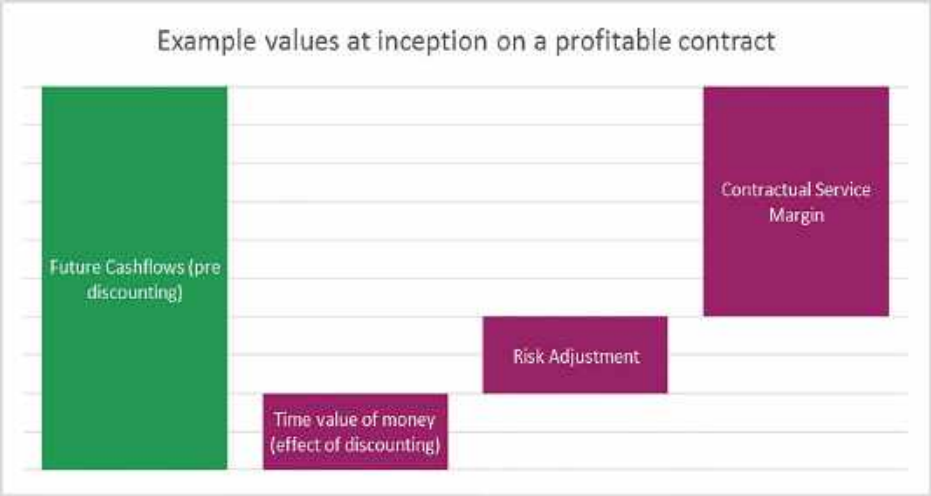
IFRS 17 will deliver a myriad of changes from its predecessor IFRS 4, with the key ones being:

- **A single consistent accounting approach across countries and companies:**
  - Under IFRS 4 companies can use country-specific approaches, such as UKGAAP or USGAAP (the UK's and US's generally accepted accounting principles respectively – these are not the same as each other).
- **Using market consistent (also known as best estimate) reserving assumptions:**
  - As opposed to prudent assumptions that were previously used, and overestimated the reserves that should be held.
- **Introducing a Risk Adjustment, which is a liability for future claims uncertainty:**
  - That is, when the claims cost the insurer more than the reserves they hold for the expected claims.
- **Introducing a Contractual Service Margin, which is a liability representing the unreleased future profit:**
  - This is the amount of future profit the insurance company expects to make that they have not currently recognised in their accounts.
  - It is recognised gradually over time by releasing an amount every year as profit.

Calculating IFRS 17 liabilities

Before an insurance company can calculate their profits they must ensure they are holding sufficient reserves to cover the expected future costs of the insurance products they have sold to customers. Under IFRS 17 these reserves, or liabilities as they may also be referred to, are comprised of four elements:

- **Future cash flows** – All expected probability-weighted future cashflows – both cash inflows (such as premiums) and outflows (such as claims and expenses). These are estimated using best estimate assumptions of the future.
- **Time value of money** – The impact of discounting on the expected future cashflows.
- **Risk Adjustment** – An additional liability to allow for uncertainty in the expected future cashflows, both in terms of their size and timing.
- **Contractual Service Margin (CSM)** – The unreleased profit. At the point an insurance policy is sold this is the balance required to take the sum of the three liabilities above to zero, provided the sum is negative (a negative liability at sale implies a profitable insurance contract). Note that the CSM itself can never be negative.



Calculating profit under IFRS 17?
Having calculated the reserves, an insurance company can then calculate their profit. Simplified, the main sources of profit for an insurance company under IFRS 17 are:

- Interest on assets (held as reserves).
- Reserves released less any claims or expenses paid.
- Release of the risk adjustment.
- Release of the CSM.

There are other profit sources but these are the key items, which we'll now explain in a little more detail.

Interest on assets is a company's investment return. For a lot of insurance companies, a large proportion of their assets will be held in reserves, so depending on the types of product they are reserving for they may be holding relatively safe assets with low rates of return.

Reserves released less any claims or expenses paid is essentially the difference between what an insurance company thinks they will need to pay out and what they actually pay out in practice. If a company's best estimate assumption is 100% accurate this will be zero, as they will hold exactly the amount of reserves needed to pay their claims and expenses. In practice this doesn't happen, but instead actual claims and expenses will be higher or lower leading to losses or profits respectively.

IFRS 17 is going to have quite an impact on actuaries... Longer term, IFRS 17 will mean that actuaries are a lot more involved in reporting of profits

Release of risk adjustment is an amount the insurer will expect to release as profit in normal circumstances. The risk adjustment is held for claims differing from what is expected, so should only be needed to be used to cover claims when they are higher than was expected. If this is not the case then the amount of risk adjustment being held for that period can be released as profit.

Release of CSM is likely to be the profit source that will be most heavily scrutinised under IFRS 17. As the CSM is, in effect, a liability that represents the unreleased profit, this is understandable. The CSM, once it is set up as above, will be released over the life of the insurance policy such that insurance companies would expect to see profits coming from this in each valuation period.

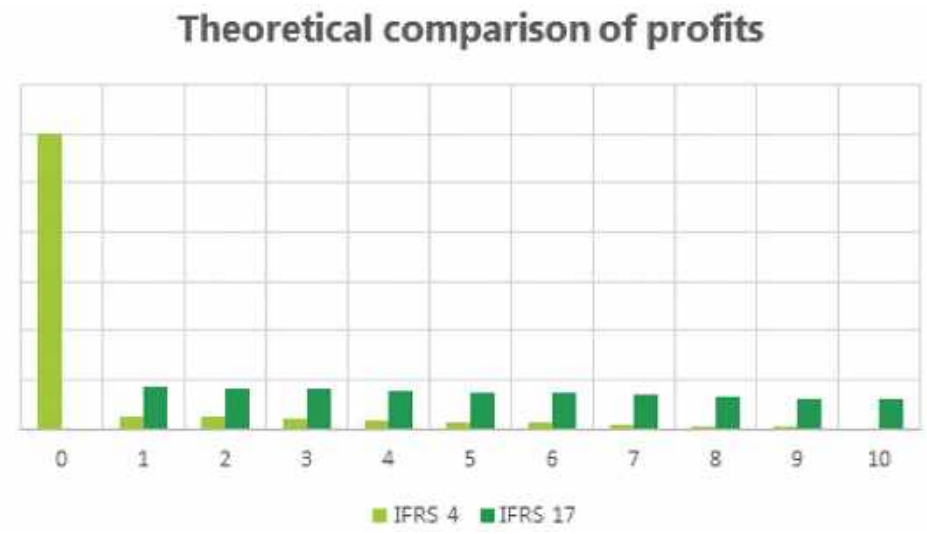
This is very different from IFRS 4 where any profit calculated at the start of a contract would have been released immediately, and then the remainder, mainly resulting from having used prudent assumptions, would have come out over time. The latter aspect could potentially be subject to a fair degree of volatility, and so the expectation is unlikely to have been as clear cut as with the CSM, which will be released smoothly over time in a predictable pattern.

What are some of the issues?

IFRS 17 has introduced a myriad of issues that the insurance industry in the UK is working through currently.

Many of these issues can be traced back to some common sources including:

- IFRS 17 is still a new standard (very new by insurance standards), and the industry is still in the process of interpreting some aspects.
- IFRS 17 requires a large amount of historical data as, initially, contracts will need to be valued as if they have been valued under IFRS 17 since they were written. For some old policies that are on legacy systems there are significant data holes or issues the further back you go in time.
- IFRS 17 is quite a fundamental change with relatively tight implementation deadlines. As a result, several European insurance bodies (including the UK's own ABI) have been lobbying for a delay in



the adoption of IFRS 17 owing to some of the above points, which has at least in part led to the deferment to the implementation deadline.

- However, even with this deferment, 2023 is only three years away now, which is not very long in insurance development time; the various issues and concerns raised have also added some uncertainty as insurers prepare for implementation.

What impact does it have on actuaries?

IFRS 17 is going to have quite an impact on actuaries. The obvious initial impact will be the need to update reserving models to include the two new liability concepts included in IFRS 17 - risk adjustment and contract service margin. For both there will be a number of methodology decisions to make, as well as a significant amount of model development and testing. IFRS 17 will also require changes to data and reporting processes, which will lead to significant development work over the next couple of years.

Longer term, IFRS 17 will also mean that actuaries are a lot more involved in reporting of profits. Traditionally actuaries would calculate the reserves and communicate these to accountants along with the explanations on why they had changed; this was often where their involvement ended. Under IFRS 17 actuaries will now also need to communicate changes to, and the release of, the CSM, which will be a significant part of the reported profit. As this will be wholly owned by actuaries they will need to get a lot more involved in the profit reporting process to explain this portion of the profits (or losses!).

[1] Actually, this is not always strictly true. It is the case on insurance contracts that the insurer sells but it is not true on the reinsurance they may take out on these contracts. ●

James Nicholl, Senior Actuarial Associate, APR LLP – December 2018 (updated March 2020)

James Nicholl is a Senior Actuarial Associate at APR LLP. James joined APR in 2012 after graduating from LSE and became a fellow of the IFoA in 2017. As well as working with clients on a range of projects, James is APR's technical lead on IFRS 17. More details on IFRS 17 can be found in APR's series of News & View articles which can be found on their website. www.aprllp.com/news-views

For more hot topics:
www.actuarialcareers.co.uk/career-advice

GETTING THE JOB

So you're on track to get a good degree, but that doesn't necessarily mean you will be guaranteed a good job once you graduate. Competition for top actuarial firms is fierce, so you'll need to go the extra mile to give yourself a chance of obtaining that dream job. Mark Stansfield from Hymans Robertson explains how.

Outside of your degree, what else gives you the edge?

Most applicants will be able to meet the technical skills required for the job. In order to separate yourself from the rest of the applicants, you will need to be able to show your character and intangible skills that are hard to grasp in the application process.

> With a well thought out and detailed application, you are sure to get an opportunity to interview or attend an assessment day.

Know what you are looking for

There are various actuarial firms out there, each with differing values, objectives and cultures that differentiate them from each other. Regardless of your approach in applying for roles, you should aim to spend more time in applying for the companies that best resonate with your values.

Employers are looking for applicants that meet their values, so being able to align your values with that of the company will help you stand out.

Research the profession

The early years of your actuarial career will see you having to sit numerous exams to become a qualified actuary. Companies are looking to invest both time and money into graduates who can demonstrate a willingness and resilience to pass the exams. It's important to have a good understanding of the exams you will have to sit as this will help you showcase your eagerness to employers in an interview situation.

Research the role

A career as an actuary can take place in a variety of industries and sectors from pensions, investment, healthcare, life insurance and general insurance just to name a few. Although the core principles are the same across all, the types of work you do on a day to day basis may vastly differ. You want to make sure you've chosen the right sector and role for you, so do your research – asking relevant questions at interview and demonstrating your knowledge and interest in the sector you have applied to will impress the interviewers.

Show passion

Interviewers are not just looking for a person to fit the role but also a person who will fit into the team. Being able to enthusiastically talk about your passions outside of work and study can be a great way to showcase both your skills and personality and help you to stand out. Whether you are part of the baking society at university, play for your local hockey team or volunteer at the local dog shelter on weekends, there are a variety of skills that are developed here that employers are looking for.

It is easy to overlook the skills you have developed from these activities, so whilst applying for any jobs, it may be worth thinking:

- **Did I work in a group or team?** If so, what are some examples of good communication, leadership or team working skills?
- **Did I take on any responsibility?** If so, can this demonstrate dedication, organisation or time management skills?
- **Were there any challenges or difficulties I had to face?** If so, how did I approach the situation and find a solution to the issue?
- **Did I make any mistakes or errors?** If so, how did I learn from these?

Make your application form stands out by highlighting your interests and achievements – showing who you are outside of work and study may just give you the edge you need to land your dream job.

Practice your interview technique

With a well thought out and detailed application, you are sure to get an opportunity to interview or attend an assessment day. First impressions matter, and being prepared will help you give a better first impression. Before the interview or assessment day, it is worth considering the following to help you prepare:

- **Doing a mock interview/telephone call.** Even if this just with family, friends or support from university, a mock will allow you to experience what the interview setting is like and identify any challenging questions early on.
- **Consider your approach.** In an interview setting, you are likely to be nervous and this can cause some bad habits to appear, such as mumbling words or talking too fast. In an assessment day, nerves can either cause you to remain silent or timid throughout. An awareness of how you react under these conditions can help you control them.
- **Practice questions.** Whilst interviews and assessment centres can be varied depending on employer, there are some forms of questions which can regularly appear. Try to think of answers to questions beforehand, such as why you are interested in the role you are applying for, what your motivation is and any past challenges or failures you have overcome.
- **Use examples.** Interviewers are of a 'show don't tell' mind-set, and being able to demonstrate the skills you have through examples is more effective than simply saying the skill.

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www.actuarialcareers.co.uk/jobs

Be confident

Lastly and most importantly, being confident in your ability will go a long way to determine your interview success. Once you get to an interview, regardless of whether this is over the phone, assessment day or in person, the only opinion that matters is that of the interviewer. You have got this far based on your ability and character, so being confident and showing who you are and what you have to offer will go a long way to you getting the job. ●

Mark Stansfield graduated from the University of Southampton in 2017 with a degree in Mathematics with Finance. After completing an internship at Aon, he joined Hymans Robertson LLP as a graduate actuarial trainee in September 2017.

INTERNSHIPS & WORK EXPERIENCE

Interested in becoming an actuary? Here we discuss the wide range of opportunities open to students to gain an insight into the profession, how to get involved and how to make the most of these opportunities.

Actuaries work in many different fields – pensions, insurance and investment to name just a few – and the work involved in each area is very different. Companies recognise that choosing an actuarial path to go down is just as important a decision for your career as the decision to become an actuary in the first place. Many companies are therefore offering opportunities to gain insight and work experience to help you find the right path, whilst acquiring invaluable experience to help build a strong application for any jobs you apply for in the future.

Career events at school and university
Schools and universities all run career events – this may be how you first found out about the actuarial profession. If you would like to learn more about becoming an actuary, raise this with the careers officer, who can invite someone in to speak from a local actuarial firm. These talks usually give a broad introduction to the profession, including the qualifications you need to apply for jobs, and the qualifications and training you would get as an actuarial student. But school and university visits are also a good chance for firms to plug their own work experience, internships and graduate programmes, so you might get a few hints and tips about upcoming opportunities for which you could apply.

Work experience
If you are a budding young actuary in sixth form or in your first year at university, and want to gain a better understanding of the work that an actuary gets involved in to help decide whether this is the career for you, don't be afraid to contact a few actuarial firms to see if there is the opportunity to shadow an actuary or actuarial student for a few days. The advantage of this is that you get some first-hand experience of life as an actuary.

You'll meet people at different stages in their career, and can keep in touch with those you meet to ask them questions when you come to apply for roles in the future. However, don't be disheartened if the company says they are unable to cater for you – shadowing is a very time consuming exercise to run, and so some employers have stopped offering this.

First impressions are key - both with any correspondence you have had in arranging the work experience and in person during your visit.

Insight days
As a compromise, an increasing number of employers have introduced 'insight' days or weeks for sixth-formers and university students. These are a lot more formal than shadowing a member of the team; the day is often structured, with talks from different practice areas and workshops where you can get stuck into some practical actuarial problems. As well as meeting actuaries, you will also get a chance to talk with other students who are interested in the profession. However, you might find that insight days are not very well advertised on company websites, as students invited along are those who have proactively sought work experience – yet another reason to approach firms yourself if you want to gain some experience!

Internships
If you are strongly considering a career as an actuary, then an internship is the best way to strengthen your knowledge and experience

in the profession. They typically run over the summer holidays, lasting between six and eight weeks, and will include a series of structured training sessions as well as the opportunity to get stuck into some real work. You are often assigned a mentor who will help you adapt to working life and will be your port of call if you have any queries. You will often be placed in a particular practice area – which is something you will have to choose when you apply - although you may be given the opportunity to get involved with projects in other departments as well.

Companies recognise that choosing an actuarial path to go down is just as important a decision for your career as the decision to become an actuary in the first place

Most applications for summer internships open during the previous September, with assessment days around Christmas. The application process may be just as demanding as applying for graduate jobs, so don't be dispirited if you fail to get an offer from your first application. Candidates are generally expected to have A Level maths and be on track to achieve a 2:1 in a numerate degree. But as well as good academic results firms will also be looking for proactivity, enthusiasm and a desire to learn. All these things can be demonstrated through previous work experience and through a little bit of research on the company when you apply.

As well as gaining invaluable experience and building your actuarial network during an internship, many companies use their internship programmes as a way to recruit to fill their graduate vacancies the following summer, so you might even secure a graduate job.

How to make the most out of any work experience

As much as these opportunities are for you to get to know the work and the company, it also gives the company a chance to get to know you. If they like what they see they may remember this if ever you apply to any of their roles in the future.

First impressions are key – both with any correspondence you have had in arranging the work experience and in person during your visit. Take care to use a sensibly named email address, avoid spelling and grammar errors and typos and be prompt with your responses in any email communication. You will need to be able to demonstrate that you can conduct yourself in a professional manner – and part of this will be dressing appropriately.

Don't be afraid to make conversation and ask questions. Employers like questions – they show a willingness to learn and demonstrate your interest in the firm and what they do. You might find it useful to do a little research on the company before going along, so that you can make sure to ask relevant questions – and they'll be flattered that you took the time to learn about the company!

But most importantly, enjoy the experience. If it looks like you are enjoying the work and networking then you will make an impression with the actuaries you come across. ●

Rachel Pegrum is a Consulting Actuary who joined Barnett Waddingham in 2016 after completing their internship programme the previous summer. She set up Barnett Waddingham's popular Actuarial Insight Day in 2017, aimed at sixth-formers and first year university students, which now runs across multiple offices every July.

For more careers advice:
www.actuarialcareers.co.uk/career-advice

APPLICATIONS & INTERVIEW TIPS

Gary Heslop works as a partner for APR, an actuarial company that places more than usual emphasis on the quality of graduate recruits. In this article he explains what he sees as some of the key dos and don'ts when applying and interviewing for actuarial jobs.

First Steps

Who wouldn't want to be an actuary? According to recent research by Careercast.com it remains one of the best jobs you can have, finally making official what those of us on the inside have always suspected. According to the survey, perks of the job include lack of stress, pleasant working environment, relatively short working hours, high wages and good future prospects.

So naturally, you want a piece of that for yourself, right? Problem is, so do a lot of others, and just like you they're academically strong, diligent, motivated and have a killer suit just waiting to be cracked out for those crucial interview situations. So what can give you the edge?

Applications

PRIORITISE PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS

Your primary objective may be understandably to gain an offer from any actuarial employer, but you'd be wise to go down the list of actuarial employers, check the companies out, and figure out which ones you'd most like to work for. Are you a better cultural fit for a big or small company? Which sectors of actuarial work most interest you and which offer the best long-term prospects? Will this employer provide you with training and exposure to different areas of work that may help your longer term ambitions? Candidates that have given some genuine thought to these aspects will be better placed to sell themselves to the companies they're most keen on.

KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROFESSION

It costs a lot of money for an employer to sponsor a student through the actuarial exams. You don't need to be able to reel off the name, syllabus and pass rate of all exam modules, but it's important to show you have some understanding of what you're letting yourself in for. We've rejected candidates with great CVs for not appearing to have done the most cursory research around the actuarial profession.

CV TYPOS

Your CV is your key pre-interview marketing tool and is unlikely to vary greatly between employers. As such, there is no excuse for typos and errors in it. If you appear to lack the ability to exercise care in such a crucial document, it's not unreasonable for an employer to conclude you lack the attention to detail that is a key attribute of most good actuarial students.

TAILORED COVER LETTER

It's good to strike a balance between conciseness and substance. Most importantly, it should be tweaked towards the application in question. Sending out the same cover letter for all applications, changing only the name of the company (and sometimes not even doing that correctly!), can usually be spotted a mile off. For example, as a provider of actuarial services predominantly within the UK, some candidates seem to think we will be flattered by being told we 'enjoy a global reputation' – we don't currently, and inclusion of such a line only harms a candidate's chances.

> Don't spend too long on reading the company's website; instead, think more widely about the challenges the company is facing and issues surrounding the sector and the profession

BE TRUTHFUL

Here are just two examples:

1. Don't suggest you're full of initiative if, for example, you graduated a year ago and don't appear to have taken steps to increase your attractiveness to actuarial employers in the meantime (e.g. by sitting an IFoA exam or developing relevant IT skills).
2. Don't overstate your competency in key areas (e.g. Excel or coding skills) because this can be easily shot down at interviews.

Interview Tips

WIDEN YOUR RESEARCH

So you've fired off your applications and awaited responses with bated breath. Finally, the moment you've been waiting for: you have an interview. Your only chance is to spend every spare minute between now and the interview date slavishly researching the company and names and personal habits of every actuary who has ever set foot in the company's offices, right? Wrong. Don't spend too long on reading the company's website; instead, think more widely about the challenges the company is facing and issues surrounding the sector and profession. This will also allow you to ask better questions, a key way of leaving your interviewers with a highly positive impression.

DON'T DOWNLOAD EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT A SUBJECT

IFRS17 provides a good current example: it may be useful to have a very high-level knowledge of what it's about, and to give some thought to what impact it might be having on your prospective employer (if in the insurance sector). What is unlikely to impress is a full regurgitation of the details you've memorised regarding the IFRS17 legislative process.

SHORT, CONCISE ANSWERS ARE BEST

I've lost count of the number of times I've asked a question and after the candidate has rambled around a relevant answer, lost interest in what's been said. Without being monosyllabic and closed, keep your answers on the short side, focused on the specific question asked and arrive at a definite end – if the interviewer wants more detail, they'll ask for it.

DON'T OVER-PREPARE

It's important to know what's on your CV and be aware of the skills your achievements have demonstrated, in case they become relevant to questions you're asked in interviews.

However, don't have word-for-word prepared answers for every possible line of questioning. One of the skills employers are looking for is the ability to think on your feet and you're more likely to answer such questions well if you're relaxed and thinking genuinely about the questions asked of you, rather than of a mindset where you're just repeating rehearsed lines.

IT'S NOT HOW MUCH YOU WANT IT

It's possibly a by-product of our reality TV culture, but it seems increasingly common that candidates believe that expressing how much they want the job or how hard they'll work if successful, is crucial to their chances. From my perspective it's not; a reasonable level of hard work is expected, but much more important is the quality and personality you would bring to the role.

ENGAGE

Finally, be yourself. It's tempting to believe that your interviewers will be cold, humourless machines, droids who care not about love or happiness, preferring instead to deal only in spreadsheets, rates of return and bottom lines. This is very rarely the case. In fact, they are more than likely going to be relatively normal people, who some years ago were in the same position as you. Engage with them, show some personality and you may find it goes a long way towards helping you secure your dream job. ●

Gary Heslop is a partner at APR LLP.

SIX TIPS TO FOCUS YOUR GRADUATE JOB SEARCH

When you have deadlines, society responsibilities and possibly a part time job, it can be really hard to focus your job search. However, with these six top tips, you should be able to focus on your future and get exactly what you want out of your graduate job search.

1 GIVE YOURSELF TIME TO DECIDE

Take the time to really think about what you want from your future. The chances are, if you have picked up this guide, then you really want a career in the actuarial profession. However, there are several different areas in the industry that you could work in. For example, pensions, consultancy, banking and risk management, to name but a few.

Take some time to read as much as you can about the different areas of work and what might fit you best. Think about what sort of company you would like to work for, whether you want to work for a large company or a smaller one, whether you want to work in London or a regional office.

2 SWOT UP ON THE INDUSTRY

If you find yourself with a bit of free time this year, perhaps over the Christmas period, now is the time to go above and beyond your job search.

Make sure that you understand all of the industry terminology you may come across in interviews. Test yourself with our online glossary which gives you all the actuarial terms that you need to know before going into an interview. The **Hot Topics** section of our careers advice page is also a great way of knowing about key issues affecting the industry today.

Showing commercial awareness in your interview is a great way to impress recruiters, and you can do that by keeping up to date with the latest industry news. Consider also subscribing to publications such as Financial Times or The Economist to to ensure you keep the bigger picture in mind and keep up to date with the wider finance industry and also any world events that may impact the sector. Remember that a lot of institutes offer student discounts on subscriptions and if you are pushed for time, then signing up to any email alerts or simply following them on Twitter are easy ways of keeping up to date.

Having an awareness of how the actuarial and finance industry and world events fit together is a key skill that will impress recruiters during an interview.

3 NETWORK

Do you know what events are taking place near you? Events can be a great way of not only focusing your job

search but also getting a head start on the recruitment process and even securing an interview.

If there are events that you want to attend, go prepared and don't be shy about asking questions. Talking to representatives at events is the best way to find out what a firm is like to work for and to find out a bit more about their recruitment process and what to expect. This is also a really good time to ask for advice.

Don't forget that professional relationships can be built at any time – joining societies and getting in touch with university alumni are great ways of making lasting and valuable contacts. And why not start connecting with people on LinkedIn? Or perhaps following a few key players on Twitter?

4 VOLUNTEER

University or college is a great time to volunteer. It helps you gain transferable skills; get experience of the working world and you give something back to the community. When you volunteer, you may find that there are certain aspects of the working world that you aren't too keen on, which is no bad thing when you are making important decisions, like what you want to do in the future.

Any volunteering is great, but there are a few places you can volunteer that not only help you give back to the community but also are slightly more relevant to a career as an actuary. Maybe look for specific internships in the area of work you want to pursue or even general office work experience to get the skills you would need to work in any sector.

5 TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT YOUR CV

You may not realise it, but as the year progresses you will have gained new skills, taken new modules and maybe even have increased responsibilities either at work, within your society or while volunteering. Therefore, the CV you created at the start of the year is no longer up to date.

It is always a good idea to update your CV as soon as you gain a new responsibility or learn a new skill while it is fresh in your mind. Take some time to review your CV and tweak it or update it if necessary. You may find that you become more focused once you know you have an up to date CV ready and waiting to send to employers.

6 RELAX

You can't focus your job search if you are stressed. Take some time to relax and regroup, go out with friends or do something that you enjoy and then come back to your job hunt when you are inspired and refreshed.

Hopefully this has given you some tips on how to focus your graduate job search. Taking your time to do your research, read up on the industry and taking some time to go through your CV and practice some application questions will all help you feel focused and ready to start the application process.

Find out more about the actuarial profession and interview and application tips at ***www.actuarialcareers.co.uk***

For more careers advice:
www.actuarialcareers.co.uk/career-advice

ACTUARIAL GRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Being an actuary is the best job you probably haven't heard of. It is an intellectually challenging, highly respected career path that allows you to apply maths, economics and risk management to real life business situations. In this article, Philip Arthur from XPS Pensions Group talks about the different career options and gives his advice on actuarial graduate programmes.

Career options

Actuaries work in a variety of industries; they are basically found wherever there is financial risk involved. There are numerous graduate opportunities available in pensions, insurance, investment management, banking, and working for the government.

The number of different opportunities for actuaries is increasing with more non-traditional roles opening up in areas such as asset risk management, predictive modelling within businesses and environmental finance. It is a highly regarded profession worldwide, and many actuaries take the opportunity to work abroad.

The roles all have the same exam structure, but will differ in the day-to-day work. Make sure you research the company and sector to see if it is the right fit for you. Ask yourself whether you want to be a client facing consultant, or whether you would rather work in-house.

Graduate programmes

Actuarial graduate programmes offer on-the-job training and support. Although the qualification process is challenging, study packages are often generous and give you sufficient time to spend studying towards the exams.

There are also opportunities to attend tutorials that provide focused training for the exams. It will be long and hard work, with the typical qualifying time being four to six years. However, you will be working with other people who are going through, or who have been through, the same process as you and who are willing to offer help and advice.

I tend to work in the office for four days of the week, and spend one day a week studying for the exams – this is common across many organisations.

The number of different opportunities for actuaries is increasing with more non-traditional roles opening up in areas such as asset risk management.

At the office, I work in a number of different client teams, which are built up of many different people, including people from other departments, such as investment advisors and administrators. I have been exposed to many different aspects of pension consultancy, from calculating the present value of a member's pension benefits to assessing the financial health of a whole pension scheme. I am always learning and am constantly challenged. No two days in the office are the same.

Job requirements

The actuarial profession draws on logical thinking and problem solving, making a numeracy-based degree preferable. Most companies will expect candidates to have obtained or be on track for at least a 2:1 degree with honours and have a B grade or higher in maths at A-level.

Actuaries work in teams and often communicate with clients, so being able to work well with others and communicate complex ideas in a simple and concise way is crucial.

It is important to have sound IT skills. We often work with Excel, so an understanding in this is helpful. You need to be self-disciplined because maintaining a balance between your personal life, work and studying can be a difficult task.

The application process
Applying for an actuarial role can seem like a daunting experience to start with. The application process is normally very thorough, and there is a lot of competition out there. But with the correct preparation, you should be fine. Although not all application processes are the same, the process often involves an online application form, a telephone interview, online tests and an assessment centre.

Graduate roles start appearing around October, with the normal starting date being the following September. Many organisations also offer internships, and the application process for these is similar.

The actuarial profession draws on logical thinking and problem solving, making a numeracy-based degree preferable.

ONLINE APPLICATION FORM
Take your time in completing this. Make sure you tailor your response to the firm and sector you are applying for and do your research, don't just copy and paste responses to every company you apply for. This is the stage in the process where you have all the time in the world and no pressure around you.

Make sure you write something that will get you noticed! Ask others to look over your application and check for things such as spelling and grammatical errors.

TELEPHONE INTERVIEW
This will be the first opportunity for the company to get to know more about you, but also for you to get to know more about them – so ask questions! Make sure you are prepared and go to a quiet place with your CV and application form to hand. When answering competency questions, make sure you state what you did to contribute and give examples.

ONLINE TEST
Make sure you practice! Work through the practice test for the company you're applying for, even if you have completed others in the past. It will give you a good idea of what the format will be for the real one. They are normally there to test your mathematical ability and how you analyse data.

ASSESSMENT CENTRE
The best piece of advice here would be to just be yourself and enjoy it! Make sure you read up on any current issues or hot topics, so you can demonstrate your interest in the career. During my assessment centre, there were many different tasks to complete, with interviews and presentations thrown in as well. It is a real opportunity to see what your potential future colleagues and employer are like too! ●

Philip Arthur read Mathematics at the University of Manchester. He became a teacher for five years, before applying for a graduate position at XPS Pensions Group. He is now an Associate working in the XPS Pensions Group Leeds office.

INTERNSHIP PROFILES

SENIOR PROFILES

GRADUATE PROFILES

SUMMER INTERNSHIP REDINGTON

HUI LYU

LSE

BSC ACTUARIAL SCIENCE

REDINGTON

SUMMER INTERNSHIP

"An internship is not like permanent work, as a student you can explore and try, so don't be afraid to go for some 'risky' options!"

Why did you choose to do an internship?

I was keen to fill my time usefully during the super long 4-month summer holiday. I wanted to use this window to get some relevant work experience and see how the theoretical actuarial models learnt at University are used in industry to create real value and client income. I also hoped that it would give me an advantage when seeking opportunities after graduation. The pay also helped to support the costs associated with University.

How did it tie in with your overall career plans?

At high school, I had decided that I wanted to be an actuary, and this was confirmed once I started studying for BSc Actuarial Science. However, I wasn't sure which area I wanted to specialise in, there are many to choose from e.g. life insurance, general insurance, pension liabilities, investment, risk and so on. I was confused about the different options and had little knowledge of them.

Financial investment interested me the most, so I felt an internship at Redington could be a good start as it provides exposure to the entire business cycle, all asset classes and whole portfolios. I explored more about the investment consultancy industry for institutional investors with liability requirements such as pension funds, insurance companies and wealth managers. My Redington internship experience helped me understand that asset liability management modelling is where I could make a significant difference to people's lives. Asset liability modelling is the use of advanced quantitative modelling techniques to analyse risk and how assets could be allocated to meet the liability requirement.

I have recently returned to Redington on their graduate programme, where I benefit from a generous study package, which includes up to 40 days annual study leave, tutorials, paid exam fees and support from peers. Together with my actuarial exemptions from LSE, I aim to pass the rest of the exams and get qualified in the following 2 to 3 years.

What was the application process like – any advice?

There were various stages;

- **Online application to pitch yourself** – learn more about yourself, know how you differentiate from others well, ask others for advice and revision, proof read for non-native speakers.
- **Online test** – prepare, do sample tests, get used to types of questions and generalise techniques to improve speed and accuracy, perform the best out of your ability.
- **Video interview** – do research, collect as much information as you can to show interest (also important for later stages), dress properly and try to relax!

- **Interview** – both technical and behavioural – practice typical questions such as self-introduction and motivation questions, do mock interviews with peers and get feedback, network with alumni/ friends who work there to get a feel of the business and culture.

What attracted you to your role?

There were lots of things that attracted me to the role, to name a few;

- There was encouragement and support to learn the whole ecosystem of how the team works from scratch, from reconciliation to reports, underlying simulation methodology and risk measurement.
- The exposure to a variety of asset classes, ranging from traditional equity and fixed income to alternative private equity and infrastructure and so on, which helps to build a well-rounded understanding of the entire investment industry.
- The interaction with other parties in the investment consultancy sector, such as pension liability actuaries and asset managers.
- The opportunity to propose new ideas or suggestions to anything! From the formulae used in the ALM team or even the company structure. The flat structure and culture here means that everyone's voice is heard and listened to.
- The office is located in the City of London which is full of fun places to go after work including boutique cafes and galleries as well as historical places of interest. The flexible working hours are great too.

What were your main duties?

I assisted in producing quarterly risk reports for clients, I was involved in the development of an online system for asset value tracking and visualisation, and I summarised statistics of clients' funds. I researched the concept of self-managed teams with my Intern cohort and prepared a presentation back to the firm.

I also helped organise some activities with Redington's financial education charity RedSTART.

What were the most important things you learnt from the internship?

I gained a better understanding of the industry, which in turn helped me with my studies – it put the theory into context. More importantly, it helped me to make a better career decision instead of knowing nothing until starting to work. It helped me to decide to complete a masters' degree before working – I was keen to build a solid academic background.

It's good to get the idea of what the working life, as an employee, is really like – it's not scaring at all – but it was filled with sense of achievement after completing tasks and sense of belonging when meeting and getting to know interesting people both during work and at work social events.

Do you have any advice for someone seeking an internship?

Talk to people, learn more about the industry from a diverse portal of information, choose what you want the most and make an informed decision. Perhaps start with your favourite sector/position. An internship is not like permanent work, as a student you can explore and try, so don't be afraid to go for some "risky" options!

What skills did you acquire or improve during your internship?

I gained an understanding of the overall financial services industry and how my studies apply to real life. I acquired financial knowledge and modelling techniques. The most valuable experience was collaboration. I hadn't been involved much in group work before my internship but afterwards I realised the importance of team work. Everyone understands problems differently and contributes to projects in different ways – this brings innovative ideas and solutions.

ONE YEAR PLACEMENT INTERN PACIFIC LIFE RE

ALASTAIR MASON

UNIVERSITY OF BATH
ECONOMICS AND POLITICS
PACIFIC LIFE RE
ONE-YEAR PLACEMENT

"I've really appreciated getting an understanding of office dynamics & learning a diverse variety of computer programs and systems"

Alastair Mason is on a year's placement which began in September 2019 at Pacific Life Re, a life reinsurer offering a comprehensive range of reinsurance services and support to insurance clients. Ali studies Economics with Politics at the University of Bath and is considering a career as an Actuary. Here he speaks about his experience on an actuarial placement.

It is important to research the potential fields and career paths that you could take after University first and see which appeals to you most

Why did you choose to do an internship?
I study Economics at University, which looks at the different trends in the financial services market and is quite a technical and numerate course that requires a year-long professional placement. I've always been interested in exploring the Actuarial career path and the internship at Pacific Life Re felt like the perfect opportunity to gain some hands-on experience.

How did the internship tie-in with your overall career plans?
I've always struggled with deciding what I want to do with my career, at the moment I'm trying to take in as much information as I can and find out what paths are open to me. I feel that studying Economics has opened up a whole world of opportunities for me, as it combines a lot of key disciplines that provide you with a transferable skillset that you can utilise across a lot of different industries.

What was the application process like? – any advice for future applicants?
To start with, we had to submit a few application questions along with our CV. This was a good research and preparation exercise that helped me understand a bit more about the role. This was followed by an assessment day where I felt the recruiters were trying to gauge a better understanding of our technical skills rather than expertise. I'd advise prospective interns to relax and focus on being able to show how well you can collaborate with others as well as demonstrating your numerical thinking and capability.

What attracted you to your role?
The role seemed like good exposure to a numerate and technical field. Actuaries work with complex data and reporting systems on a daily

basis which sounded like a beneficial skill to pick up. The role seemed to have quite a lot of variety in terms of the skills and areas I would be learning and picking up on a day-to day basis.

What were your main duties?
In Actuarial valuation, your bread and butter is the quarterly reporting which I was involved with every quarter. This involves valuing our treaties every quarter and calculating different sets of data. I've also had the chance to get involved with treaty implementations and calculation of collateral on an ongoing basis.

Actuaries work with complex data and reporting systems on a daily basis which sounded like a beneficial skill to pick up.

What were the most important things you learnt from the internship?
I think the most important thing I've taken away is just the professional experience itself. This is my first work experience in a professional environment, so I've really appreciated getting an understanding of office dynamics, learning a diverse variety of computer programs and systems and getting to work in a team.

What skills did you acquire or improve during your internship?
I managed to improve my time management and communication skills during the internship. These are aspects I felt I lacked before I started with the company. I have regular conversations with my line manager where we discuss my objectives and any challenges that I need help with, this has really helped me feel supported in my development.

Do you have any advice for someone seeking an internship?
I think it is important to research the potential fields and career paths that you could take after University first and see which appeals to you most. I did a lot of research into the Actuarial field before I applied at Pacific Life Re, I wanted to make sure that the skills and knowledge I picked up during my time here would benefit me in the future.

For more profiles head to:
www.actuarialcareers.co.uk/career-advice

ACTUARIAL ANALYST (DEMOGRAPHIC RISK) JUST.

ALEX LEONIDAS

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING WITH ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT
JUST GROUP

> “I was looking for intellectually stimulating roles that would allow me to put my problem solving skills to good use.”

Why did you choose a job in this sector/profession?
Having come from an educational background in engineering and growing up working on a market stall, the actuarial profession was perhaps not the first to be calling my name. However, it instantly became an attractive career path for me after meeting many highly intelligent and positive people in the profession through friends and through actuarial assessment centres and interviews. At Just I work with fantastic people on a daily basis and I feel I made the right choice when I joined as a graduate in 2019.

> Do your research on the company/the profession and your interviewers. Personally, I found that a great way to do some of this was by talking to people on LinkedIn...

Like many other mathematically inclined graduates applying for actuarial opportunities, I was looking for intellectually stimulating roles that would allow me to put my problem solving skills to good use. In particular, I had read about how the actuarial profession was evolving in a technological sense. Studying engineering at university gave me the technological agility that has meant I have been well equipped for a role where I use programming languages such as R, SQL and VBA.

How did you get your job at Just Group PLC?
When I graduated from university, I wasn't immediately sure what career I wanted to go into. I worked as a research assistant at my university for a few months before starting to apply for actuarial roles in London.
That's when I found Just, and after reading their new starter profiles as well as what the company stands for, I applied. I have now been working at Just for 10 months and haven't regretted a single moment.

What was the application process like – any advice?
The application process involved me submitting my CV online. Following that there were aptitude tests, a phone interview and finally a face to face interview.

In terms of advice, I would say certainly do your research on the company/the profession and your interviewers. Personally, I found that a great way to do some of this was by talking to people on LinkedIn who were more than happy to speak to me about things like what it takes to qualify and what their role entails.

What are your main duties/roles?
I work in the Longevity and Demographic Risk team. We aim to quantify longevity risk for all of our products as well as DB pension schemes. My main duties include:

- Looking at our past experience, analysing the data and observing trends. These analyses serve as a performance metric for our models that aim to quantify our longevity risk. This involves maintaining and developing tools spread across various different programming languages.
- Testing a variety of different developments to our systems and documenting the changes.
- Risk modelling which involves developments to our models, model runs and collation of results for management.
- Finally, although not a main duty, I am also responsible for organising our team's social activities.

Is it a 9-5 job?
Just encourage ownership of work, which is great for my development, but it does mean I sometimes stay a little later to finish off work. I would say for the most part my hours tend to be 9:00-5:30. This can get a little tougher to manage around exams when I spend some of my weekday evenings revising.

What skills are useful in this sector/profession?
Key skills are of course technical ones but communication is crucial too. Actuarial models are complex and ideas need to be communicated in a cogent manner.

You also need an appetite to learn, I think it's important to be adaptable and having a willingness to learn new things. You never know when you might be put on a project that puts you in unchartered territory. Something I have found useful at Just is to go on mini-rotations and make good use of in-house expertise.

What would you like to achieve in the future?
As I have just begun my actuarial journey, for now I have my sights set on qualification. Beyond that I know I would like to remain in longevity.

I have been given the opportunity to work with some highly respected longevity experts and hopefully one day, I can follow in their footsteps.

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to get into the industry?
Speak to people in the profession and look into the syllabus and the exam structure set by the IFoA. This will give you a useful overview of what's required to qualify as an actuary. ●

ACTUARIAL ASSOCIATE
APR

KATE GERHARD

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MATHEMATICS

APR

> "I'd been interested in the actuarial profession for a while, but talking to a newly qualified actuary on my travels sealed the deal."

Why did you choose a job in this profession?
A lot of people that apply for actuarial roles are looking for a career that allows them to apply their mathematical knowledge in a real world setting and I am no exception. I've always been mathematically minded but also enjoy system development and programming, so was looking for a role that combined these. Since joining the profession I've had the opportunity to learn how to use several programming languages and actuarial modelling platforms to build both stochastic and deterministic mathematical models – these include VBA, SQL, Prophet and R.

> Focus on communication, technical skills are very important, but even a perfect technical solution is of limited use if nobody understands you!

I was also attracted to the profession by the variety of work that comes under the actuarial umbrella: many actuarial graduate jobs will involve some form of rotation around departments or teams, so even though I was not sure exactly which area I wanted to work in, I've been able to try a few different parts of the profession, which means I am constantly learning and developing my professional skills.

How did you get your job at APR?
After graduating from university, I took a year out to decide what I wanted to do. Having worked in accounts for 6 months, I then went off travelling. I'd been interested in the actuarial profession for a while, but talking to a newly qualified actuary on my travels sealed the deal. I started looking for actuarial roles back in London and found APR - the varied nature of the role and the company culture seemed like they would suit me well, so I applied and I've now been working for APR for about two and a half years.

What was the application process like - any advice?
The application process for APR was fairly straightforward - after submitting a CV and cover letter, I was invited to complete a short online test which was followed by a phone interview and then an assessment centre. My advice for the interview would be to focus on communication; technical skills are very important, but even a perfect technical solution is only of limited use if nobody understands it but you! I would also suggest researching what skills the company is looking for, and making sure you have examples of times you've shown them.

What are your main duties/roles?
The role can vary significantly between clients. So far, I've worked on four on-site client projects and two consulting projects in my time at APR, and while each has been very different they all required a high level of technical skill.

Most of my work so far has been in Actuarial Systems teams, involving the development and updating actuarial of models and tools that are used in the wider businsess. This work broadly follows a development cycle which, once the objective has been determined, usually consists of the following steps:

- Write a specification with a high-level overview of the planned changes to be made, or the program to be written. This should involve quantifying the expected differences in the model results.
- Write the relevant code to make the changes, or write the program.
- Test that the code has the intended effect on the model results, and also does not have any unintended effects on the model. If the test is not passed, the source of any errors needs to be found and changes made to remove them.
- Document the changes made and the testing that has been done.

I have also worked in teams with very different responsibilities. A recent role took me into a new area of the actuarial profession, where I was on a team calculating the amount of capital that needs to be held in respect of the risks the company faces. I found this to be less structured than my work in Systems teams - there is no 'correct' way to quantify a lot of risks so a large part of the role was justifying and explaining the data and methodologies that had been used.

I have found that the working environment can change rapidly - priorities and requirements can and do change

Is it a 9-5 job?
Usually I'll work about 9-5:30, with slightly longer hours as deadlines approach. I find the work-life balance to be very manageable, although it is more difficult as exams approach and more evenings and weekends are spent studying.

What skills are useful in this sector/ profession?
As well as the technical and communication ability mentioned above, I've picked out two further skills I've found are important:

Time management both at work and in study: There are only two exam sessions a year so it's important to plan your time well in order to be prepared, especially when sitting more than one exam.

Adaptability: I have found that the working environment can change rapidly - priorities and requirements can and do change, so it's very useful to be able to switch between tasks when required, and later pick back up any tasks that have been de-prioritised. Also, developments may be in an unfamiliar area or in an unfamiliar system so it is very useful to be able to pick up new skills quickly. ●

HEAD OF ACTUARIAL SERVICES CAPITA

"I'm excited about the broadening scope of areas where actuarial skills are being applied. I think that data science is going to be a great opportunity for actuaries, and we can promote an ethical and professional approach in this rapidly evolving discipline." – Chris Cowen talks us through his career so far and explains the different areas where actuaries can apply their skills.

CHRIS COWEN

2015-Present

Head of Actuarial Services at Capita

2013-2015

Head of Actuarial Client Development at Capita

2012-2013

Actuarial Services Manager at Capita

2010-2012

Actuarial Workstream Lead at Capita

2006-2010

Actuarial Consultant at Towers Watson

I am a Senior Actuarial Manager at Capita where I'm responsible for around half of our team, focussed mainly on supporting our life and pensions clients with interim project and delivery support. I've held a few different roles at Capita covering BAU service delivery, transformation and project work, as well as leading on our team's growth strategy. Prior to Capita I spent four years at Towers Watson as a pensions consultant.

Why did you choose a career in the industry?

I studied Maths at university but chose this as a subject I enjoyed and that would open up opportunities, rather than with a particular career in mind.

I hadn't heard of the actuarial industry until I started to research careers, but it stood out as a great option once I discovered it. A career as an actuary would allow me to apply my mathematical skills in a business environment, with reasonable work-life balance, and decent pay!

What is a 'typical' day like for you?

My current role is focussed on the leadership of our team and the growth of our business. This means it's naturally varied and that's an aspect that I really enjoy. Some of the things I might be looking at on a particular day are:

- Liaising with clients about the work we're delivering for them and any further support they might need.
- Considering new propositions that we could offer to clients. Our purpose as Capita is to create better outcomes, so I think about how we can do this for the actuarial teams that we work with across the Life and Pensions industry.
- Catching up with my team to hear how deliveries are progressing and to provide any direction or support as needed.
- Implementing ways in which we can support the development of those in our teams. This includes knowledge sharing sessions and through involving people in the management of our team.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I'm not in a technical actuarial role at the moment, but I still feel that my actuarial experience is really helpful.

The experience and skills built up through studying and working as an actuary give a solid foundation on which lots of other skills can be developed – and it's this that I enjoy.

What would you like to achieve in the future?
I'm excited about the broadening scope of areas where actuarial skills are being applied. I think that data science is going to be a great opportunity for actuaries, and we can promote an ethical and professional approach in this rapidly evolving discipline. As well as considering the use of data within our traditional areas of insurance and pensions, I think this might also open up roles for actuaries across wider industries.

A career as an actuary would allow me to apply my mathematical skills in a business environment, with reasonable work-life balance, and decent pay!

Personally, I don't have a specific plan of what I'd like to achieve in the future. I'm always looking for opportunities to learn and to apply my actuarial skills and experience. Working for a company like Capita, which delivers a huge range of activities across multiple sectors, gives me plenty of options!

What are the current challenges the industry faces?
As we look at opportunities for actuaries in wider fields, we also need to consider what we bring as a profession that others don't. It's important that our training remains relevant and that our high professional standards translate into tangible benefits for our end customers.

I'm interested to see how some specific developments will impact actuaries:

- What impact will autonomous technology and electric vehicles have on car insurance?
- How might the Internet of Things and connected homes change risks around home insurance?
- As we move towards more individualised risks and treatments, how does the pooling of risk for life and health insurance change?

Through technological advances and changes to industry and society, some actuarial roles may disappear, and some will almost certainly change, but I think there's always going to be a need for our profession.

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to get into the industry?
Gaining some industry experience is really helpful, even if it's not in an actuarial team, as it gives you a wider understanding that you can then bring to the team you join. ●

DIVISIONAL DIRECTOR WILLIS RE

Carmen specialises in reinsurance pricing and optimisation of Casualty and Aviation business as well as having experience across Marine and Retro. In her prior role at Dynamo Analytics, she advised start-up Lloyd's syndicates across the pricing, reserving and capital space with exposure to capital model validation and Solvency II. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries and holds a BComm (Hons) in Actuarial Science from the University of Stellenbosch. Here, Carmen tells us a little bit more about her career as an actuary.

CARMEN LOOTS

2017-present

Divisional Director at Willis Re

2017

Senior Consultant at Dynamo Analytics

2015-2017

Consultant at Dynamo Analytics

2013-2015

Analyst Dynamo Analytics

Learning from the past to solve today's problems – in a nutshell, that's what data analysts do. And while ours isn't typically the most well-known profession, actuaries are considered to be the original data analysts.

I started my career as an actuary 8 years ago. My first job was at a small start-up actuarial consultancy - we were just 6 people in a tiny office when I first joined! After 5 years I decided to see what life was like at the other extreme and joined Willis Re, one of the world's largest reinsurance broking firms. This may come as a surprise, but insurance companies need to buy their own insurance, called reinsurance. They need this to protect themselves from the really big losses – think hurricanes, wildfires or commercial airline crashes.

Why did you choose a career in the industry?

When I was 17, my (in hindsight, extremely lazy) school career counsellor gave me a university catalogue to select a course from. It was a bit of a doorstop. The courses were listed in alphabetical order and so I decided to save myself some time and just pick the first one – "actuarial science". I'd never heard of actuaries before, as I'm sure most young adults haven't either, unless they've decided to get an early start on their pension.

Thankfully this tactic worked out well (and of course I did some research on the subject first!). I've always enjoyed mathematics and statistics. This career path has allowed me to develop skills to solve complex problems using practical methods rooted in maths and stats. It's certainly challenging, something I consider a huge plus.

Another attraction to the industry was the seemingly endless demand for actuarial skills – the UK has only 14,000 qualified actuaries. This creates two great benefits:

- Career opportunities are abundant – I've been working in the industry for 8 years now and have already changed

roles several times when I've felt ready to try something new
- Pay is competitive as companies vie for these essential but rare skills

What is a 'typical' day like for you?
A typical day involves analysing data to understand the risks faced by our clients, and then figuring out how best to help them manage those risks. We design reinsurance cover that best suits each client's size, nature of the insurance they sell, their financial strength etc. At Willis, we analysts work side by side with the brokers – we build analytical models and run the numbers while the brokers provide input on what can realistically be bought in the reinsurance market and at what price.

My daily job also involves developing the more junior members of the team and working on pitches to win new business.

A typical day involves analysing data to understand the risks faced by our clients, and then figuring out how best to help them manage those risks

What do you enjoy most about your job?
The best parts of my job at Willis Re are:
- Working with a diverse team of talented people
- Opportunities to work on specialised projects outside of my day-to-day work
- Interacting with our clients, and seeing the value we create for them
- Winning business off our competitors!

What would you like to achieve in the future?
I'd like to help build a better relationship between the insurance industry and the public. Our clients are insurance companies, and by helping protect them against the risk of going bust, we are also protecting their policyholders, which includes both businesses and individuals. The industry has made some missteps in the past, and as a result the public perception of the insurance industry today isn't fantastic. I'd really like to see that change, and help the public see the often-overlooked protection and empowerment that insurance provides to businesses and individuals alike.

What are the current challenges the industry faces?
We're seeing an undeniable increase in the frequency and severity of natural catastrophes, and many (myself included) believe this is the result of climate change. Now more than ever, it is the responsibility of our industry to provide the protection the world needs against the financial consequences of these events.

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to get into the industry?
Having a strong mathematical background will open many doors in this field. You don't need to have studied actuarial science at university or sat any of the actuarial exams before joining the industry. However, employers will be scanning your CV for signs of analytical skills and that you perform well under exam conditions (you'll have to sit a fair few exams to become a qualified actuary!) Any prior exposure to the (re)insurance industry before applying for positions will also be a major plus, so don't be afraid to ask around to see if you're able to find an internship or a chance to job shadow during university holidays. Just ask questions – curiosity is often rewarded. ●

SENIOR ACTUARIAL ASSOCIATE APR

'During my time at university... I realised I had more numerical than mathematical ability. Therefore, the more statistical and numerical nature of the actuarial studies and work appealed to my academic strengths.' - Gajan Sivarajah from APR talks us through his actuarial career so far.

GAJAN SIVARAJAH

2014-present

Senior Actuarial Associate at APR

2013

Actuarial Modeller at Hymans Robertson

2013

Qualified as a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries

2010-2013

Actuarial Analyst at KPMG

I've worked within actuarial consultancies since 2010, having completed a Mathematics degree at Imperial College London. My involvement has been predominately in the Life Insurance sector spanning a range of areas. I qualified as a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries in 2013.

Why did you choose a career in the industry?

I had an interest in Finance even prior to attending University. On speaking to an industry representative at a Careers Fair in 2008 at my university, an actuarial career appeared to be an excellent fit for my skills and aspirations.

During my time at university studying Mathematics, I found that I was more inclined towards Statistics. In addition, having struggled with the more abstract nature of Pure Mathematics, I realised I had more numerical than mathematical ability. Therefore, the more statistical and numerical nature of the actuarial studies and work appealed to my academic strengths. From a personal perspective, I spent my childhood observing my father working seven days a week to provide my sister and me with the best possible opportunities. Hence the combination of a desirable work life balance and relatively high remuneration appealed to me.

> There is a plethora of advice and opinion about the daunting nature of the actuarial exams. Having completed the exams, I believe the key differentiating factor is the student's preparation.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Having worked exclusively for consultancies, I've always enjoyed the sheer variety of work available. My current firm, APR LLP, is a small consultancy that specialises in providing interim resources and, more recently, has started consulting on smaller projects. For example, the projects I've worked on

have ranged from Capital Modelling to Bulk Annuity Pricing.

Problem solving has always stimulated me. The projects at APR usually involve building solutions to issues that our clients are facing. Additionally, there is a high degree of technical responsibility and autonomy afforded to those at my level on consulting projects.

APR encourages a wide range of career paths and their pool of qualified actuaries demonstrates that. On one side, qualifying at APR enables those who wish to join the leadership of the business; alternatively, for those solely focused on actuarial client projects, you can work in a very similar way to an actuarial contractor, while still being able to draw on APR's client contacts, support structures and technical resources. I enjoy the flexibility allowed for by the choices on offer.

What are the current challenges the industry faces?

The current Covid-19 crisis that is gripping the world will provide both challenges and opportunities. While not to understate the obvious difficulties this is causing to families, communities and businesses, on the more positive side I believe that the necessary move already made to mass remote working may provide an opportunity for companies to rethink their approach and potentially save cost on office space. One might even hope there will be a longer-term benefit in terms of a reduction in the amount of business travel people do, and so a smaller carbon footprint.

Responsibly embracing the technological advancements made in other industries will provide a challenge for the industry. Artificial Intelligence and Automation provide methods to improve efficiency within various roles. For example, conducting a mortality investigation using a form of machine learning could save days of work.

However, in comparison with Technology and other industries, the Insurance sector is much more heavily regulated. There is an emphasis on understanding risks and the relationships between them. Hence, black-box algorithms that automatically refit risk models and hide the underlying relationships between variables will not suffice.

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to get into the industry?

I'd suggest attempting to research widely about what an actuarial career involves. The research could include browsing various sections of the actuarial profession website, attending university Careers Fairs and applying for internships and work experience.

Whilst there is a natural inclination to impress interviewers during an application process, it's also a wonderful opportunity to learn about the profession and the prospective company. APR's unique application process made a really strong initial impression on me - the assessment test had clearly been carefully written and was very challenging. The excellent quality of staff and the reputation amongst clients also acted as a testament to APR's dedication to recruitment.

There is a plethora of advice and opinion about the daunting nature of the actuarial exams. Having completed the exams, I believe the key differentiating factor is the student's preparation. The exams are challenging but every student who has the academic qualifications necessary to join the profession has already proven themselves intellectually capable of passing every exam. ●

For more information head to:
www.actuarialcareers.co.uk/career-advice

SENIOR CONSULTANT AND ACTUARY HYMANS ROBERTSON

'I enjoy the technical aspect of the role but even more so the communication of results, decision making and strategy that goes alongside that in working with clients. I use these skills in my role as a client director for a portfolio of clients which involves overall responsibility for the client relationship' - Joanne Gyte from Hymans Robertson talks us through her career as a senior actuary.

JOANNE GYTE FIA

2016

Senior Consultant and Actuary at Hymans Robertson

2014-2015

Consulting Actuary in Employee Benefits for Asia & Middle East at Milliman

2010

Qualified as an actuary

2005-2013

Consulting Actuary at Hymans Robertson

2004

Summer internship at Hymans Robertson

Why did you choose a career in the industry?
I wanted a career that combined mathematics with working in a people orientated environment. Following a summer internship in 2004 with Hymans Robertson, I realised I'd found both the career and company for me and joined their trainee consulting actuary graduate programme the following year. I then took the actuarial exams, qualifying as an actuary in 2010.

What do you enjoy most about your job?
I enjoy the technical aspect of the role but even more so the communication of results, decision making and strategy that goes alongside that in working with clients. I use these skills in my role as a client director for a portfolio of clients which involves overall responsibility for the client relationship, consulting fee income and service delivery. I also lead one of our service lines, Trustee Secretariat Services, across all of our client base at Hymans and enjoy thinking of new ways we can better service our clients and win new business in this area.

> My advice for anyone wanting to join the industry is to try out lots of different things and work out what you enjoy and plays to your strengths

I am passionate about the development of people and have enjoyed various roles in relation to this throughout my career, as a line manager and also a stint as the 'people leader' for our London office. As consultants we continually develop and I love helping with others careers wherever I can.

I am passionate about the development of people and have enjoyed various roles in relation to this throughout my career

What is a 'typical' day like for you?
A typical day for me will involve a variety of different activities. I will likely review a piece of work for a client and have a few calls with them on a variety of topics. I might spend some time working on ideas for the service line, such as development ideas for our technology, or supporting a proposal to win a new client in this area. I might meet with one of the people I manage to check in on how they are doing and discuss their development vs their plans. At least once a week I'll travel to one of our other offices or externally to meet with clients or industry contacts. I love the variety in my days that the role brings.

Do you have any advice for anyone wanting to get into the industry?
My advice for anyone wanting to join the industry is to try out lots of different things and work out what you enjoy and plays to your strengths. This applies both before starting your career via a summer internship, but also in the first few years of your career.

SENIOR CONSULTING ACTUARY BUCK

"The nature of our work is constantly evolving due to world events, changes in markets and ever-changing legislation. Problem solving is an essential skill." – Paul Butfield FIA tells us about what he loves most about working as an actuary and gives some insight and advice about the profession.

PAUL BUTFIELD FIA

2019-present

Senior Consulting Actuary at Buck

2016-2019

Consulting Actuary at Buck

2012-2016

Becomes an Actuary at Buck

2010-2012

Senior Analyst at Buck

2007-2010

Joins Buck as a Junior Analyst

I didn't know what an actuary was until my first day on the job. I studied mathematics at the University of Bath, graduating in 2007. I applied for a number of finance-based roles. Looking back, I couldn't be happier with my chosen role of consulting pensions actuary at Buck.

Thirteen years (and many exams) later I have learnt a great deal about the important work carried out by actuaries. I have progressed from a junior analyst carrying out actuarial calculations to my current role as scheme actuary and corporate consultant being responsible for delivering advice to pension scheme trustees and employers. In addition, I head up Buck's in-house specialist team on pensions taxation, and sit on the Association of Consulting Actuaries pensions taxation committee.

I now have a deep understanding of what being an actuary entails; however I'm still not sure I could sum it up in one sentence!

What do I enjoy most about my job?

The people – this includes both my colleagues and clients. As a consulting actuary, I need to work closely as a trusted partner with my clients to understand their needs and work with them to develop the most appropriate solutions.

Strong and regular communication is essential to making this work, and so a lot of my time is spent on calls and (pre-COVID!) face to face meetings – which is lucky as this is what I enjoy most!

Delivering actuarial work is a collaborative process with most work being done, checked and reviewed. I am fortunate at Buck to work with a team of dedicated and talented individuals, all pulling together to deliver the best possible advice to our clients. Luckily they are also a friendly and sociable bunch.

The variety – every day is different, and despite working in the industry for well over a decade, I regularly come across new and complex areas. The nature of our work is constantly evolving due to world events, changes in markets

and ever-changing legislation. Problem solving is an essential skill.

Further, each pension scheme is different and each trustee and employer has their own priorities and challenges which I need to understand. No one project is ever the same!

Making a difference – pensions are fundamental to a happy and healthy retirement, yet in general they are poorly understood, and in some cases actively mistrusted. I strongly believe that the work carried out by actuaries helps ensure restore confidence in the pensions system by making sure benefits are paid to the right people at the right time with the highest possible level of security. This is especially important given recent world events which make the security of pensions all the more critical.

What does a typical day look like?
Work will often begin around 8am with a large coffee. I'll spend the first part of my day catching up on emails and planning.

As a consultant I am responsible for a large number of projects at various stages; keeping on top what is going on is almost as important as getting the work done.

Whilst earlier in my career the bulk of my day would have been spent on spreadsheet or data work, I now spend a large proportion of my day directly consulting with clients on calls or in meetings.

My remaining time is split across a number of tasks, including:

- Drafting advice
- Preparing communications for pension scheme members
- Reviewing complex calculations
- Preparing central materials for the business
- Giving and receiving training
- Mentoring junior staff

Work will typically finish around 6pm, albeit with a smaller coffee (or perhaps a beer!). There will be times where we have to work later to get the project done, although we always do so as a team.

What advice would I give to someone looking to get into the industry?
Competition for actuarial roles has increased significantly over the last few years. In order to stand out it pays to do some research and come prepared. This research should cover both the actuarial profession, but also the company which you are applying for.

That said, interviewers aren't looking for someone to have memorised the mission statement from their website, but rather are looking for someone who can think on their feet and communicate clearly. These skills are essential for a consulting actuary.

Having some first-hand knowledge of actuarial work through a summer internship or work experience placement can also help, but is not essential. It will also give you a feel for whether a career in the actuarial profession is right for you.

Finally, ask questions of your potential employer. You will spend a large proportion of your time working for that company and so it is important to understand the culture that you will be entering into, and whether it is the right fit for you. ●

For more senior profiles head to:
www.actuarialcareers.co.uk/career-advice

THE IFoA & QUALIFICATIONS

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE & FACULTY OF ACTUARIES

Find out how the IFoA supports our members through every stage of their career journeys.

The IFoA is the UK's only chartered professional body dedicated to educating, developing and regulating actuaries based in the UK and internationally.

The IFoA has over 32,000 members worldwide, with 16,000 Student members and 45 partner universities - ***www.actuaries.org.uk/about-us***.

Support for IFoA members

The IFoA supports actuaries at every stage of their careers so they have the skills, knowledge and experience to achieve their professional goals in an evolving global business environment. The IFoA also works closely with actuarial employers to deliver opportunities across a growing range of non-traditional sectors.

Benefits of IFoA membership

As a member of the IFoA you will benefit from:

- Education and career development through the qualification structure and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities.
- An extensive range of resources to support you while you study.
- National and international recognition of your qualifications.
- Influence through the promotion of the work of actuaries and analysts to business, government and the public.
- Assurance of public trust in the profession through our regulatory regime of ethical and technical standards.
- An international community of actuarial professionals sharing best practice, support and innovation.
- Support, including resources to support your Lifelong Learning agenda.

Find out more about the benefits of IFoA membership via their website.

Joining the IFoA

There are a number of different types of IFoA membership that reflect different levels of qualification and progression through the actuarial profession, including:

- Affiliate
- Student
- CAA Global
- Associate
- Fellow

You can begin your exams either by becoming a student member of the IFoA or by taking one of our non-member exams. You will however, need to be a student member before you can apply for any exemptions.

Professional qualifications

To qualify as an Associate and a Fellow of the IFoA you will need to pass examinations and achieve a satisfactory level of work-related competencies.

More detail on the exams and requirements to become qualified as an Associate or Fellow are on the following pages.

Certified Actuarial Analyst

The Certified Actuarial Analyst is a qualification offered by CAA Global, a joint venture between the IFoA and the Society of Actuaries (SOA) in the USA.

CAA is an internationally recognised professional qualification, providing technical and professional skills. It provides an alternative route to a career in financial services. The qualification takes an average of 2-3 years to complete and you can study and sit exams almost anywhere in the world while continuing to work.

CAA provides a pathway into professional analyst roles and students wanting to develop technical and analyst skills. You can find more details about the CAA and CAA Global at ***www.caa-global.org***

The IFoA supports actuaries at every stage of their careers so they have the skills, knowledge and experience to achieve their professional goals

Chartered Enterprise Risk Actuary Qualification (CERA)
With the increasingly complex and changing business environment, organisations are seeking enterprise risk management professionals to join their teams.

To obtain the CERA qualification, students need to qualify as an Associate or Fellow, complete the specialist principles subject in Enterprise Risk Management (SP9) and attend a CERA seminar.

Personal and Professional Development (PPD)
To work effectively as an actuary, you will be required to develop your work based skills through the IFoA Personal and Professional Development (PPD) scheme. This is completed while you are a student member, as part of your journey to qualify as an actuary.

This scheme is designed for you to:
- Apply your learning in a practical environment
- Learn to work within a professional and ethical framework
- Take opportunities to reflect on your learning and personalise continuing development

New student members are required to complete 2 years of PPD to qualify as an Associate, and a further one year to qualify as a Fellow.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
Your learning and development continues after you qualify as an Associate or Fellow. All Associate and Fellows who are in work and are fully regulated by the IFoA, are required to demonstrate participation in Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

By taking part in the IFoA CPD scheme, you show commitment to lifelong learning and development and maintaining your professional and technical skills in the actuarial field.●

As a member of the IFoA you will benefit from:

- Professional recognition of your achievements nationally and internationally
- Education and career development through the IFoA qualification syllabus and CPD
- An extensive library of online and hardcopy resources to support your studies and research
- Becoming part of a community sharing best practice and support

ACTUARIAL SYLLABUS & EXAMS

The actuarial syllabus is reviewed and updated every year. The syllabus and examinations described below cover the full range of study required up to Associateship and Fellowship levels.

Curriculum

The employment opportunities available for those with an actuarial skill set continue to develop and grow, in some cases outside the traditional areas.

The IFoA makes every effort to ensure the curriculum is relevant, up-to-date, and reflects the skills, knowledge and attributes required of an actuary. Examination content is influenced by actuarial research, industry needs and global business requirements.

The core subjects also align to the 2017 International Actuarial Association (IAA) syllabus, and meets international standards.

Core reading and sample examination papers for the Curriculum are available at ***www.actuaries.org.uk/studying/curriculum-2019***

To qualify as an Associate, you will be required to complete, or have been granted exemption(s) from the following examinations:

- Core Principles
- Core Practices
- Personal Professional Development
- Professional Skills Course (PSC)
- Online Professional Awareness Test (OPAT)

To qualify as a Fellow, you will be required to complete, or have been granted exemption(s) from the following examinations:

- Core Principles
- Core Practices
- Specialist Principles x 2
- Specialist Advanced x1
- Personal Professional Development
- Professional Skills Course (PSC)
- Online Professional Awareness Test (OPAT)

Subjects covered

CORE PRINCIPLES

In **Actuarial Statistics**, emphasis is placed on being able to apply statistical methods to actuarial problems using real data sets and the open-source software environment R. This area comprises of two separate modules, each with two elements of assessment. Each module can be sat in different exam sessions but the two assessments which cover the module must be completed during the same exam session.

Actuarial Mathematics provide students with core knowledge on areas such as how to price different financial products, such as bonds, and insurance products, such as life insurance. This area comprises of two separate modules, each with two elements of assessment. Each module can be sat in different exam sessions but the two assessments which cover the module must be completed during the same exam session.

Business subjects

There are 3 business subjects

- Business Finance
- Business Economics
- Business Management (case studies and simulation). This comprises business strategy and law, and includes a business simulation

CORE PRACTICES SUBJECTS

The **Actuarial Practice** subject builds on knowledge and skills learned in the Core Principles, to apply these principles to real actuarial problems. The material also covers risk management techniques and processes required by actuaries.

In **Modelling Practice**, you learn to model data, document the work (including maintaining an audit trail for a fellow student and senior actuary), analyse the methods used and outputs generated and communicate results and conclusions to a senior actuary.

COMMUNICATION PRACTICE

The Communication Practice subject helps ensure that you can communicate actuarial concepts to a non-technical audience. Students are encouraged to reflect on their communication style and become effective communicators.

Assessment pattern

Qualification: Associate

Personal and Professional Development (PPD)

Professional Skills Stage 1&2

Core Principles

CS1A Actuarial Statistics – *written paper*

CS1B Actuarial Statistics – *computer based*

CS2A Risk Modelling and Survival Analysis – *written paper*

CS2B Risk Modelling and Survival Analysis – *computer based*

CM1A Actuarial Mathematics – *written paper*

CM1B Actuarial Mathematics – *computer based*

CM2A Financial Engineering and Loss Reserving – *written paper*

CM2B Financial Engineering and Loss Reserving – *computer based*

CB1 Business Finance – *paper based*

CB2 Business Economics – *paper based*

CB3 Business Management – *computer based*

Core Practices

CP1 Actuarial Practice – *2 x written papers*

CP2 Modelling Practice – *2 x computer based*

CP3 Communications Practice – *computer based*

Pass all Core Principles and Core Practice exams

Qualification: Fellow

Personal and Professional Development (PPD)

Professional Skills Stage 1&2

Specialist Principles

SP0 Master's level dissertation

SP1 Health and Care Principles – *written paper*

SP2 Life Insurance Principles – *written paper*

SP4 Pensions and other benefits Principles – *written paper*

SP5 Investment and Finance Principles – *written paper*

SP6 Financial Derivatives Principles – *written paper*

SP7 General Insurance Reserving and Capital Modelling Principles – *written paper*

SP8 General Insurance Pricing Principles – *written paper*

SP9 Enterprise Risk Management Principles – *written paper*

Pass two SP subjects

Specialist Advanced

SA0 Master's level thesis

SA1 Health and Care Advanced – *written paper*

SA2 Life Insurance Advanced – *written paper*

SA4 Pensions and other benefits Advanced – *written paper*

SA7 Investment and Finance Advanced – *written paper*

SA3 General Insurance Advanced – *written paper*

Pass one SA subject

SPECIALIST PRINCIPLES SUBJECTS

To progress to Fellow membership, you will need to pass two of the subjects below to demonstrate your understanding of the concepts in your chosen subjects and application of principles to the various sectors.

- **Health and Care**: the provision of health and care business
- **Pensions and Other Benefits**: financial management of pensions and other benefits.
- **Investment and Finance**: management of investments
- **Financial Derivatives**: the types, usage and valuation of financial derivatives in trading markets
- **General Insurance** Reserving and Capital Modelling
- **General Insurance Pricing**: mathematical and economics techniques for general insurance operations
- **Enterprise Risk Management:** qualitative and quantitative aspects of risk management, how these risks are aggregated and risk management frameworks.

SPECIALIST ADVANCED SUBJECTS

The Specialist Advanced subjects require you to pass one of these subjects below, to show that you can apply principles of actuarial practice to an advanced area.

- Health and Care
- Life Insurance
- General Insurance
- Pensions and Other Benefits
- Investment and Finance

For more about the different topics covered in the syllabus, visit online at ***www.actuaries.org.uk/studyingcurriculum-2019***

OPTIONS FOR RESEARCH

If you continue studying to become a fellow, you can opt to conduct original research as an alternative to taking one of the IFoA's Specialist Advanced exams.

Your research must involve an actuarial approach to problem solving, and make an original contribution to actuarial science. The dissertation must demonstrate how the work links to relevant actuarial knowledge.

The research is expected to be at MPhil or research degree level and takes at least two years of part-time study. ●

Qualification structure

Qualification: Associate

Personal and Professional Development (PPD)

Professional Skills Stage 1&2

Core Principles	Core Practices
CS1 Actuarial Statistics **CS2** Risk Modelling and Survival Analysis	**CP1** Actuarial Practice
	CP2 Modelling Practice
CM1 Actuarial Mathematics **CM2** Financial Engineering and Loss Reserving	**CP3** Communications Practice
CB1 Business Finance **CB2** Business Economics **CB3** Business Management	

Pass all Core Principles and Core Practice exams

Qualification: Fellow

Personal and Professional Development (PPD)

Professional Skills Stage 1&2

Specialist Principles	Specialist Advanced
SP0 Master's level dissertation	**SA0** Master's level thesis
SP1 Health and Care Principles	**SA1** Health and Care Advanced
SP2 Life Insurance Principles	**SA2** Life Insurance Advanced
SP4 Pensions and other benefits Principles	**SA4** Pensions and other benefits Advanced
SP5 Investment and Finance Principles **SP6** Financial Derivatives Principles	**SA7** Investment and Finance Advanced
SP7 General Insurance Reserving and Capital Modelling Principles **SP8** General Insurance Pricing Principles	**SA3** General Insurance Advanced
SP9 Enterprise Risk Management Principles	
Pass two SP subjects	**Pass one SA subject**

FURTHER STUDY

The **Dublin City University** BSc in Actuarial Mathematics provides students with a foundation in mathematics, computing and statistics for a career as an actuary or more generally in the finance industry.

The course is fully accredited by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries, UK and students may obtain exemptions from the Core Principles examinations (CS1, CS2, CM1, CM2, CB1 and CB2). These are the initial examinations required in order to qualify as an actuary in Ireland and the UK. Students who successfully achieve all six exemptions can significantly reduce the time taken to qualify as an actuary.

Students may also progress to the BSc in Actuarial Mathematics following successful completion of our two year Common Entry to Actuarial and Financial Mathematics course.

About the Course

This is a challenging and rewarding course both in terms of breadth of application and intellectual depth. A love of mathematics, problem-solving and an interest in the applications of mathematics are course prerequisites, and our dedicated teaching and learning staff will ensure you receive all the support you need to excel.

In the first two years students of the BSc in Actuarial Science study alongside their peers on the Common Entry to Actuarial and Financial Mathematics and the BSc in Financial Mathematics courses. Students cover the fundamental mathematical principles that underpin the financial models studied in later years. Students also study practical and finance-related subjects such as computer programming, economics and accounting. In years three and four students apply sophisticated mathematical techniques to real-world problems in insurance, finance and banking.

In year three, students spend eight months on a paid work placement (INTRA) in the actuarial or financial industry. The placements are, typically, with major insurance companies, actuarial consultancies or in investment banks and trading houses. This is an unrivalled opportunity for students to gain practical skills and experience in a commercial environment and also helps students make an informed career choice on graduation.

About Us

A number of staff teaching on the course are qualified actuaries, the others are leading mathematicians, financial mathematicians and statisticians, recognised nationally and internationally for their research.

DCU ranks 19th in the World for graduate employability and our reputation among employers, together with strong industry links ensures our graduates are well placed to pursue careers in the actuarial profession. Graduates often undertake further studies and research in actuarial science, mathematics, financial mathematics, economics and finance. The course also opens up opportunities to work in finance, investment and trading, teaching or other careers where mathematics is fundamental. ●

FURTHER INFORMATION

E: mary.hall@dcu.ie
W: www.dcu.ie/courses

HERIOT WATT UNIVERSITY

Actuarial Science

There have always been plenty of excellent reasons to study actuarial science at Heriot-Watt. After all, we pioneered degrees in the field. Today, we enjoy a worldwide reputation for the quality of our teaching and research. We offer a range of accredited courses from BSc to MSc/Diploma.

The reasons for starting your professional journey with us are much more than academic. We're certain your experience at Heriot-Watt, both at study and at play, will be unforgettable.

The Sunday Times newspaper agrees. That's why they named us International university of the year'. Based in beautiful west Edinburgh parkland, we're within easy reach of the bustling city centre. Which means you'll have world-renowned attractions and simulating culture on your doorstep. What's more, you'll be close to the heart of Scotland's largest financial hub, where companies such as RBS, Lloyds Banking, Standard Life, Aegon, Mercer and Scottish Widows have a presence. We have graduates in all of them. Perfect.

Heriot-Watt is recognised as a 'Center of Actuarial Excellence by the Society of Actuaries and is the only Center of Actuarial Excellence in Europe.

Our Actuarial programmes are accredited by the institute and faculty of actuaries and many carry exemptions from professional examinations. Our Actuarial Science programmes (both BSc & MSc) are fully accredited for IFoA subjects CS1 and 2, CM1 and 2 and CB1 and 2.

Our Programmes

- BSc (Hons) Actuarial Science
- BSc (Hons) Actuarial Science and Diploma in Industrial Training
- BSc (Hons) Statistical Data Science
- MSc/Diploma Actuarial Science
- MSc/Diploma Actuarial Management
- MSc/Diploma Financial Mathematics
- MSc Actuarial Management and Data Science
- MSc/Diploma Actuarial Science and Management
- MSc Applied Data Science

Our programmes are designed to get you ready for life in the financial world.

For the academic year 2020/21, Heriot-Watt University is introducing a new model of learning called 'Responsive Blended Learning' (RBL): RBL combines active, supported online learning with contextually appropriate face-to-face learning opportunities, responding dynamically to the changing external context. This approach enables students to proceed with their studies alongside their peers, whatever pandemic-related restrictions are lifted or imposed in specific contexts.

FURTHER INFORMATION

E: studywithus@hw.ac.uk
W: www.hw.ac.uk
FB: www.facebook.com/hwu.macs

LSE Department of Statistics

The BSc Actuarial Science Programme
The BSc Actuarial Science programme at the LSE has a heavy mathematical and statistical component. Furthermore, students can specialise in data driven methods by choosing data science courses and focus on developing additional computing skills. All courses are taught by world leading experts in their fields and the programme is fully accredited by the Insti-tute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA). In particular, students may be granted exemptions for the IFoA subjects CS1, CS2, CM1, CM2, CB1 and CB2. The programme is also accredited by the Royal Statistical Society, providing graduates with the status of Graduate Statistician, a grade of professional membership of the society.

Additionally, many students arrange internships in actuarial and financial firms or placement companies with help from LSE Careers or the Department of Statistics. Therefore, students will graduate not only with technical skills but with relevant work experience too, putting them one step ahead of other graduates.

Also, each year, we organise the Department of Statistics Practitioners' Challenge for BSc and MSc students. During this event, we collaborate with leading industry partners to initiate competitive projects focusing on real issues faced by companies. Students who take on the challenge use their personal and professional skills developed through their programme at LSE.

Finally, what is unique about our programme is that research projects are carried out in collaboration with two 3rd year undergraduate students each year. The research papers that were produced in previous years were presented in international conferences on computational and methodological Statistics and appeared in the internationally recognised actuarial journals.

Recent graduates from the programme have gone on to work in the areas of insurance (life and general), as well as investment banking, retail and commercial banking, accounting, finance and statistics. ●

FURTHER INFORMATION

E: statistics@lse.ac.uk
W: www.lse.ac.uk/study-at-lse/Undergraduate/Degree-programmes-2021/BSc-Actuarial-Science

Queen Mary University of London

Queen Mary University of London is one of the UK's leading research-focused higher education institutions. As a member of the Russell Group, the university is committed to maintaining the very best research, an outstanding teaching and learning experience, excellent graduate employability and strong links with business and the public sector. With staff and students from over 160 nationalities across its community, it is one of the most diverse higher education institutions in the world.

BSc Actuarial Science

Our BSc Actuarial Science degree is taught in our School of Mathematical Sciences and is accredited by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA). Students who successfully complete the programme will be able to gain up to six exemptions from the IFoA Core Principles examinations.

The programme combines core mathematics with specialist modules in probability, statistics, actuarial and financial mathematics, and business economics. You will have the opportunity to learn from qualified actuaries with many years of industry experience.

As part of your studies, you will take modules in Actuarial Professional Development, gaining relevant skills and industry knowledge in preparation for a successful career.

A Professional Placement option also provides an excellent opportunity for hands-on experience and students can also apply to study Actuarial Science with a Year Abroad.

What our students say

"My programme is really interesting. There is one module in particular called Actuarial Professional Development which is an amazing module. Each week we hear from people from different areas of the actuarial field such as insurance and pensions, which has given me a perspective of what working as an actuary is about."
Winsen Ng, BSc Actuarial Science student

"The programme has a very practical aspect and there's a lot of maths behind the topics we're studying. I like the Statistics for Insurance module because it combines actuarial methods with real world examples such as gaming. I'm currently on the placement programme. I decided to apply for a placement at Lloyds Banking Group and my application was successful, so I will be doing my placement year next year, focussing on risk-related work."
Xin Di Kwong, Second Year BSc Actuarial Science student ●

FURTHER INFORMATION

T: +44 (0)20 7882 5440
E: maths@qmul.ac.uk
W: www.qmul.ac.uk/maths

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

Actuarial Science and Risk Management at Queen's University Belfast

The BSc Actuarial Science and Risk Management programme has been designed by qualified actuaries to enable students to develop the theoretical and practical skills required to pursue a career as an actuary in the fields of pensions, insurance or in the wider financial industry.

In addition, students may gain up to seven exemptions from the professional exams required to qualify as an actuary vis our accreditation with teh Institute and Faculty of Actuaries.

Course Content

The duration of the BSc Actuarial Science and Risk Management degree is four years, with Year 3 spent in a salaried placement in an actuarial or risk management environment.

In each of Years 1, 2 and 4, the following modules are studied:

Year 1

- Actuarial Mathematics 1
- Financial Reporting and Analysis
- Introduction to Statistics and
- Operational Research
- Economy, Society and Public Policy 1
- Economy, Society and Public Policy 2
- Introduction to Statistics and Operational Research Methods

Year 2

- Actuarial Mathematics 2
- Actuarial Methods in General Insurance
- Financial Risk Modelling
- Investment Analysis
- Excel and VBA
- Principles of Actuarial Modelling

Year 3

- Compulsory Placement Year*

Year 4

- Actuarial Modelling
- Capital Markets
- Financial Econometrics and Data Science
- Financial Engineering
- Actuarial Applications
- Stochastic Processes for Finance

Why Queen's?

Industrial Experience

As part of the degree, students undertake a minimum of nine months in a salaried work placement in year 3, and all students will receive expert support and guidance from the dedicated placement Office before and during placement. The placement allows students to develop highlyvalued practical skills. Recent placement providers have included Aviva, Irish Life, Kerr Henderson, Spence & Partners, SCOR, The Pension Protection Fund and Pramerica.

Software

Students on the course will be given the opportunity to develop their modelling skills and will use software such as Model Risk and the Bloomberg terminals in the FinTrU Trading Room.

Accreditation

Subject to academic performance, students can gain various exemptions from the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA) professional exams.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Dr Mark Farrell
Programme Director
Queen's Management School

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E: mark.farrell(a)qub.ac.uk
W: qub.ac.uk/mgt

BSc Actuarial Science Course Overview

Swansea University's new BSc Actuarial Science programme provides students with a thorough grounding in the areas of mathematics, accounting, finance and economics relevant to careers in the actuarial profession.

The programme aligns with the Core Principles syllabus of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries. Depending on the grades obtained, completion of the BSc Actuarial Science degree programme can lead to a recommendation for exemption from some or all of the professional exams for CS1, CS2, CM1, CM2, CB1, and CB2.

Graduates will be highly qualified to enter the actuarial profession, or follow careers in auditing, financial analysis, insurance, investment banking and management.

Why Actuarial Science at Swansea?

We have a strong research base in areas related to actuarial science with the Department of Mathematics hosting the internationally recognised Stochastic Analysis Group and the School of Management hosting the Hawkes Centre for Empirical Finance.

- UK University of the Year 2019
- World-ranked (QS World University Rankings)
- Top 15 in UK for graduate prospects for maths (The Complete University Guide, 2020)
- Top 20 in UK for student satisfaction for maths (The Guardian University Guide, 2020)
- TEF Gold
- Study in our brand new £32.5M Computational Foundry

Based at our Bay Campus , which is right on the beach, you can study through a combination of lectures, tutorials and seminars. Our state-of-the-art teaching facilities include research and development laboratories, as well as networking and inspirational spaces.

You will learn to use logical reasoning and construct rigorous arguments alongside oral and written communication skills. We will train you for a range of careers and provide a foundation for postgraduate study and research.

Actuarial Science Employment Opportunities

The importance of gaining valuable core skills and life experience whist at University has never been so critical. In the Mathematics Department at Swansea University you will be taught a full range of topics by leading experts that will enable you to successfully pursue a wide range of careers.

Our mathematics graduates are set on course for a range of stimulating opportunities. You might find your future lies in a career as a data scientist, an actuary, a statistical analyst or industrial modeller. We offer CV workshops and you will have access to our Employment Zone, which advertises work placements, part time vacancies and graduate jobs. We have dedicated staff who will always be on hand to provide employability support throughout your studies.

We take employability seriously and you will leave Swansea University with much more than a degree, gaining invaluable life skills and experiences on your journey.

FURTHER INFORMATION

E: study@swansea.ac.uk
W: www.swansea.ac.uk/actuarialscience

University College Dublin
Ireland's Global University

MSc Actuarial Science
(1 Year Full Time)

The MSc in Actuarial Science is designed for students from quantitative disciplines who ultimately wish to train as an actuary upon completion of the programme. The MSc can help fast track your career as an actuary by supporting you through the initial examinations of the Institute & Faculty of Actuaries, UK and is fully accredited by the Institute & Faculty of Actuaries, UK.

The programme provides a solid foundation in mathematics, statistics, economics and finance for future actuarial studies. You will also have the opportunity to undertake a dissertation in a topical area of actuarial science under the supervision of a member of the UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics.

The dissertation will allow you to develop an understanding of how the theory and principles covered in the Core Subjects are applied in practice.

The programme is suitable for students with no prior exemptions and for students who wish to add to any exemptions they already have. In addition you may also be able to take advanced courses in finance at the world class UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business.

Top school among Irish universities

UCD offers the widest range of Actuarial Science programmes in Ireland and has established a reputation for providing high quality graduates for the actuarial and finance industries in Ireland and internationally. The MSc Actuarial Science is accredited by the Institute & Faculty of Actuaries, UK and is delivered by qualified actuaries and other academic experts. The MSc Actuarial Science won the Science Postgraduate Course of the Year at the gradireland Higher Education Awards in 2016 and 2017.

Why study at UCD?

Tradition
Established 1854, with 160 years of teaching & research excellence

Global profile
UCD is ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide

Global community
Over 6,000 international students from over 120 countries study at UCD

Global careers
Degrees with high employability; dedicated careers support; 1 year stay-back visa

Safety
Modern parkland campus with 24 hour security, minutes from Dublin city centre

Course Content and Structure

90 credits	60/70 credits	20/30 credits
taught masters	taught modules	research project

The MSc Actuarial Science covers the Core Subjects of the examinations of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries, UK.

The Core Subjects are:

- Actuarial Statistics (CS1)
- Risk Modelling & Survival Analysis (CS2)
- Actuarial Mathematics (CM1)
- Financial Engineering & Loss Reserving (CM2)
- Business Finance (CB1)
- Business Economics (CB2)
- Actuarial Practice (CP1)

Depending on your subject choices in the Autumn and Spring Trimesters, you may also undertake advanced modules in finance at the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business. Module topics may include regulation, corporate governance, ethics in finance, asset valuation, and financial management. There will be opportunities for some students to complete their thesis as a paid research placement with an actuarial company.

Modules and topics shown are subject to change and are not guaranteed by UCD.

Course code: F034

Career Opportunities

As a graduate of the MSc in Actuarial Science you can look forward to a career ranging from the traditional areas of insurance and pension consultancy to the rapidly expanding areas of investment and risk management. Throughout your actuarial career you can rely on the support and guidance of the actuarial profession, and upon qualification you can expect a rewarding career that will continue to offer opportunities for further development.

The actuarial profession is a global profession with actuaries in demand in Europe, America, Asia and Australia.

Images © UCD Research

Apply Now

This programme receives significant interest so please apply early online at www.ucd.ie/apply

Entry Requirements

- This programme is intended for applicants with a degree in a quantitative area such as mathematics, statistics, computer science, engineering or economics and/or finance. An upper second class honours or international equivalent is required.
- We will, however, consider applications from prospective students who do not meet these entry requirements provided they can demonstrate an ability and commitment to study actuarial science.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must also demonstrate English language proficiency of IELTS 6.5 (no band less than 6.0 in each element), or equivalent.

Fees and Scholarships

Tuition fee information is available on www.ucd.ie/fees. Please note that UCD offers a number of postgraduate scholarships for full-time, self-funding international students, holding an offer of a place on masters programmes. Please visit www.ucd.ie/international/scholarships for further information.

Accommodation

UCD has accommodation for over 2,500 students across five locations. Places are limited and more information is available at www.ucd.ie/residences/ For information and advice on living off-campus, please contact the UCD Residences Off-Campus Office or the UCD Student Union Accommodation Services. Please visit www.ucd.ie/residences/accommodation-booking-support/ for further details.

Related Masters Programmes of Interest

- MSc Statistics
- MSc Data Analytics (Online)
- MSc Data & Computational Science

Graduate Profile

Troy Tyson, Trainee actuary in the Product Management department of New Ireland Assurance

This course gave me the opportunity to acquire exemptions from the professional examinations of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries, which are mandatory to become a fully qualified actuary. The research placement portion of the year for me was extremely beneficial with regards to my career as an actuary. It gave me an insight into the typical day of an actuary working in the life insurance sector, and also allowed me to show my enthusiasm toward the profession and my willingness to work hard to achieve my goals. I would highly recommend the UCD MSc in Actuarial Science to those in search of a challenging yet rewarding year and looking for the perfect launching pad to their career as an actuary.

EU Enquiries Programme Administrator ✉ : smspostgrads@ucd.ie
✆ : +353 1 716 2452 www.ucd.ie/courses/msc-actuarial-science
UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics,
University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4.

Non-EU Enquiries ✉ : internationaladmissions@ucd.ie
www.ucd.ie/international

University of East Anglia

This is Actuarial Science

Study the art of risk – measuring, assessing, managing, mitigating and sometimes profiting from it. Actuarial Science is a profession that's challenging, well-paid and stimulating.

At UEA, you'll benefit from our excellent links with industry, both in teaching and research. We collaborate closely with Aviva, one of the largest insurance companies in the world. Their expert employees participate in teaching modules on our Actuarial Science programmes. This allows you to learn more about the work of actuaries and the potential career paths open to you, and gives you the opportunity to apply your knowledge with a focus on industry.

UEA's multi-disciplinary course combines the Schools of Mathematics, Computing Sciences and Economics, allowing you the chance to absorb and apply a broad range of skills that are increasingly in demand in modern business. You'll develop a strong grasp of mathematics, computing, and practical modelling, and develop your strategic thinking and presentation abilities. You can tailor your degree to a more traditional actuarial science programme, or add broader computing skills.

With BSc course options including a Year in Industry, Year Abroad or an MMath in Actuarial and Data science there is a programme to suit your interests and aspirations.

This is your Future Career

We work with UEA's careers service to offer you support at every stage of your course, from choosing a career path through to applying for graduate jobs. Our courses are accredited by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA), so depending on how you perform academically, you could fast-track your route to qualification by earning exemptions to some of the professional actuarial examinations. In some cases, you could expect to be qualified in as little as two or three years after your degree. For a current list of exemptions please visit www.actuaries.org.uk

You could also pursue stimulating and influential careers in a wide range of sectors, including business, insurance, pensions, banking, accounting and other financial services.

This is UEA

We opened our doors in 1963 as a home for academic innovation and disruptive ideas. Throughout our history we have sought to build a diverse and thriving community who can tackle the world's largest challenges, together. We are ranked;

- Top 15 UK Universities (Times/Sunday Times 2019)
- Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework (2017-20)
- World Top 200 (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2019)

The UEA campus is a mini-city, home to a multi-cultural community that enjoys and contributes to a thriving social and cultural scene. Set in acres of parkland on the edge of the city of Norwich, it was designed so that everything you need for living and studying here is no more than a few minutes away. You can be reassured you are coming to a University which will support and enable you to succeed.

This is Opening Doors

"I am working in the General Insurance sector at Aviva in Norwich as a Data Scientist in the Commercial Motor team. Prior to working at Aviva I was working for Willis Towers Watson for two years as an Actuarial Analyst.
I can say for certain I wouldn't be in the job I am in nor have the opportunity, if I hadn't studied Actuarial Science. I hold the UEA in such high standing and would recommend it to anyone looking for a university that provides a great education and opportunities to network with a vast range of industries."
Ben – UEA Actuarial Science Graduate

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information on our courses contact us below.

T: 01603 591515
E: admissions@uea.ac.uk
W: www.uea.ac.uk/actsci
IG: @uniofeastanglia

University of East Anglia

BSc Actuarial Science
BSc Actuarial Science with a Year in Industry
BSc Actuarial Science with a Year Abroad
MMath Actuarial and Data Science

At UEA, our syllabus provides a unique opportunity for you to get experience of working alongside business professionals. We work in close partnership with AVIVA, with their practicing actuaries teaching on our programme.

You will have the chance to gain exemptions to becoming fully qualified. A full list of our exemptions are listed on the IFoA website.

University of Essex

Launch your actuarial science career with the University of Essex

Actuaries provide assessments of financial security systems, with a focus on their complexity, their mathematics, and their mechanisms. Actuaries quantify the probability and manage the risk of future events in areas such as insurance, healthcare, pensions, investment, and banking as well as non-financial areas.

It is predicted by the US Department of Labor that the employment of actuaries is expected to grow faster than any other occupation, making it a great prospect for a graduate job. At Essex you'll receive first-class education and training to become a successful actuary in a fast-growing and in-demand field of work.

Our **MSc Actuarial Science** course is designed for students with a first degree in mathematics, statistics, economics or finance who would like to acquire knowledge in actuarial science.

It's based on the syllabus of the majority of the Core Technical subjects of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries, which means you'll cover Core Technical subjects as part of your degree. This focus on up-to-date research findings in actuarial methodologies and actuarial applications means you gain a solid training in actuarial modelling and actuarial analysis.

We also offer an undergraduate degree, **BSc Actuarial Science**, where you'll study mathematical finance, financial reporting, contingencies, risk management, survival analysis, pure and applied maths, statistics and more. This is a three-year course as standard, but you have the chance to either study abroad at one of our partner universities or do a work placement in the UK for a year – gaining valuable experience that will make you more desirable to employers.

Professional actuaries in the insurance industry, including influential businesses AXA and Buck Consultants, contribute to our undergraduate employability module and also host students at their offices to show them typical challenges that actuaries face.

Whichever of our courses you choose to study, at Essex you'll work with award-winning lecturers and researchers, you'll benefit from our active links with industry which will broaden your employment potential, and through our pioneering approach to teaching we'll prepare you to become one of the actuarial scientists of the future.

You'll join our Department of Mathematical Sciences and study full-time for up to a year and will benefit from our friendly, collaborative and interdisciplinary environment. You'll be part of an open and inclusive department, based in the University's brand-new STEM Centre (which is specifically for science, technology, engineering and maths students). Our department has a strong international community vibe – our staff and students are from all over the world!

Regarded as the Oscars of Higher Education in the UK, University of Essex is ranked Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF 2017) which means we deliver an excellent educational experience. Our trailblazing research continues to change the world for the better and we are ranked 25th in the UK for research quality (The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020). We're loved by our students too, Essex is top 15 in England for overall student satisfaction (NSS 2019, mainstream universities). ●

FURTHER INFORMATION

T: +01206 873355
E: maths@essex.ac.uk
W: www.essex.ac.uk/departments/mathematical-sciences

University of Kent | School of Mathematics, Statistics and Actuarial Science

Qualifying as an actuary is a passport to a wide variety of careers in insurance companies, investments, pensions, health care and banking – not just in the UK, but throughout the world. Kent is one of a very few universities in the UK to teach the subject.

UK Actuarial Profession Accreditation

The UK Actuarial Profession is governed by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA). We work very closely with the IFoA and industry practitioners to ensure that our programmes remain up-to-date and reflect the latest actuarial research and practices. The IFoA has granted Kent full accreditation for all of its programmes, so there is the opportunity to gain exemptions from most of the UK professional actuarial exams. All of Kent's programmes follow the new IFoA 'Curriculum 2019' syllabus.

Actuarial Science Programmes:

- BSc (Hons) in Actuarial Science
- BSc (Hons) in Actuarial Science with a Foundation Year
- BSc (Hons) in Actuarial Science with a Year in Industry
- BSc (Hons) in Actuarial Science with Foundation Year and a Year in Industry
- MSc Master's in Actuarial Science
- MSc Master's in Actuarial Science with an Industrial Placement
- MSc Master's in Applied Actuarial Science
- MSc Master's in Applied Actuarial Science with an Industrial Placement
- MSc International Master's in Applied Actuarial Science
- MSc International Master's in Applied Actuarial Science with an Industrial Placement
- PhD in Actuarial Science

Actuarial Year in Industry/Industrial Placement

Our Actuarial Science with a Year in Industry/ Industrial Placement programmes allow you to work as a paid trainee actuary for a year, and put into practice the technical skills learnt at university and gain valuable transferable skills such as team working, problem-solving and communication. An actuarial placement may also count towards the work experience required for the actuarial profession qualifications. Contact us for more information about our placement programmes.

Career Prospects

We recognise that finding a suitable actuarial job is one of the most important objectives for students and we provide extensive careers support to all of our Actuarial Science students. This includes:

- A dedicated module to help students to develop employability skills such as CV writing, presentation skills, interview skills and preparing for assessment centres
- Actuarial careers events with external speakers from the actuarial profession
- A range of other initiatives to help our students improve their work-based skills, knowledge and experience
- We have close links with UK actuarial employers and organise regular visits and presentations from leading actuaries working in the profession.
- A dynamic actuarial society, Invicta, run by our students

Introduction to PROPHET

Kent has an exclusive arrangement with FIS Global, who market the industry-leading actuarial software package PROPHET, used by companies worldwide for profit testing, valuation and model office work. As an integral part of their programme, all of our Actuarial Science students are given the opportunity to develop practical experience of using PROPHET, enhancing their employment prospects.

FURTHER INFORMATION

T: 01227 816 050
E: smsaspgadmissions@kent.ac.uk
W: www.kent.ac.uk/smsas

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS
Leeds University Business School

Finance at Leeds University Business School

The city of Leeds is a great place to study finance, as it is one of the largest centres for financial and business services in England.

Leeds University Business School has been named a Centre of Excellence by the Chartered Banker Institute.

MSc Actuarial Finance

The MSc Actuarial Finance will introduce you to essential business topics and enable you to apply your quantitative skills to solve complex business problems, such as risk management, insurance and derivatives. You'll gain comprehensive knowledge in business areas such as accountancy, corporate finance and economics, as well as key analytical techniques, processes and models that have significant applications in actuarial finance. The Business School has strong links with the actuarial profession and the insurance and pensions industry, giving you the opportunity to interact with practising actuaries and industry experts.

Ours students have access to the knowledge of our advanced specialist research units, which also have strong links with leading institutions in the US, Europe and Asia, and benefit from our strong relationships with the actuarial profession. This provides a connection to the latest developments in the industry and gives you a Masters degree that is relevant to the contemporary environment.

Career opportunities

Graduates of this course have been able to demonstrate in-depth knowledge of core actuarial principles, and the numerical and analytical skills to succeed in this rapidly changing complex environment.

Graduates have also entered successful careers in insurance, pensions, accountancy, risk management and consultancy. Job prospects are wide ranging and include careers as accountants, consultants, scheme and insurance actuaries, and employment in investment banking and risk management.

Why choose Leeds University Business School?

Leeds University Business School is one of a small number of business schools worldwide to be triple accredited by AACSB, AMBA and EQUIS. Our courses combine professional practice, up-to-date business knowledge and research expertise, preparing you for the competitive global job market.

We work closely with businesses worldwide to develop our Masters courses, so you will be equipped with the academic knowledge and professional skills that employers are looking for.

Located on a single campus in the heart of the city of Leeds, the University has a lively community of over 38,000 students from around 170 different countries, offering you a vibrant and exciting student lifestyle. ●

FURTHER INFORMATION

T: +44 (0)113 343 4908
E: masters@lubs.leeds.ac.uk
W: www.business.leeds.ac.uk

Are you looking to take your career as an actuary to the next level? Perhaps you are seeking a career change, or maybe you are researching your post-18 options and can't decide which course is right for you? If any of the above applies and you have an aptitude for maths, join our Great Minds and study at Leicester.

Why Leicester?

Our Actuarial Science degrees are taught by actuaries with real business experience, supported by actuarial researchers, giving you a high quality degree based around the skills you'll need in the workplace. We have excellent relationships with a number of actuarial employers, and a thriving local actuarial science society (LASS), which holds many events through the year and is run by students. Both our BSc and Postgraduate Diploma give you the opportunity to gain exemptions from the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA) Core Principles exams, giving you a head start in your actuarial career. In addition, the MSc offers the potential to gain exemptions from the Core Practice exams.

Undergraduate Study

Mathematics and Actuarial Science BSc

This course is for you if you want to develop your mathematical ability whilst focusing on financial, actuarial and business applications. On successfully completing the degree, you can obtain exemptions from all of the examinable core principles subjects from the IFoA (CS1&2, CM1&2, CB1& 2). You'll also develop your understanding of professionalism and gain vital workplace skills like communicating complex information, writing reports, and analyzing and manipulating data. We offer a very successful year in industry programme so you will have the opportunity to further enhance your future employability with a year's work experience.

Postgraduate Study

Actuarial Science with Data Analytics MSc / PGDip

This new and very flexible programme offers the opportunity to build on your existing skills, develop your data science capability and build up your exemptions from the IFoA exams. The data science course in Semester 1 is a core module, but outside that you can pick options that suit your needs and interests, including modules that give the opportunity to gain exemptions from the IFoA core principles subjects (CS1&2, CM1&2, CB1&2). In the summer of the MSc programme, you'll have the chance to study subjects that could give you exemptions from the IFoA core practice subjects (CP1, 2 & 3).

Throughout the programme you will be supported by our team to develop the skills required by employers - how to apply the actuarial analysis of risks to real problems and communicate your results to a professional audience. ●

FURTHER INFORMATION

W: www.le.ac.uk/stem-placements
W: www.le.ac.uk/study and search "Actuarial Science"

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

The Institute for Financial and Actuarial Mathematical (IFAM) is a group of young and enthusiastic academics specialized in actuarial and financial mathematics. We are part of the department of mathematical sciences at University of Liverpool. Our published research in actuarial science placed us on the 5th position worldwide (1st in the UK), among all, non-business, actuarial science departments according to the new Global Research Rankings of Actuarial Science and Risk Management & Insurance, while our actuarial education is accredited by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries.

Our Institute offers the following undergraduate programmes:

- BSc in Actuarial Mathematics
- BSc in Mathematics with Finance
- BSc in Mathematics with Economics.

At a postgraduate level, we also offer an MSc in Financial Mathematics.

In our actuarial and financial mathematics programmes, we offer a wide range of topics, providing a strong foundation for a successful career in banks, insurance companies, consultancy firms, software companies, research institutions, government agencies or any other risk management enterprise.

We support and mentor our students throughout their studies, when transitioning from school to university and further when transitioning from university to society. All of these add up in an 88% success rate of employment, or further studies, within six months of graduation. For UK-based undergraduate, this number rises to 95%.

Programme structure

In every year of your degree you will need to complete eight modules. Each module has 4 contact hours; 3 for lectures and 1 for a tutorial. Tutorials are usually delivered in small groups, so that you can ask questions and get extra help on anything needed. While in Mathematics with Finance you specialise more on financial markets and instruments, in Mathematics with Economics you focus on daily economics aspects, whereas in Actuarial Mathematics you cover life insurance and non-life insurance topics.

The Financial Mathematics MSc provides you with the theoretical basis of financial products design and their risk management.

Summer research internships

Every summer, we organise research projects, in collaboration with industry, across all 2nd year math undergraduates. Our summer research projects emulate the everyday life of a math graduate, facilitating the development of practical skills and the understanding of the importance of mathematics in the modern world. They are built upon cross generational interactions, undergraduate with postgraduate students, working alongside local businesses and IFAM academics.

Accreditation

Our programmes are professionally accredited by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries. In particular, the Actuarial Mathematics BSc can lead you to the following exemptions: CB1, CB2, CM1, CM2, CS1 and CS2 while our Mathematics with Finance graduates can claim exemptions from CB1, CM2 and CS1.

Careers opportunities

Some of our recent graduates are working for companies such as Deloitte, KPMG, BW, LCP or WTW, amongst others. ●

FURTHER INFORMATION

E: ifam@liverpool.ac.uk
W: www.liverpool.ac.uk/institute-for-financial-and-actuarial-mathematics

MANCHESTER 1824
The University of Manchester

The MSc Actuarial Science programme at The University of Manchester provides a strong grounding in the mathematics of actuarial science and addresses both the current and future needs of the industry. The programme incorporates all mathematical techniques, in particular from the fields of probability and statistics, a modern actuary could not do without. If you are interested in developing a career as an actuary, this programme of study will provide the ideal entry platform into a broad range of employment sectors, such as Insurance, Finance and Risk Management.

Our MSc Actuarial Science programme

Our MSc Actuarial Science programme was established in 2011 with the aim of providing a thorough training in the mathematical tools and skills an actuary needs. This includes topics such as

- Markovian models and pricing techniques relevant to life insurance
- Risk models, ruin theory, risk measures, premium principles and further techniques relevant to general insurance
- Modern theory of market consistent pricing (mathematical finance), such as the Black and Scholes asset pricing model, the Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM), interest rate models, credit risk models, option pricing etc.
- Risk management techniques
- Relevant topics from Statistics such as Time Series and their applications, Generalised Linear Models, Survival Analysis etc.
- Relevant software suites such as R and Excel.

Programme structure

There are eight course units to study over two academic terms (Sep-Jan and Feb-Jun), and a dissertation/project in the summer term (Jun-Aug). The course teaching is delivered through lectures, tutorials, case studies, seminars and project-based work. You can find an overview of all eight course units on the programme on our website.

Lecturers

Within the Department of Mathematics there are several members of staff that carry out research in Actuarial Science. This group also runs the MSc Actuarial Science programme, does the majority of the teaching and supervises the dissertations. Several members have experience in industry. In particular Jon Ferns FIA is a fully qualified actuary who had a rich career in the pensions industry in the North West before he recently joined our Department. In addition to the IFoA, the group has links with NWAS (the North West Actuarial Society) and several companies in the insurance industry and related.

Internships

Our MSc Actuarial Science programme offers the unique opportunity to experience daily actuarial work in the Royal London offices (in Wilmslow). Every year they offer a number of paid internships of a special form to our students, which are awarded on a competitive basis. These internships provide an opportunity to combine researching a 'real world' problem with obtaining valuable work experience.

Accreditation and exemptions

Our MSc Actuarial Science programme is accredited by the IFoA, the UK's chartered professional body for actuaries. Our programme offers the following exemptions in the IFoA's revised Curriculum 2019: CS1, CS2 (Actuarial Statistics) and CM2 (Actuarial Mathematics).

Entry Requirements

The entry requirement to the programme is normally a good upper second class honours degree in Mathematics/Statistics, a Science degree with a strong quantitative component, a subject with a substantial mathematical content, or an equivalent overseas qualification in a mathematical subject. ●

FURTHER INFORMATION

T: 0161 275 0174
E: pgt-maths@manchester.ac.uk
W: www.maths.manchester.ac.uk
Social Media: @manunimaths

UNIVERSITY OF Southampton

Actuarial Sciences at Southampton

Actuaries are problem solvers, tackling the uncertainties of future events using skills across mathematics, probability and statistics. As a major UK centre for mathematics and its applications our courses are built on the breadth of our expertise and internationally renowned research. Whilst studying our courses you will benefit from a programme that combines mathematics with key topics from economics, finance and actuarial science. You'll also develop analytical and problem-solving skills alongside expertise in the statistical analysis of risk.

- **BSc Mathematics with Actuarial Science**
- **MSc/PGDip Actuarial Science**

Our courses will teach you how to tackle the uncertainties of future events using mathematics, probability and statistics to create models and simulations and the technical skills needed for a career as an actuary. The courses are delivered through a combination of lectures and workshops, by leading researchers in statistical modelling and experts in actuarial and financial mathematics.

Professional Exemptions from the IFoA

We work with the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA), who govern the UK Actuarial Profession, to ensure our courses provide an up to date and relevant education for those who want to become an actuary. Depending on academic performance, you'll be eligible for 6 exemptions from the IFoA's Curriculum 2019 Core Principles Subjects:

- Actuarial Statistics (CS1 &CS2)
- Actuarial Mathematics (CM1 & CM2)
- Business Finance & Economics (CB1 &CB2)

Facilities and employability

The Mathematical Sciences Student Centre, based in Highfield Campus, provides a supportive environment for both study and socialising where you can attend talks, study in small groups or enjoy social activities surrounded by like-minded students and staff members.

Employability is embedded into modules from the first year onwards and right from the first lecture. Our degrees are a passport to vocational and non-vocational careers alike, with recent graduates employed in roles ranging from actuaries and statisticians to crime analysts and medical researchers. The technical skills you will acquire are in great demand, as are the skills of understanding and analysing problems, together with communicating the results. Our graduates are highly sought after, particularly in the fields of finance, commerce, industry, education and research. ●

FURTHER INFORMATION

T: (0)23 8059 9699
E: enquiry@southampton.ac.uk
W: www.southampton.ac.uk/maths


UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton
DEVELOP
YOUR
POTENTIAL
Our degree courses offer students the opportunity to gain expertise in the finance, business and management areas of mathematics, and we have links with many financial services and other leading businesses. You will also be eligible for a range of exemptions from the IFoA Core Principles depending on academic performance.
Find out more:
www.southampton.ac.uk/maths
FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE
RUSSELL GROUP

Training for an Actuarial Science career at the University of Strathclyde

The MSc in Actuarial Science at Strathclyde is a 12-month full-time conversion course based in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, operating as an interdisciplinary alliance between the Faculty of Science and Strathclyde Business School. It offers a way into the actuarial profession for students with strong quantitative ability and aptitude but lacking formal background in mathematics or statistics at university level. The course has been developed to produce graduates who can clearly demonstrate an understanding of the models used in actuarial calculations, their computer implementations, and the financial and economic contexts of these calculations.

Accreditation and Subject Exemption

This MSc course is accredited on a subject basis by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries, and students performing sufficiently well in relevant classes will be eligible for exemption from the CS1 and CB2 examinations. Successful course completion will enable you to apply to join a company as an actuarial trainee or risk analyst while studying for further professional exams.

Course Structure

Semester 1 provides a compulsory foundation in statistics, finance and economics. In Semester 2, students have flexibility to choose from a wide range of classes in statistics, economics, finance, management science, computer and data science. A key feature is the summer project, applying knowledge and skills learned to a topic relevant to the actuarial profession. Industrial summer placements are also offered on a competitive basis, which give further insight into day to day actuarial practice and can lead to employment opportunities.

Industrial Contacts

The course is supported by an Industrial Advisory Board of practising actuaries, including former Strathclyde students. Board members and other actuaries have input to the course via careers talks and guest lectures. MSc students have access to the Glasgow Actuarial Students' Society, allowing networking with other early career actuaries in training.

Why study at the University of Strathclyde?

- A 5-star QS-rated university and University of the Year 2019 (Times Higher Education Awards 2019)
- Scottish University of the Year 2020 (Sunday Times Good University Guide)
- WhatUni? student choice award winner for the Local Life category 2020
- The University's ethos is as "The place of useful learning", relevant to the real world
- We have an international reputation for teaching excellence, while Glasgow is a welcoming, vibrant and friendly city
- A city centre campus with many nearby activities, night life, shopping and cultural attractions
- A vibrant and cosmopolitan community of students from over 100 countries
- An excellent Careers & Employability Service on hand to support all students from day 1, and for up to 5 years after graduation. You will have access to employability skills workshops, many delivered by employers; a suite of digital resources to support you at every stage of the recruitment process, and confidential 1:1 support by professionally qualified Career Consultants. ●

FURTHER INFORMATION

T: +44 (0)141 574 5147
E: science-masters@strath.ac.uk
W: www.strath.ac.uk/courses/postgraduatetaught/actuarialscience

In a dynamic and interconnected global economy, the role of actuarial science has never been so important. By studying at the cutting edge of effective and ethical business, you will develop the skills and knowledge needed for a career in the sector.

Why York?

The University of York is a member of the prestigious Russell Group of research-intensive universities. This means you will be taught by exceptional academics involved in high-level research which informs what you study. Under expert tuition you will develop your abilities to work effectively with others and lead change in business. Our aim is to prepare you for the realities of professional practice.

York is a vibrant, student-friendly city and was named the best place to live in Britain by The Sunday Times 2018. Our excellent cafés, restaurants and bars, innovative industries and mixture of modern and medieval architecture propelled us to the top of the list. With a population of 200,000, York's big enough to feel lively but small enough to feel like home.

BSc (Hons) Actuarial Science

This degree combines the expertise of the York Management School and the Department of Mathematics, giving you access to world-class academics at the cutting edge of research in their fields.

You'll sharpen your mathematical skills and statistical reasoning, using advanced calculus, algebra, probability and statistics. In parallel you'll study economics, finance and accounting, developing your understanding of the wider context of actuarial work.
You have the opportunity to spend a year in industry, to put your learning into practice and gain skills and experiences to kick-start your career.

On successfully completing this course, you'll be a multi-faceted and highly employable graduate. You'll have financial and business skills which professional actuaries require, including:

- Critical thinking and analysis
- Problem solving
- Mathematical reasoning and data analysis
- Time management
- Communication, presentation and reporting

Accreditation

This course is professionally accredited by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries. Our graduates can claim exemption from core professional exams CM1, CM2, CS1, CS2, CB1 and CB2.

Careers Support

Our excellent links with industry give you unique access to business leaders, to help guide your professional development.
Our dedicated Management careers and employability team provides a tailored service so you can explore career options and find a path that's right for you. They can help you to find potential placements for a year in industry, and support you with applications and interviews. ●

FURTHER INFORMATION

T: 01904 325032
E: management-ug-admissions@york.ac.uk
W: www.york.ac.uk/management

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UK's specialist actuarial job board

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www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

EMPLOYER DIRECTORY

JOB FINDER

Allianz Insurance is one of the largest general insurers in the UK and part of the Allianz Group.

In the UK, Allianz Insurance employs over 4,200 people across a network of offices. The company's Head Office is situated in Guildford, Surrey. We have additional support services with over 1,000 people based in Trivandrum, India.

We offer commercial insurance with a full range of products for sole traders, right up to large commercial organisations. We also provide musical instrument insurance, legal protection and pet and equine insurance.

Allianz invests in its people

If you join us, you'll undertake work that adds true value to the business. As part of the Allianz Group, there is an abundance of opportunities for those who are willing to take the initiative.

Your personal development is our number one priority. What makes our graduate schemes different is that we don't just want you to spend a couple of motionless years with us; we want to see you grow, take on new responsibilities, excel while developing a fulfilling career and lead our business forward.

For us, there's no one-size-fits-all when it comes to your training

You will have access to many valuable opportunities to expand your skill-set and enhance your knowledge. Your individual Personal Development Plan (PDP) will give you the structure you need to reach your career goals and you'll be supported, personally and professionally, by mentors and managers at every step of the way.

In addition to your unrivalled on-the-job learning, whichever graduate scheme you choose, you'll achieve a professional qualification.

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
4,200

No. of Qualified Actuaries
20 qualified actuaries across Actuarial Finance, Pricing and Risk

No. of Trainee Actuaries
15

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered

- ✔ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✔ PLACEMENTS
- ✔ INTERNSHIPS
- ✔ INSIGHTS

No. of Graduate Jobs
5 per year

No. of Undergraduate Opportunities
5 per year

Disciplines Recruited From
Mathematical or Statistical degrees

Office Locations
Guildford and London

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

Few things are certain in life. Economic upheaval, political crises, natural disasters – and plenty more besides – all mean the world can be full of surprises. At Aon, we draw on the expertise of over 50,000 people to help the biggest names in business plan for every eventuality. Our size, global network and emphasis on innovation, mean where we lead, the industry follows.

In addition to being the world's number 1 Insurance Broker, provider of Reinsurance and Human Capital Consulting, Aon are a market leader in Actuarial Consulting. We have been advising companies and trustees on their pension schemes for over 60 years. Our Actuarial Consultants specialise in advising our clients on those schemes to help them manage the associated financial and operational risks, now and in the future.

We've recently moved our global headquarters to the UK. Here we rely on 6,500 employees across 30 offices to uphold our reputation for excellence, insight and outstanding service delivery. It's the skills, knowledge and attitude of these people that help us do what we do best. So, if you're looking for a sure-fire way to start your career, and have a 2:1 degree or higher, we'd like you to join them.

We recruit summer interns and graduates into seven streams: Pensions; Investment Consulting; General Insurance; Human Capital Consulting; Insurance, Reinsurance and Risk Management; Captive Solutions and Health & Benefit Broking and Consulting.

Early responsibility is a way of life at Aon. You'll very quickly become a technical specialist in your particular area, meeting clients and advising them on our market-leading products far sooner than you would in many other organisations. Our training will fully equip you to make an immediate impact on our business. We also provide full study support for professional qualifications. All in all, everything is in place to help you forge a career in which challenges and rewards will come in equal measure.

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
50,000

No. of Qualified Actuaries
c.400

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered

- ✔ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✔ PLACEMENTS
- ✔ INTERNSHIPS
- ✔ SCHOOL LEAVER SCHEMES

No. of Graduate Jobs
80

No. of Undergraduate Opportunities
80

No. of School Leaver Opportunities
Varies

Disciplines Recruited From
All degrees considered, although numerate subjects are required for some streams

Office Locations
Opportunities nationwide, depending on your chosen stream

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Georgina Gayles
LOCATION	Leeds
UNIVERSITY	Durham
DEGREE	Mathematics BSc
ROLE	Actuarial Associate Consultant

What attracted you to the Aon Graduate Programme?
I desired a career where I could use the mathematical and analytical skills I developed at university and continue learning through professional exams. Aon stood out to me because of their exceptional study policies, support throughout the application process and the inclusive, welcoming nature of the company. I completed a summer internship where I had the opportunity to perform calculations, build models and learn about the pensions industry. Everyone was so friendly and I felt like a valued member of the team. When I was offered a graduate position, there was no hesitation accepting.

What have you learnt in your time at Aon?
Since joining Aon I have had many amazing development opportunities such as attending meetings with clients. I also helped organise and facilitate discussions at Aon's pension conference. My confidence has grown enormously, and I have learnt how to communicate with external contacts and clients.

I have also learnt how to prioritise my work alongside studying for the actuarial exams. At Aon there are countless examples of senior colleagues who also joined as graduates and qualified as actuaries whilst progressing their career and maintaining a good work-life balance.

What does a typical day look like for you?
Day-to-day I work across both the Corporate and Trustee Advisory teams. We look at financial conditions and demographic assumptions to calculate member's benefits and pension scheme liabilities. This is more important than ever as people are living longer; economic conditions are uncertain and companies need to ensure they can pay the benefits promised to their employees. I also assist with producing company accounting disclosures.

I am also a member of a specialist team where we help clients manage their liabilities and provide members with more options at retirement. For example, the option to take a transfer value or reshape their benefits to meet their lifestyle requirements.

What have you enjoyed most about the Graduate Programme?
I really enjoyed the training and meeting graduates from different offices and business streams. The training covered key skills such as presenting, teamwork and an introduction to actuarial techniques which helped me feel prepared when joining the office. Throughout the graduate programme I enjoyed the chance to meet up with the other actuarial graduates at training days which gave us further insight into the role of an actuary. We were also able to catch up on work we had been doing in our offices.

What's next for you at Aon?
I will continue to study towards becoming a qualified actuary. Also, I will continue developing in my role by taking on more responsibility managing projects and supporting new graduates. ●

What does APR do?

APR is a specialist actuarial firm with a straightforward ambition: to be a deeply trusted partner of our clients, supporting them by solving the complex numerical and analytical problems within their businesses. In practice, our client solutions include supporting existing functions, contributing to major change projects and providing technical expertise. They take the form of either on-site support, or consulting projects under which we take problems away from the client and deliver a solution.

In recent years APR has partnered successfully with many of the largest companies in the UK financial sector. A key pillar of our success has been our recruitment of some of the leading numerate graduate talent in the market. Most current employees joined APR as graduate associates, with many now holding senior positions in the business.

Our graduate programme

Each year we take on a small group of bright, technically-minded graduates, support them through our renowned intensive training programme and provide them with a broad range of stimulating and challenging client projects. In short, our graduate scheme will enable you to:

- Receive some of the best training any actuarial employer offers, covering technical, IT and softer skills; and a full study support package – our graduates enjoy a significantly higher pass rate in the actuarial exams than the national average.
- Hold positions of responsibility from very early on in your actuarial career – we expect you will be making a difference within weeks of starting.
- Experience unrivalled variety in your work through exposure to a wide spectrum of actuarial, modelling and data analysis projects.
- Develop wider business skills by being involved in a range of activities that will quickly see you become an integral part of our growing team.

Is APR for you?

Our culture is as you would hope from a young, unstuffy and inclusive company. We believe in treating our staff in the right manner, developing them wherever possible, communicating openly and sharing the rewards of a successful business with those who have contributed to its success.

As much of our work is in the form of on-site support at clients' offices you must be prepared to work for significant periods away from your London, Edinburgh or Dublin base.

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
55

No. of Qualified Actuaries
13

No. of Trainee Actuaries
35

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered

- ✔ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✔ INSIGHTS
- ✔ SCHOOL LEAVER SCHEMES

No. of Graduate Jobs
5-7

No. of School Leaver Opportunities
2-4

Disciplines Recruited From
All degrees considered

Office Locations
Central London, Edinburgh, and Dublin. Must be willing to travel

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Emma McDougall
LOCATION	Edinburgh
UNIVERSITY	Heriot-Watt
DEGREE	PhD Mathematics/BSc Mathematical, Statistical and Actuarial Sciences
ROLE	Graduate Actuarial Associate

How did you get your job at APR?
The application process was well laid out in the job profile I saw before I applied: a CV and covering letter, an online test, a phone interview and then an assessment centre consisting of an interview and another written test. It was helpful having such a clear view of the process.

I found the tests especially to be varied and engaging and the whole process gave an indication that APR were looking at me as a whole rather than considering just a set of qualifications. This certainly made me feel more suited to the role.

Why did you choose APR?
Once I had decided that I wanted to move into industry and away from academia, I was keen to get back to my actuarial roots. APR's job advert jumped out at me and was an opportunity that I got excited about. The two main draws to APR were their exceptional training and the likelihood of varied projects in which I'd have the chance to work with a diverse range of clients, and therefore gain a broad work experience. As someone who loves to learn and likes the idea of variety it seemed like a perfect fit.

What skills have you found to be particularly useful in this sector/ profession?
I have found problem solving to be a very valuable skill in the work I have done so far. Whether it is establishing the best way to take on a task or investigating errors to find the root cause, working through problems systematically and enjoying the puzzle have been vital.

Communication and organisation have also been key, especially since I have worked on projects impacting many teams across a business.

How do you see yourself progressing from your current position in the next 2-3 years?
With APR's study support and their strong exam record I hope to complete my exams in the next 2-3 years.

So far, I have worked mainly in systems migrations and I would hope to broaden my experience in the next few years by taking on new types of projects. I also hope to develop my technical skills, utilising APR's high-quality training materials. ●

Do you ever wonder... what if? What's next? Can you see the opportunities, the possibilities? The never-been-done, the what-could-be?

AXA is a global leader in insurance and asset management with a presence in 62 countries, and 160,000 employees protecting over 105 million customers worldwide.

We are transforming our business so that we can protect people better; thinking and acting far beyond what you would expect from a financial services company. But to make change happen, we need graduates with drive and ambition.

Actuaries make financial sense of the future. They apply mathematical, statistical and economic models and provide us with expert advice. Highly skilled? That's an understatement. Actuaries are analytical and strategic and phenomenal problem-solvers. So if you have the promise and the potential, we'll do the rest and help you develop a rewarding career in this fascinating area.

As well as practical on-the-job training to help you develop your Actuarial judgment, modelling and programming skills, there's formal study. We'll support you to become a fully qualified actuary. We also run a summer internship programme at our Ipswich site and our interns have the best chances of being considered for a place on the following year's graduate programme.

More than anything, we need curious, bright minds and creative thinkers. Those who are digitally savvy, with a good grasp on technology and knowledge of how it can be applied. You'll need ideas that will change the financial world and ideas that will help us to constantly improve the way we care for our customers. But, as well as the big thinking, we need people who do the basics brilliantly. You'll love a challenge too, which means that obstacles don't stay obstacles for long. And responsibility and exposure? You thrive on them.

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
Over 160,000

No. of Qualified Actuaries
30

No. of Trainee Actuaries
40

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered
✔ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of Graduate Jobs
Varies

Disciplines Recruited From
Mathematics or numerically based degree; or equivalent qualification

Office Locations
Ipswich and Suffolk

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk


Taking the pulse
Thinking deep
Spotting patterns
Safeguarding customers
Pushing boundaries
Getting better
For all career opportunities at AXA UK, including apprenticeships aimed at graduates, please go to **jobs.axa.co.uk**

Founded in 1989, Barnett Waddingham has grown to become a leading independent UK professional services consultancy at the forefront of risk, pensions, investment and insurance. From small beginnings with just 20 people, we are now a team of nearly 1,300 people in eight offices. 80 are partners, each delivering on our values and our promise, ensuring the highest levels of trust, integrity and quality.

We act as a trusted partner for a wide range of clients in both the private and public sectors – this includes almost 25% of FTSE 100 and over 15% of FTSE 350 companies.
The business is based on a culture which aims to provide all of our clients with an excellent professional service through strong personal relationships and tailored solutions whilst remaining competitive on fees. Our values can best be summarised as 'Doing the Right Thing' and we take a long-term view to all of our services and relationships.

Our partners understand the importance in looking after all employees, and see employee engagement as fundamental to continuing success. We have recently been listed among The Sunday Times' 100 Best Companies to Work For and awarded a coveted two-star status. Published annually, the Best Companies to Work For are based on anonymous interviews with employees across the company, covering issues relating to staff engagement, including wellbeing, pay and benefits, personal growth and leadership.

How we work
From day one you will be an integral part of the business, working in our actuarial teams who advise various bodies and organisations including pension plan trustees, insurers and employers. The work you carry out could include anything from the broad spectrum of areas on which we advise – such as analysing longevity trends, providing strategic investment advice and advising on acquisitions.

As a new recruit you will have the opportunity to work closely with the partners and other experienced employees offering you excellent development opportunities and a unique learning process. We are keen for our employees to gain wider business knowledge and experience of our other business areas where this is possible. You will be encouraged to show initiative and develop areas of responsibility that are not directly related to client work, raising both your own and your team's profile, whilst gaining good experience.

Your professional and personal development is important to us and we are strongly committed to developing our employees.

As a Trainee Consultant, you will work towards qualification and we will give you every support to achieve this, including offering a generous study package.

As well as supporting your studying, your mentor will review your work-based experience and help you identify the development opportunities available, with the aim of enabling you to reach your full potential. In addition, we will help you to develop your technical and consulting skills with regular performance development reviews, internal courses and most importantly, experience.

The social side
Social activity and social responsibility is taken seriously across the firm; from inter-office sporting events to the annual Christmas party. Sporting events include bowls, cricket, croquet, football, golf, poker, netball, pool and table

tennis. The non-sporting side is equally active and includes walking weekends, excursions to UK and European cities, wine and beer tasting, charity events, book club and picnics. As a firm, we recognise that we have an impact that goes beyond our core activities supporting a wide range of initiatives ensuring our impact is a positive one. There is something for everyone to choose from, but suggestions for further social events are always welcome!

Who we look for

You will have a minimum of a 2:1 degree and an A grade in A-level Maths or equivalent qualifications. Excellent communication skills are essential, together with a positive and enthusiastic attitude.

The deadline for graduate and summer internship applications is October 2020 ●

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
Over 1,200

No. of Qualified Actuaries
Over 140

No. of Trainee Actuaries
120

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered

- ✔ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✔ INTERNSHIPS
- ✔ INSIGHTS
- ✔ SCHOOL LEAVER SCHEMES

No. of Graduate Jobs
25-30

No. of Undergraduate Opportunities
20-25

No. of School Leaver Opportunities
20-25

Disciplines Recruited From
All disciplines

Office Locations
Amersham, Bristol, Birmingham, Cheltenham, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool and London

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

BUCK

Buck is a premier, global integrated pensions and benefits consulting, administration, and technology services provider. We offer a world-class portfolio of benefits advisory, analytics, administration, engagement and communication solutions powered by best-in-class technology.

We're at the forefront of re-defining the employer-employee relationship for organisations large and small, something we call the social contract. And we take the same approach with our own employees too.

At Buck, we focus on collaboration, opportunities to fast-track your career, and a people-first culture, where you are part of determining your future. No challenge is too big or too small for our team. And with an innovative outlook, and a focus on technology that enables service, we are a driving force behind helping our clients realise the best performance for their schemes, their business, and their people.

What is our service?
Retirement Services – Buck provide the full range of actuarial, consultancy and secretarial services to Trustees and Sponsors of UK Defined Benefit pension schemes. This offering includes everything from funding strategy to risk management and scheme wind-up.

Investment Consulting Services – We provide high quality advice on asset allocation, de-risking and risk management, liability-driven investment and establishing "journey plans". Buck advise on £10 billion of assets for 125 clients.

Why choose Buck?
At Buck, we invest in our people. Joining Buck means a focus on collaboration, opportunities to fast track your career, and the chance to participate in a people-first culture where you are part of determining your future. Our teams are structured to ensure that actuarial analysts are given the choice to consult directly with a range of clients early in their career to foster personal growth and development. We aim to support you at all stages to develop both your actuarial and consulting skills and empower you to choose your own career path. We have actuarial opportunities in pensions and investment. Buck provides a generous study package and you will be assigned a study mentor to discuss study and training plans. ●

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
610 (in UK)

No. of Qualified Actuaries
65

No. of Trainee Actuaries
58

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered
- ✔ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✔ PLACEMENTS
- ✔ INTERNSHIPS

No. of Graduate Jobs
Varies across - Actuarial and Investment Consulting

No. of Undergraduate Opportunities
Varies

Disciplines Recruited From
Numerical degrees

Office Locations
London, Manchester, Edinburgh and Ipswich

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

Bupa's purpose is helping people live longer, healthier, happier lives. With no shareholders, our customers are our focus. We reinvest profits into providing more and better healthcare for the benefit of current and future customers.

Health insurance accounts for the major part of our business with 17.5m customers and contributes 73% of revenue. We operate clinics, dental centres and hospitals in some markets, with 15.8m customers. We care for around 22,000 residents in our aged care businesses in the UK, Australia, New Zealand and Spain.

We directly employ around 83,000 people, principally in the UK, Australia, Spain, Chile, Poland, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Turkey, Brazil, the US, Middle East and Ireland. We also have associate businesses in Saudi Arabia and India.

Bupa believes that the growth and performance of our leaders and our people is the single biggest pathway to fulfilling our purpose (longer, healthier, happier lives) and delivering Bupa's strategic priorities. We are looking for individuals who are capable of delivering extraordinary business outcomes.

Our strategic framework guides what we do as a business. It has three core pillars: Customers, People, Performance.

We aim to deliver amazing customer experiences every time. We believe we can only do this if our people love working at Bupa and are supported to deliver for customers. Our business must achieve strong and sustainable performance so we are here for customers for many more years into the future.

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
83,000 worldwide

No. of Qualified Actuaries
32 qualified actuaries within the UK

No. of Trainee Actuaries
15 trainee actuaries within the UK

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered

- ✔ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✔ PLACEMENTS

No. of Graduate Jobs
3

No. of Undergraduate Opportunities
6 Placement roles per year

Disciplines Recruited From
Numerical based degree, such as (but not limited to) Actuarial Science, Mathematics, Statistics, Engineering, Economics and Data Science disciplines.

Office Locations
London, Manchester, Staines and Brighton

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

Canada Life™

Founded in 1847, The Canada Life Assurance Company is one of the largest Canadian life and health insurance companies.

Canada Life began operations in the United Kingdom in 1903 and looks after the retirement, investment and protection needs of individuals and companies. Our UK operations are headquartered in Potters Bar, 15 minutes from central London by train.

Benefits of working at Canada Life

Canada Life offer the advantage of working in a professional, fast moving, financially strong company, yet with a better work/life balance than you would usually find in London. We offer excellent starting salaries and great opportunities for career progression.

A competitive study package is available to all our actuarial trainees, which includes study days, tutorials, course materials and entry fees for the first sitting of each exam. Every new starter is assigned a mentor to oversee their progress. Canada Life has a strong culture of success in the actuarial examinations, and provides an environment for new actuaries to study and develop.

Who are we looking for?

Applicants will have at least three A Levels (or equivalent) and a degree (2:1 or better), ideally in mathematics or another numerate subject, although exceptional candidates with other degrees will be considered. We are looking for excellent communicators with strong problem solving skills. Successful candidates will be motivated to maintain our strong record in the challenging professional examinations.

The role

Our actuarial trainees have the opportunity to work in a variety of roles in areas including: reserving, financial reporting, pricing, risk management, investments and systems. We expect that trainees will work in at least two or three different areas before qualification, which means our newly qualified actuaries tend to have a valuable breadth of experience. ●

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
c.1,500

No. of Qualified Actuaries
Approx. 58

No. of Trainee Actuaries
Approx. 50

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered
✔ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of Graduate Jobs
c.4 per year

Disciplines Recruited From
Ideally Mathematics or another numerate subject, although exceptional candidates with other degrees will be considered

Office Locations
Potters Bar - Hertfordshire, London and Bristol

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

CAPITA

Capita Specialist Services

Capita is one of the UK's leading provider of outsourcing and professional support services in both the public and private sectors. The Specialist Services division – which Actuarial Solutions is a part of – accounts for a significant chunk of Capita's business.

Our market position is maintained through a dedication to service and a belief in constant evolution. We pride ourselves on being progressive and at the leading edge of service transformation. We are driven by our purpose: to create better outcomes – for our employees, clients and customers, suppliers and partners, investors, and society. We are also committed to being a responsible business – in how we operate, serve society, respect our people and the environment, and deliver attractive returns to our investors.

Actuaries within Capita

There are many opportunities for actuaries within Capita. The unique skills of actuaries are applied in many situations across the division – from understanding the problems our clients face through to developing and implementing solutions and providing ongoing support.

Actuaries provide project management, business planning and life assurance expertise to other departments within Capita, as well as providing corporate reporting and project services direct to our clients. Actuaries are also involved in seeking out new opportunities from new and existing clients, both independently and as part of wider life insurance outsourcing propositions.

At Capita, we offer an experience which combines elements of both consultancy and traditional life office work, which can include direct client placements. The wide variety of work means you will enjoy freedom to choose how your career progresses and on-the-job training ensures you are able to progress quickly and take on additional responsibilities from an early stage.

Capita also employ actuarial students in our independent Dublin office. Capita Employee Benefits also provide opportunities for actuaries in the pensions field.

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
63,000+

No. of Qualified Actuaries
20

No. of Trainee Actuaries
41

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered

- ✔ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✔ INTERNSHIPS

No. of Graduate Jobs
3-5

No. of Undergraduate Opportunities
4-6

Office Locations
Cheltenham and Bristol

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

Wherever you are on your career journey, EY will help you keep learning, evolving and building the future that's right for you.

The world is changing fast, and we're right at the heart of it. It's our job to help some of the largest, most influential businesses worldwide navigate these changes and the new technology that's driving them. We do this with talented teams of experts using the latest in tech innovation.

Our apprentice, undergraduate and graduate programmes have you working with clients from day one. If you're creative, curious and want to make a real impact on the working world while developing important skills for the future, one of our programmes could be for you.

You'll join one of our four service lines – Assurance, Consulting, Tax or Transactions – and work with local, national and global teams. Together, you'll come up with better solutions to help clients seize opportunities and lead change and innovation on issues that matter.

In Assurance, we help protect public confidence in the world's capital markets, which involves a variety of skills across many areas in both audit and non-audit work. In Consulting, we work across almost every part of our clients' businesses to help them investigate risk and improve their performance.

Our Tax teams are all about providing a full suite of tax services to everyone, from multi-national companies to fast-growing entrepreneurial start-ups. And in Transactions, we help businesses negotiate to raise, preserve and increase their earnings, ensuring their long-term success in a complex global market.

With 284,000 experts around the world, and offices in more than 150 countries, our people get the support and opportunities they need to create the careers they want. We believe they work best when they're free to be themselves, so we've created a welcoming, flexible working culture that focuses on helping everyone learn new skills to prepare them for the future.

We recruit based on strengths and potential, and offer a range of career paths and roles. Our greatest asset is our diverse teams, so from the moment you apply we provide you with unrivalled support and learning opportunities to help you create the career you want.

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
284,000 experts worldwide

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered

- ✔ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✔ PLACEMENTS
- ✔ INTERNSHIPS
- ✔ SCHOOL LEAVER SCHEMES

No. of Graduate Jobs
850

No. of Undergraduate Opportunities
350

No. of School Leaver Opportunities
Varies

Disciplines Recruited From
Graduates with an honours degree in a numbers-based subject and who have achieved an A in A-Level Maths or Scottish Higher equivalent.

Office Locations
UK Wide

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

Who are we?

First Actuarial is an established but growing consultancy, which has built a significant stream of business and high regard in the UK pensions arena. We offer a comprehensive range of services designed to meet the needs of pension scheme trustees and employers.

Working at First Actuarial

We have an energetic board of founders and partners. Our friendly, hard-working staff offer the opportunity for you to develop a rewarding role quickly alongside them. This may mean meeting clients, winning business or playing an influential role internally. You can be certain that you won't be stuck in a narrow role doing the same work every day.

As a flexible employer with a flat and informal management structure, we encourage a relaxed and friendly working environment with a casual dress policy and flexibility in your working day. Our team structure will enable you to work directly with (and learn from) experienced qualified actuaries in order to provide support in all areas of actuarial pensions consulting.

Who we are looking to recruit?

We are looking for well-rounded graduates with excellent numeracy, problem solving and analytical skills. In particular, we will be looking for good results in mathematics, statistics, economics or similar subjects. In addition, we expect you to:

- Accept responsibility at an early stage in your career
- Be personally motivated
- Have strong communication skills
- Enjoy working within a team environment

Professional development

We will give you full support to study for Fellowship of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries. Our current study package includes:

- Exam success rewarded through pay rises
- Payment for required study materials
- Up to 40 study days per year
- Exam entry fees
- Membership subscriptions for the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries.

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
325

No. of Qualified Actuaries
59

No. of Trainee Actuaries
66

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered

- ✔ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✔ INTERNSHIPS

No. of Graduate Jobs
5-10

No. of Undergraduate Opportunities
5-10

Office Locations
Basingstoke, Leeds, Manchester, Peterborough and Tonbridge

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

About FIS

FIS is the technology that moves the world's money. You may not know our name, but you've likely used our technology. Think mobile banking, how you paid for your last cup of coffee or the systems your bank uses to manage your assets. You use more of our technology than you may realise! Our technology powers billions of transactions annually that move over $9 trillion around the globe. We champion clients from merchants to banking to capital markets, retail to corporate, and everything touched by financial services.

FIS Prophet

Prophet is a leading and award-winning enterprise-wide actuarial modelling system that helps insurance and financial services companies meet reporting responsibilities, improve risk management, and develop more profitable products faster.

Over 10,000 users, across over 1,000 customer sites, in more than 70 countries, rely on Prophet to model their firm's financial business.

The Prophet department contains four core actuarial teams: Actuarial Systems, Actuarial Libraries, Actuarial Governance and Actuarial Consultancy.

Associate Development Program

FIS' Associate Development Program (ADP) is our global program for attracting, developing and retaining entry-level talent at FIS. The program duration is 2 years, focusing on developing our Associates who we hire as permanent recruits directly into one of our businesses.

Within our **Prophet** business, we seek motivated and innovated individuals to drive and direct our suite of Prophet products into the future! You should have an interest in technology and finance, and possess strong problem-solving, analytical and communication skills.

Upon joining FIS, you will attend the ADP Learning week designed to provide you with an overview of how FIS is structured, our technology and the markets we serve. As you settle into your role, you will continue your learning journey with the Prophet team, and study for the actuarial profession with a focus towards becoming a qualified actuary. FIS provides support in all ways towards achieving this goal including study support and training. ●

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
55,000+

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered
✔ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of Graduate Jobs
5-10

Disciplines Recruited From
Numerate disciplines including Actuarial Science, Mathematics, Economics, Computer Science, MORSE

Office Locations
Global (for ADP positions in UK/Europe – office locations are Chertsey and Warsaw)

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

Government Actuary's Department

Who we are

GAD was established as a government department in 1919. Today, we provide actuarial analysis for public sector clients throughout the UK. We are based in central London in the heart of the financial community, with a second office in Edinburgh, and currently employ around 100 actuaries and 40 trainees.

What we do

Our analysis enables the government to formulate national policy and manage public sector finances. This work is crucial to the welfare of millions of people both in the UK and overseas. We provide advice on a wide variety of topics in many fields.

Vision

Our vision of GAD for 2025 is that:

- we make a difference: our work improves outcomes for the public and helps the government achieve its objectives
- we partner effectively with our clients: we proactively help our clients where we can add value and deliver innovative, cost-effective solutions to a wide range of issues
- we are seen as a great place to work: we provide fulfilling careers for all our people
- our value is recognised: we are widely recognised and respected throughout the public sector as trusted experts in the fields of financial risk analysis and modelling

Mission

Our mission is to improve the stewardship of public sector finances by supporting effective decision-making and robust financial reporting through actuarial analysis, modelling and advice.

Values

In addition to core values of the Civil Service (integrity, honesty, objectivity and impartiality), GAD's values are the beliefs and behaviours which define us as an organisation:

- expert – we provide high quality, professional advice
- collaborative – we partner effectively with our clients to understand and address their business needs
- inclusive – we value and develop all our people
- innovative – we are forward looking, continually developing and improving to meet evolving client needs

Who are we looking for?

Each year we recruit a small number of people who have the clear potential to become fully qualified actuaries and who will relish the challenges of our diverse and public interest orientated work.

Providing actuarial support to some of the largest pension schemes in the UK, our work is crucial to the welfare of millions of people. Our trainees are the actuaries of the future.

As a Trainee Actuary you will work as part of a team with qualified actuaries in our London office, to deliver advice across a broad range of areas such as valuations, benefit design, investment strategy and government policy.

In addition to advising the government, trustees and employers, there may also be opportunities to work in UK and international social insurance, long-term care, health, risk and insurance.

As your experience grows you can expect to have regular client contact. Client engagement and business development is also an important part of the work that we do, therefore, having a flair for people relationship skills is beneficial. To help you qualify as quickly as possible we offer substantial study support with generous study leave, discussion classes, and paid for tutorials, courses, exam entry and exam counselling. We also provide an internal business training programme to help trainees identify new business opportunities and to assume new responsibilities, including:

- a comprehensive induction and technical training programme
- in-house seminars and professional briefings
- managerial and business training including project management, team working, presentations, IT skills and managing client relationships
- a friendly and cooperative working environment, where actuaries and senior trainees are enthusiastic about teaching new trainees and passing on their experience

To find out more, please get in touch with recruitment@gad.gov.uk

The Government Actuary's Department currently holds the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries' Quality Assurance Scheme accreditation.

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
190

No. of Qualified Actuaries
100

No. of Trainee Actuaries
40

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered
- ✔ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✔ PLACEMENTS

No. of Graduate Jobs
5-10

No. of Undergraduate Opportunities
1-3

Disciplines Recruited From
Degrees with high Mathematical content

Office Locations
London

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Robert Williamson
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Durham
DEGREE	Mathematics
ROLE	Senior Trainee Actuary

I am currently a senior trainee at the Government Actuary's Department (GAD). I studied mathematics at Durham University before becoming a data analyst at The Health Foundation, a charity where my role involved the analysis of large healthcare datasets in order to write academic papers.

How did you get your job at GAD?
While I enjoyed my time as a data analyst, I was interested in doing work that was less academic while still doing a job I could feel good about.

I had always been interested in the actuarial profession. This was largely due to my interest in the practical applications of statistics (and because it would mean I could one-up my brother who is an accountant!). I was also keen to join an organisation with a graduate scheme which would provide me with necessary training and support. When I saw a role available at GAD it seemed a perfect fit.

Tell us about your current role
I am currently working in the Specialist Actuarial team, specifically the team advising HM Treasury on public sector pensions.

This is a great team to work in as it is a very active policy area which involves a lot of complex calculation work as well as high level strategy. A key area of work is the McCloud court case, which has significant implications for all public sector pension schemes (including the one I am in!).

I have gained a wide variety of experience working at GAD. This can be very technical, for example carrying out complex statistical analysis in Excel, R and SAS. But I have also been exposed to the other side of decision making, such as developing policy papers and regularly meeting with clients.

Additionally, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to go on a 9-month secondment to the Department of Health and Social Care, working on professional indemnity for General Practitioners.

Working at GAD has developed my skills in a number of areas. Importantly, it has helped to develop my softer skills. From presenting complex technical analysis to stakeholders, to discussing policy with other government departments, GAD has provided me with opportunities to take on challenging and interesting work.

Tell us about the study support
A key aspect of becoming an actuary is taking the required exams. GAD has supported my route to qualification through its study mentor

Government Actuary's Department

scheme, the generous study package and the workplace culture.

On joining GAD I was assigned a study mentor, who explained the actuarial exams to me and helped me to figure out my study route and get comfortable with self-study. They have supported me throughout my time at GAD, and are always available to provide advice when needed.

For each exam taken, GAD provides paid study days throughout the year in order to allow you to learn each course at your own pace. They also pay for study material, such as course notes, mock exam marking, and even in person tutorials.

Given the dynamic and interesting work done at GAD, you might think that work would sometimes get in the way of study. However, I have found that there is a supportive and understanding culture at GAD which means that trainees are encouraged to not allow work to stop them succeeding.

These factors have all supported me throughout my examinations, and this has majorly contributed to my success so far.

Other than your day to day job, what is life at GAD like?

Beyond the work, GAD is a great place to work due to the people and activities. We have a number of active clubs, from football to dungeons and dragons. And when you don't feel like organised fun, people regularly meet up for lunch or after work drinks.

Advice for others

GAD is a great place for any aspiring actuary. While studying and working isn't for everyone, it provides a great way of growing and developing your skills quickly, and GAD will support you throughout. ●

Grant Thornton

Looking for a fulfilling career? One that can have a wider impact on society?

At Grant Thornton, that's precisely what we offer. A career where you can have your ideas implemented. Your opinions heard. Your contributions valued. Not just by your colleagues, but by coveted clients.

Shape more than just your career

We believe we're best positioned to make a meaningful impact on the economy. After all, we provide organisations with the business and financial advice they need to make big decisions and unlock sustainable growth. With a relentless focus on quality and integrity, we help businesses to achieve their objectives. As one of our trainee business advisers, you'll help us provide our clients with the insight and ideas they need for the future of their business.

Free to be their authentic selves, our people are inspired to make a difference. We are an inclusive employer and committed to ensure our workforce is representative of our diverse society.

We have a flexible approach to academic entry requirements. We'll consider your academic achievements, but your strengths, motivations and connection with us and our values are more important. We're looking for people with a broad range of interests and experiences.

Here, we do things differently. We give our people the freedom to drive change and shape their own destinies. So bring your passion, ambitions and inspiration, and together let's make it happen.

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
4,500

No. of Trainee Actuaries
759

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered

- ✔ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✔ PLACEMENTS
- ✔ INTERNSHIPS
- ✔ SCHOOL LEAVER SCHEMES

No. of Graduate Jobs
300-350

No. of Undergraduate Opportunities
80-100

No. of School Leaver Opportunities
300-350

Office Locations
Nationwide

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

HISCOX

Hiscox is a leading, internationally recognised insurer. We set the standards for others to try and emulate, consistently delivering strong growth and exceptional shareholder returns. Our products range from insurance for the homes and possessions of the rich and famous, to innovative cyber risk solutions and meeting the needs of specialist businesses. Our customers are diverse and unique and are only united by our ability to provide bespoke insurance.

We're known for recruiting the best and empowering those people to deliver.

Hiscox Actuarial Graduate Programme

Are you curious, eager to learn, and try new things? Can you think on your feet and make intelligent and commercial decisions? Can you combine strong analytical skills with an ability to build solid relationships? If you're answering yes, our 27-month, UK-based actuarial graduate programme is for you.

You'll receive excellent on-the-job training from our highly respected actuaries, together with a programme of structured training on things like leadership and public speaking to equip you with the skills for your future career. You'll be supported through actuarial exams with a competitive study support and reward package, and enjoy three 9-month rotations across different actuarial functions including Reserving, Pricing, and Capital Management.

You will be comfortable working with data, building mathematical models, and conveying information to a range of audiences. You'll think critically to identify areas of improvement and change. It's not just about the numbers – you'll be curious to learn and see the bigger picture.

Your desire to collaborate with others will be key to you developing strong working relationships across our business; you'll also have the courage to ask questions and challenge the status quo.

Your experience on the scheme will equip you with the credibility and understanding to become a well-rounded actuary in the future. Longer term, your passion and ambition to succeed will help you to become a future leader at Hiscox.

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
3,140

No. of Qualified Actuaries
25

No. of Trainee Actuaries
35

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered

- ✔ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✔ INTERNSHIPS

No. of Graduate Jobs
4 Actuarial roles for 2021

No. of Undergraduate Opportunities
12 summer internship positions

Disciplines Recruited From
Actuarial Science, Business, Economics, Engineering, Finance, Maths or Statistics.

Office Locations
34 offices across the UK, Europe, and North America

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

HYMANS ROBERTSON

Brighter futures aren't down to chance
At Hymans Robertson we're proud to deliver award winning independent advice on pensions, investments, benefits and life insurance. We work with a wide range of clients and our solutions give companies, trustees and members everything they need for brighter pensions prospects.

And at the heart of it all are our relationships – with our clients and colleagues. We form genuine, collaborative relationships that last.

We are steadfastly independent in every possible way, from our ownership, through to our advice.

This is what allows us to put clients at the heart of our business and provide them with the advice and solutions that truly meet their needs.

It also means that our people are encouraged to think independently, take ownership for building their own careers and voice their ideas and opinions freely.

What are we offering you?
If you're interested in one of our consultancy programmes - graduate, summer internship or placement year - then you'll need to have a passion for business and possess an effective blend of technical and interpersonal skills in order to succeed.

From the start you'll work as part of a team, receive hands on training and apply your mathematical and analytical skills to solve real business problems in order to provide tailored solutions to our clients. You'll analyse complex data and present results of calculations and sophisticated modelling in an engaging and compelling way to help our clients make the best possible decisions.

As a graduate trainee consultant with us you'll also get comprehensive and personalised support with your professional studies as you work towards the Actuarial or the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) qualification. We'll work with you to make sure that you make the most of your potential.

Because everyone should have the best prospects for a bright career, and you shouldn't leave that to chance.

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
892

No. of Qualified Actuaries
155

No. of Trainee Actuaries
129

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered
- ✔ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✔ PLACEMENTS
- ✔ INTERNSHIPS
- ✔ INSIGHTS

No. of Graduate Jobs
20+

No. of Undergraduate Opportunities
20+

Office Locations
London, Glasgow, Birmingham and Edinburgh

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Malwina Strugala
LOCATION	Glasgow
UNIVERSITY	Heriot-Watt
DEGREE	BSc (Hons) Actuarial Science
ROLE	Investment Analyst

How did you get into Hymans?
I first joined Hymans as a summer intern in 2018. I spent 8 weeks working in the Glasgow investment team. At the end of my internship I got an offer to come back next year as a graduate... which I was delighted to accept!

Why did you choose us?
Before applying to the internship, I did a lot of research on Hymans, which included speaking to current employees at careers fairs and reading online reviews. I quickly realised there was a common theme – Hymans seemed a great place to work where you are both supported and challenged, and where the firm's values are truly embedded in the culture.

Throughout the recruitment process, my internship and this past year as a trainee, I've learned that everything I'd heard and read about Hymans was true. The last few months have been particularly challenging because of the sudden transition to working from home full time. However, even under these unprecedented circumstances we are still a strong team who continue to support each other as best as we can.

What's it like working here?
In my role I get a mixture of regular tasks like helping to prepare investment monitoring reports and ad hoc projects. As I've gained more experienced, I've been given more responsibility and have had the opportunity to work on more challenging projects.

Soon after joining Hymans I also started studying for actuarial exams. Balancing work and studying can be difficult sometimes, however from day one I got a lot of support from my manager and my client teams. Moreover, other graduates in different teams are in the same position so it is good to know I have some friends that I can share the struggles with!

What skills have you found useful?
Surprisingly, my writing skills turned out to be more useful than my maths skills (so far)! Consultancy is about giving advice and so it is about communication. Whilst it's important to be able to understand and perform calculations, explaining the process and results to someone else is more important.

Advice
- Get involved in clubs and societies at university or get a part-time job, if you can, to help develop the soft skills that potential future employers will be looking for.
- Start early. Apply for internships to familiarise yourself with application processes.
- Make use of your university careers services – they're there to help!

ACTUARIAL Careers
UK's specialist actuarial job board

100s Jobs

Look for the perfect job on Actuarial Careers

GRADUATE JOBS | INTERNSHIPS & PLACEMENTS | ADVICE

www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

JUST.

RETHINK RETIREMENT

We're a new kind of Retirement Company. But we have decades of experience helping people to prepare for retirement and protect their income in later life. Formed in 2016 we combine the strengths of two leading retirement providers, each with their own expertise: the Partnership Assurance Group and the Just Retirement Group. Between us, we've already helped over a quarter of a million people get more from later life, and together, we're ready to help even more.

We're difference makers and we're committed to helping everyone achieve a fair, secure, and fulfilling retirement, so when you join us, you're not joining just another financial services company. You're joining a company on a mission.

We create possibilities. Our people have the opportunity to make an impact in their career while making a difference to the lives of those around us. We work together as a team and are passionate about what we do. And we know how important our people are to making this mission happen. That's why we aim to provide an inspirational and supportive place to work, whatever your role.

We reward people who make a difference. Because we care about our people and their wellbeing, we're committed to ensuring that we all feel personally supported and professionally inspired at every stage. Everyone has access to our wellbeing programme, professional qualifications, and specialist training. While benefits vary according to role, here's what you can expect when you join us:

- Bonus based on personal and company performance
- Minimum 25 day annual holiday entitlement
- Access to our contributory pension scheme
- Private medical insurance
- Discounted gym membership
- Cycle2Work scheme

What we look for

We're always on the lookout for talented individuals and whether you've studied a bachelors, masters or PhD in a quantitative subject there'll be a place for you here at Just. We generally look for the following characteristics:

- Minimum 2:1 degree
- Understanding of Actuarial principals
- Excellent commercial acumen
- Confident and able to communicate clearly
- Analytical & creative in problem solving
- Strong desire to build a successful career

Training & Support

Just's actuarial study policy provides a competitive study package providing incentives for students to make good progress through the IFoA exams and produce well-rounded, experienced and high calibre qualified actuaries whilst forging a successful career in an exciting and ambitious business.

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
c.1,100

No. of Qualified Actuaries
c.35

No. of Students
c.60

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered

- ✔ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✔ PLACEMENTS
- ✔ INTERNSHIPS
- ✔ SCHOOL LEAVER SCHEMES

No. of Graduate Jobs
3-8

No. of Undergraduate Opportunities
6-10

No. of School Leaver Opportunities
Varies

Disciplines Recruited From
2:1 degree in a numerate/quantitative subject.

Office Locations
London and Reigate

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

LCP INSIGHT CLARITY ADVICE

LCP is a firm of financial, actuarial and business consultants, specialising in the areas of pensions, investment, insurance, analytics and financial modelling, DC & financial wellbeing.

Why be a graduate or intern at LCP?

Are you ready for a career that challenges you, allows you to grow and work alongside some of the brightest minds in the industry? Becoming one of our graduate trainees or summer interns is the first step of your journey towards a successful career in financial consultancy.

We offer places in our Pensions Actuarial, Investment Consulting, DC & Financial Wellbeing, Insurance, and Analytics & Financial Modelling departments across our London and Winchester offices.

Our people and culture

We want everyone to have the opportunity to fulfil their potential at LCP. That's why we seek to build an inclusive workplace where all forms of diversity are valued. There are a large number of initiatives we now run to support diversity and inclusion, including our popular agile working policy, our programme of support for parents and carers at LCP, and our thriving Women's, LGBT+, Multicultural and Wellbeing Networks.

Training and development

We have an extensive programme of in-house training. Regular training sessions are held throughout the first three years, covering every aspect of the business. Staff at all levels receive training to keep their technical knowledge up to date and to develop their managerial and presentation skills further. LCP also provides comprehensive support for the professional exams and we have an excellent track record of students qualifying quickly.

Academic requirements

We welcome graduates from a wide range of disciplines. We are looking for at least a 2.1 honours degree (or equivalent) and an A grade in A-level mathematics (or equivalent). Ideally, applicants would also have A-level grades in other subjects equating to a total of 128 UCAS points. ●

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
600+

No. of Qualified Actuaries
181

No. of Trainee Actuaries
94

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered
- ✔ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✔ INTERNSHIPS

No. of Graduate Jobs
c.35

No. of Undergraduate Opportunities
c.35

Disciplines Recruited From
Most degrees considered

Office Locations
London and Winchester

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Lizzie Cavill
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Newcastle
DEGREE	Mathematics and Psychology
ROLE	Analyst

I have worked at LCP in the Insurance Consulting department for nearly 2 years as an analyst. I was an intern at LCP for 2 months in the summer of my second year of university and was offered the graduate position at the end of my internship.

Why become an actuary?
I became an actuary as I wanted a job that combined both my degree subjects: a technical and analytical job to use my maths ability and yet a job that involved a lot of communication, report writing and presenting to use the skills I learnt from studying psychology.

I am approximately halfway through the actuarial exams and will hopefully become a qualified actuary in a couple of years. One of the main reasons I chose to be an actuary was to keep studying. The exams involve university level mathematics and statistics so I'm still learning more all the time and improving in my job.

What skills do you need to become an actuary?
I would say the key skills you need to be an actuary are problem solving, an analytical mind, attention to detail and strong written/verbal communication.

Why LCP?
I chose LCP because of the opportunities you are exposed to early on by working for a consultancy as opposed to an in-house actuarial team at an insurance company. I get to work on a wide range of projects and clients. Even this early on in my career I have a lot of communication with clients and opportunities to present to people. LCP provide so much support with technical and soft skills training, as well as helping you to get through the actuarial exams. Due to the graduate programme there many people at a similar stage to you in their careers and I enjoy working with a lot of people my own age.

What do you do day to day?
The majority of my work is reserving projects for Lloyd's Syndicates and commercial insurance companies. This involves:

- modelling, claims projections, data processing and manipulation
- explaining and presenting my assumptions and selections to senior actuaries
- communicating with clients through emails, meetings and calls and report writing

I'm also involved in organising training for my department and help to run the research and presentation programme for new graduates.●

Legal & General

We are a top 20 global asset manager and the UK's largest provider of individual life assurance products.

Maybe you're into digital, data or numbers. Maybe people are your thing. Either way, it's you that enables us to find new ways of being brilliant, while building and protecting the communities we care about. At Legal & General, your story will be anything but familiar.

Are you looking for a role that is technically challenging? Do you want a future that allows you to develop commercial acumen alongside your technical skills? Are you keen to have the opportunity to progress in a breadth of roles – technical or business?

We are looking for students who can answer "yes" to the above for our 2020 & 2021 actuarial trainee intake. If you are successful you will join Legal & General's well-regarded actuarial community, which plays a pivotal role in our continued success.

Working and studying to pass the actuarial exams will be tough but we offer a comprehensive study scheme that provides excellent financial and study support. In recent years we have seen pass rates well above the national average.

Actuarial work is central to ensuring a profitable, well run insurance business and your work will support the success of a FTSE 100 company. Our actuaries work throughout business measuring, predicting and managing areas of the business with the aim of giving its customers 'value for money'. If you are successful you will join one of the actuarial teams and typically be involved in:

- Performing actuarial investigations and calculations to produce profitability information and management reports for our products.
- Manage the production of regular experience investigations for our products in order to understand the impact of changes in mortality, morbidity, expenses and persistency.

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
8,000+

No. of Qualified Actuaries
250+

No. of Trainee Actuaries
120+

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered

- ✔ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✔ PLACEMENTS
- ✔ INTERNSHIPS

No. of Graduate Jobs
12-20 actuarial annually

No. of Undergraduate Opportunities
Varies

Disciplines Recruited From
Must have a Maths A-level and a numerate degree e.g. STEM or Economics

Office Locations
Our actuarial scheme runs in two of our main office locations London and Hove (Brighton).

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

NUMBERS ALONE AREN'T IMPORTANT.

The futures you'll secure with them are.

ACTUARIAL OPPORTUNITIES

careers.legalandgeneralgroup.com/roles/actuarial

MAKE THE NUMBERS MEAN MORE

Legal & General

MERCER

About

At Mercer we believe in building brighter futures. Together, we're redefining the world of work, reshaping retirement and investment outcomes, and unlocking real health and well-being. We do this by meeting the needs of today and tomorrow, by understanding the data and applying it with a human touch and by turning ideas into action to spark positive change.

Welcome to a world where economics and empathy make a difference in people's lives.

Welcome to brighter.

Our History

In 1945, William M. Mercer, Ltd, began in Canada and grew to become a premier provider of actuarial and benefits consulting services. Acquired by Marsh & McLennan Companies in 1959 and merged with its own employee benefits department, the firm expanded through growth and acquisition to become a global leader in health, retirement, investments and talent. Even as times have changed and our firm has evolved, our core purpose has remained clear: We make a difference in people's lives.

Opportunities

Here at Mercer we recruit Graduates, Interns, Placement students and Apprentices into offices throughout the United Kingdom. The roles span across Health, Wealth and Career.

The graduate programme provides candidates with a choice of qualifications and a pathway for them to decide the future of their career.
With a Mercer Apprenticeship, you will receive training and support to allow you to learn on the job, develop your technical expertise and obtain universally recognised and respected industry qualifications.

Working at Mercer

With an organisation as vast as ours and a team of people with so many different skills and specialist knowledge areas, joining Mercer means you'll be intellectually stimulated, enjoy a challenge and committed to delivering excellence. Our team work in a highly collaborative environment where our diverse and inclusive culture values welcome all perspectives, backgrounds, experiences and approaches and we make sure that everyone on our team has an equal opportunity to contribute to the firm.

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
25,000

No. of Qualified Actuaries
400 (UK)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered

- ✔ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✔ PLACEMENTS
- ✔ INTERNSHIPS
- ✔ SCHOOL LEAVER SCHEMES

No. of Graduate Jobs
30-40

No. of Undergraduate Opportunities
Varies

No. of School Leaver Opportunities
Varies

Disciplines Recruited From
All disciplines but candidates must have numerical skills.

Office Locations
London, Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester and Woking.

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

PACIFIC LIFE RE

Who are we and what do we do?

We are a global life reinsurer, providing a wide range of reinsurance services, including individual Protection and Longevity. We work with clients (life insurance companies) who are looking for a new and innovative approach to taking risks.

What are we looking for from you?

We are looking for talented and ambitious individuals, from a range of degree subjects, who can work as part of a great team of Actuaries that are crucial to our business. To succeed, you will need to be numerate, a collaborative team player and be able to write fluently in English. Good interpersonal skills will also stand you in good stead.

We will encourage you to learn new skills and to be brave in applying those skills throughout your career with us. We're proud to have created an environment where we all collaborate as one team. Of course, it's not all about working hard, and we also recognise the importance of reflecting on a job well done and having fun with our colleagues!

What can you expect from us?

You'll gain hands-on experience from a range of projects and teams, all of which will develop you into a well-rounded Actuary, with a broad understanding of our business and the services that we provide to our clients. We'll give you the opportunity to develop your career within a large, rapidly growing, global and well-established reinsurer in the Protection and Longevity market.

We value diversity and we strive to be an even more inclusive employer. Our Diversity and Inclusion committee actively promotes a number of initiatives including: awareness days, celebratory events and training.

What benefits do we offer?

Providing employees with a healthy work-life balance is important to us; on top of a generous salary we provide a wide range of benefits and wellness initiatives, including: subsidised massage and gym membership, yoga classes, private medical insurance, life insurance, pension, income protection, and many more! ●

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
700 globally

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered

- ✔ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✔ INTERNSHIPS

No. of Graduate Jobs
Up to 10

No. of Undergraduate Opportunities
Varies

Disciplines Recruited From
STEM subjects but we consider others as well

Office Locations
London

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Caleb Ng
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	University of Waterloo, Canada
DEGREE	Actuarial Science
ROLE	Senior Pricing Analyst

What made you choose to work for Pacific Life Re?
I started my career at PL Re with an 8-month internship in the Europe Research & Development team. I thoroughly enjoyed my internship and so when they offered me a full-time position in 2016, it was a no-brainer! Some of the things I particularly like about PL Re are the people – from day one, I found everyone so friendly and welcoming; the flat working structure, which meant I had exposure to senior management from the very start; and also the range of opportunities and responsibility I had. I've been able to work on a variety of interesting projects and since returning as a permanent employee in 2016, I've been promoted and am now working in our global Pricing team.

What support did PL Re give you throughout your internship?
Throughout my exams, PL Re was very supportive, particularly as I was not only adapting to a new country, new city and new culture (I moved to London from Malaysia), I was also adapting to working life and trying to fit study and exams in. My manager took an active interest in my career advancement and exam progress. The company also gave me study days and financial reimbursement for my study materials and exams.

What projects are you working on in your new role?
In my new role, I'm working on developing global pricing initiatives, pricing assumptions and best practices. I also help support tender activities across all our offices.
On a day-to-day basis, I'm collaborating with my Pricing colleagues in our other offices around the world, so I've gained experience in a wide range of markets and product lines which have aided my professional development immensely.

What advice would you give to aspiring Actuaries?
My advice to anyone would be to not be afraid of asking questions – no question is a stupid question and the more questions you ask, the more you'll learn.

What skills do you feel are essential for being an Actuary?
I think the key skills that would really help you are: a keen eye for detail, analytical skills and the ability to rationalise data and create narratives from numbers. As with any job, communication skills and the ability to collaborate with others are also very important.

What three words would you use to describe PL Re?
Fun. Challenging. Rewarding. ●

QUANTUM ADVISORY
WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH YOU

Established in 1999, Quantum Advisory is a firm of actuaries and benefit consultants specialising in providing professional pensions advice and services. We design, maintain and review corporate pension schemes and related employee benefits. Our expertise covers the complete range of occupational, stakeholder and group personal pension plans and related employee benefits, ranging from complex final salary arrangements to simplified stakeholder and personal arrangements.

Our team of actuaries undertake pension fund valuations and provide funding analysis and advice, in relation to changes in benefit structure, membership, and/or legislative and economic changes. We also prepare figures for company reporting purposes, advise on liability management and provide training sessions to trustees enabling them to carry out their duties with confidence. We work closely with our investment team in particular so that we can provide holistic advice regarding pension scheme funding so that our clients can better understand all aspects of risk relating to their arrangements.

Working at Quantum Advisory:
Our business is founded on six core values. These govern how we approach our relationships with ourselves and our clients and the services we offer. We aim to be:

- Hard working and diligent
- Passionate and enthusiastic
- Innovative
- Pragmatic
- Personable and supportive
- Principled

Join us and you will become part of a close-knit team who are skilled, experienced and passionate about delivering a high-quality service to clients. With Quantum, you'll be given the chance to further develop your skills and career as we currently support the fellowship qualification and the certified actuarial analyst route.

What we look for:
We look for ambitious and driven candidates, usually with a degree in a mathematical or finance related subject, with excellent problem-solving abilities, good communication skills, and the ability to work as a team. We offer opportunities in our Cardiff, London and Birmingham offices.

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
120+

No. of Qualified Actuaries
17

No. of Trainee Actuaries
7

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered
✔ GRADUATE JOBS

No. of Graduate Jobs
Varies

Disciplines Recruited From
Mathematical or Finance related subject

Office Locations
Cardiff, London and Birmingham

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	David Jervis
LOCATION	Cardiff
UNIVERSITY	Swansea
DEGREE	Masters in Mathematics (MMath)
ROLE	Assistant Consultant

What does a typical day look like in your role?
A lot of my time is often spent working with spreadsheets, usually pension liability calculations or creating standard calculation models for other team members to use. As everyone at Quantum is approachable and friendly, I'm happy to take time to assist other staff with their queries, however trivial they are as I know that it will be appreciated.

Aside from spreadsheets, work includes drafting reports for actuaries and preparing meeting packs for client meetings. As I've progressed in the role, I now attend these meetings and help clients run their pension schemes. There are additional challenges as you work on many different schemes, each with their own rules and nuances. However, it means there's more variety in the work that you undertake which, in turn, assists your own learning on the job.

What three skills have you found useful in your role?
- Creativity – being able to adapt to the exact needs of the client and bring about solutions to their often unique issues.
- Communication and presentation – explaining very technical issues work to clients in a way that's easier for them to understand.
- Mathematical – the ability to tackle increasingly complex technical work, plus the added benefit that it prepares me for my exams!

Have you found the Certified Actuarial Analyst (CAA) qualification useful?
Quantum offers the CAA to its actuarial students before they progress to the mainstream actuarial exams. I've found my CAA qualification has given me a significant head start especially with the earlier actuarial exams, given the similarity in content. Along with the paid time off from work to study and additional support offered by colleagues, I've found the jump from university to the actuarial exams to be much more straightforward than it otherwise would have been.

Where do you see yourself in the next 2-3 years?
I'm aiming to have qualified as an actuary within the next few years. With no more studying for exams, I would have more time to be involved in more technical project work and see myself attending more client meetings, undertaking a greater role.

Any tips for people applying for actuarial roles?
- The path to qualifying can be long and difficult, so research what you're committing yourself to and check if it's for you. Make sure that you have the perseverance to finish the exams and that you can demonstrate this to your prospective employer. Prepare an example of when you've found something tough but eventually overcome it as you might be asked at the interview.
- Read up about your prospective employer and show the interviewer that you have a genuine interest in the role. For example, read the case studies on the company's website and prepare one or two engaging questions that you may ask at the end of the interview. ●

REDINGTON

About Us

Our purpose here at Redington is to help make 100m people financially secure.

Our people are motivated by: ensuring defined benefit pensioners are paid in full; designing outcome-oriented funds that offer value for money for savers; teaching children to budget and save; creating a more sustainable future with reduced inequalities; and ultimately rebuilding trust in the pensions and savings industry.

We started in 2006 as a handful of consultants serving defined benefit pension schemes. Since then we've grown into a team of over 180 people. We've expanded our services to include manager research and tech to help our clients draw on Redington intelligence in their ongoing decision-making. We have reached out to new clients and markets from defined contribution schemes, to wealth managers, to global asset owners, and most recently to Chinese insurance companies.

Opportunities Available

We look for bright and curious graduates and undergraduates from any discipline* seeking a career in investment consulting and strategy. We recruit graduates and interns across all three client-facing areas of our business, Asset & Liability Management, Consulting and Fund Research. .

Training

Our programme challenges you from day one. You will begin with an intensive induction process to get you up to speed with who we are, the language we use, the solutions we provide and the systems and tools that we utilise. You will have a buddy to help you settle in. You will then work alongside experienced senior professionals to contribute to client solutions.

Practical on the job learning is supplemented with opportunities to be involved in knowledge sharing sessions and seminars, as well as studying for professional qualifications such as CFA or FIA.

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
180

No. of Qualified Actuaries
9

No. of Trainee Actuaries
6

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered

- ✔ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✔ INTERNSHIPS
- ✔ INSIGHTS

No. of Graduate Jobs
10-12

No. of Undergraduate Opportunities
10-12

Disciplines Recruited From
*Any, apart from ALM. ALM is highly quantitative so we require Maths A Level/equivalent and STEM subject at degree level.

Office Locations
London, Bristol and Beijing
(Opportunities based in our London office)

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

REDINGTON

LIKE A CHALLENGE?

Solve the expression to find out how many millions of people we have helped make financially secure so far

$$42+(i)^2-(729^{1/6})^2$$

Want to push yourself even further?

At Redington we're always looking to work with the brightest minds, those individuals who genuinely bring more to everything they do.

If you want to challenge yourself while making a meaningful difference, check out our careers page at redington.co.uk/who-we-are/careers

Floor 6,
One Angel Court,
London, EC2R 7HJ

T: 020 7250 3331
E: info@redington.co.uk

RSA is a leading international general insurer operating in three core regions: UK and Ireland, Canada and Scandinavia but with the capability to write business across the globe. Founded in 1710, we are one of the world's leading multinational insurance groups and a truly people-centred business. We have around 12,370 employees across our core businesses and in 2019 our net written premiums were £6.4 billion.

The best way to gain a place on the RSA actuarial graduate programme is to first apply for an internship with us in the summer of your penultimate undergraduate year. Top performing summer actuarial interns are most likely to gain a place on the following year's graduate programme. Actuarial graduate trainees will work in a number of areas with the aim of giving them a wide range of experience including:

- Pricing of general insurance products – working out the price to charge customers for general insurance products.
- Reserving of claims – claims can take many years to settle and RSA needs to hold a reserve to ensure that it can pay the claims when they fall.
- Capital requirements – RSA needs to maintain high levels of capital to enable it to write a wide range of insurance risks.

As well as offering regular pay-reviews for actuarial graduate trainees, we also provide a comprehensive support package to assist trainees in passing their actuarial exams. Our mentor scheme assigns each trainee a qualified actuary with whom they can discuss their development. Trainees will have regular meetings with mentors to discuss study and training plans, providing constant support while on the scheme.

What you need

We are looking for individuals who have obtained or are expecting at least a 2:1 in a highly numerate degree discipline and who have excellent problem solving ability, great communication skills, and the ability to work in a team or alone without close supervision. ●

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
12,370

No. of Qualified Actuaries
40

No. of Trainee Actuaries
c.150

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered

- ✔ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✔ INTERNSHIPS

No. of Graduate Jobs
3

No. of Undergraduate Opportunities
Varies

Disciplines Recruited From
Maths or any heavily numerical degree

Office Locations
London, Horsham and Liverpool

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Jasmine Tooke
LOCATION	London
UNIVERSITY	Exeter
DEGREE	BSc Economics with Mathematics
ROLE	Actuarial Analyst

What is it like working and studying in RSA's Actuarial Development Scheme?
RSA provides an ideal environment to start your actuarial journey. Our scheme is a very supportive one which aims to help you achieve your best.

In terms of exam support you are provided with a generous amount of study time, mentoring from senior students and a wide variety of study materials and tutorials. The team culture is also one that fully embraces the study work balance, with a flexible work environment allowing you to fit in your studying in a way that is most suited to you. Working alongside other students means that advice is always readily available and people are happy to discuss any questions you may have.

The scheme works on a rotation system which means that you have the opportunity to experience several different areas of general insurance. This first-hand experience helps you to develop a career path that you enjoy and are most suited to. It ensures a more comprehensive knowledge of the different teams within the company and how everything pieces together as well as providing opportunities to learn from others who may have rotated differently.

This results in a collaborative atmosphere with widely skilled and well-rounded colleagues.

What do you enjoy about working at RSA?
RSA has a very warm and cooperative work environment that is perfect for facilitating learning and idea sharing. People within the company are always more than happy to make time for you or take you through their roles.

Within RSA there is a large emphasis on learning and self-development which is strongly encouraged by your managers from the start. This can include open conversations about your role, what you enjoy, where you'd like to improve and what future roles you'd like to try. It allows you to have a say in your career and ensures that you gain maximum exposure to everything your rotations can offer.

Do you have any advice for somebody wanting to work at RSA?
Getting an internship is the best way to get to know a company's culture and its working environment. I was treated like a graduate on my internship and integrated within my team.

By the end of the summer I knew that RSA was where I wanted to work and I knew what to expect when joining as a graduate. ●

SPENCE

About Us

We are excited about the future at Spence & Partners. Our Business is growing fast through new client wins and expansion in our current service offerings. Our use of our innovative integrated actuarial and administration pension scheme software platform, Mantle®, across our work is driving us to deliver integrated solutions to our clients. As a result, we believe we can offer something different to people looking to take the next step in their actuarial and investment careers.

Spence was established in 2000 and is a privately owned, award winning UK firm of actuaries, pension consultants, pension scheme IT specialists and administrators. We have offices across the UK in Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Glasgow, Leeds, London, and Manchester.

Our actuarial and investment team offers a diverse range of stimulating and fast paced actuarial and investment work. The team services clients across all our Practices - Trustee and Corporate Services, Charity and Not-for Profit, and Scheme Terminations.

The Role

Being one of a small number of graduates you'll get direct exposure to working with the directors of our business and the opportunity to really make your mark in a growing business. We create an environment to drive your career to the next level - we believe in empowerment and expect our colleagues to thrive in an environment of personal responsibility and ownership.

In addition to an excellent academic record (2:1 level or above in a relevant subject) you should display a keen interest in the industry and environment in which we operate. You will have the core competencies - Strategic Thinking, Impacting & Influencing, Client Engagement, Collaborative Working, Problem Solving, Planned & Professional Approach. These will enable you to work as part of our team, have a commitment to learn and develop your career and be passionate about providing a high quality professional service.

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
179

No. of Qualified Actuaries
20

No. of Trainee Actuaries
14

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered

- ✔ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✔ PLACEMENTS

No. of Graduate Jobs
5

No. of Undergraduate Opportunities
1-2

Office Locations
Belfast*, Birmingham, Bristol, Glasgow*, Leeds, London and Manchester

*Actuarial positions are only in Belfast and Glasgow, however applications from all over the UK are accepted.

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Rachel Graham
LOCATION	Belfast
UNIVERSITY	Queen's University Belfast
DEGREE	Actuarial Science and Risk Management
ROLE	Actuary

I was one of the first students to graduate from the Actuarial Science and Risk Management degree at Queen's University Belfast in 2011. My third year of study required students to gain exposure in an actuarial working environment and I was fortunate enough to secure my placement year at Spence.

During my time there I was involved in a variety of actuarial tasks and from day one was contributing to proper actuarial work. I had guidance and support along the way and everyone at Spence was always willing to answer any questions and made me feel at home from the very beginning.

I gained so much from my placement experience and it confirmed for me that the actuarial profession was where I saw my future.

Since returning to Spence as a graduate in August 2011 I have developed my professional skills and knowledge as a result of the variety of work I have had the opportunity to be involved in.

I recently qualified as an actuary and could not have done this without Spence's great study support which included subsidised study materials and tutorials, a study mentor and a bank of study days to help us achieve an appropriate work-study balance.

As well as continuing my development as an actuary, I have recently taken on a team management role and I also act as client manager for a number of our clients. I cannot speak highly enough of my experience with Spence; my personal and professional development has been beyond my expectations.

It has been an exciting, challenging, extremely rewarding career in a very supportive environment, and I look forward to what the future at Spence holds for me.

Willis Towers Watson

Would you like to be constantly exposed to new challenges and opportunities? Do you have what it takes to push the boundaries and find innovative solutions? Then Willis Towers Watson could be the perfect place for you. With offices all over the world, a breadth of business functions and client relationships with 78% of the Global Fortune 500, we help students and graduates around the world find new insights and experiences every day.

What you will be doing day to day

As a leading global advisory, broking and solutions company, we work on an extremely diverse range of projects with clients around the world. For an intern or graduate joining one of our expert teams, you can gain exposure to many different kinds of project work, and no two days are likely to be the same. We recruit people into four key areas: Corporate Risk and Broking, Human Capital and Benefits, Investment, Risk and Reinsurance and Software Solutions. Each area has its own unique challenges and opportunities. Thanks to our comprehensive development programme, any one of them could be the perfect place to kick-start your career.

What we offer to new graduates

You'll get to work on complex and interesting assignments, to collaborate with colleagues across borders and timelines, and to find new, innovative solutions to the various challenges our clients face. At the same time, you'll be developing the skills, knowledge and experience you need to create a real impact within our business and become an expert in your chosen field. To help you on your journey, we offer world-class training and mentoring. You'll also benefit from being part of global community of Willis Towers Watson graduates, who you will always be able to draw on for advice and support.

Top four reasons to join us

- Fully funded study
- Opportunities for involvement in client work, starting on day one
- Collaborative working environment with recognised thought leaders
- A global company with a stellar reputation.

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
45,000

No. of Qualified Actuaries
c.570

No. of Trainee Actuaries
c.410

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered

- ✔ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✔ PLACEMENTS
- ✔ INTERNSHIPS
- ✔ INSIGHTS
- ✔ SCHOOL LEAVER SCHEMES

No. of Graduate Jobs
See website

No. of Undergraduate Opportunities
See website

No. of School Leaver Opportunities
See website

Office Locations
Nationwide

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

Willis Towers Watson

AMBITION

MEET

CAREER PROGRESSION

We're Willis Towers Watson – we're in the business of people, risk and capital. With offices all over the world, and an impressive breadth of business functions, an early career with us is where potential and possibility meet. If you have ambition, flexibility and a collaborative approach, learn more about everything we offer and discover what roles we have available near you.

GET TO KNOW **OPPORTUNITY.**

VISIT CAREERS.WILLISTOWERSWATSON.COM

XPS Pensions Group

XPS Pensions Group plc is the largest purely pension consulting and administration firm in the UK. We are the only listed pensions specialist in the UK and we are 100% focused on the UK pensions market. This is a combination that no other consultancy or pension administrator in the UK is able to match.

We offer a challenging career and stimulating work within a professional, friendly and sociable environment and our clients come from a broad spectrum of UK businesses.

We are fully committed to ensuring that all our employees, clients, suppliers and job applicants are treated fairly and with respect, irrespective of their actual or assumed background including gender, sexual orientation, marital status, age, race, religion/belief or disability. This we do to ensure a working environment in which people are able to give of their best free from harassment, discrimination or bullying.

Our services

XPS has the capacity to advise and administer the largest schemes in the country, and the responsiveness to deliver a bespoke service for all clients. And as a plc with a clear and straightforward commitment to the industry, we are here for the long term. Our business employs over 1200 people in 15 locations across the UK, giving our clients a valuable mix of local insight and national oversight.

Our approach is to remove jargon and provide clients with the access to the latest technology, so they can monitor scheme funding in real time, test scenarios and manage the range of pension scheme risks they face. This enables our clients to make the best decisions and act quickly and efficiently.

Professional development

We offer generous study leave and pay for course notes, annual subscriptions and examinations. Actuarial students are assigned a mentor, who is normally a newly qualified actuary, to support them in their studies. Career planning and personal development are assisted by an in-house appraisal system which applies to all employees.

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
1,200 group wide

No. of Qualified Actuaries
237

No. of Trainee Actuaries
118

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered

- ✔ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✔ PLACEMENTS
- ✔ SCHOOL LEAVER SCHEMES

No. of Graduate Jobs
10+

No. of Undergraduate Opportunities
Varies

No. of School Leaver Opportunities
Varies

Disciplines Recruited From
Actuarial, Pensions, Investment

Office Locations
Nationwide

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk

TRAINEE PROFILE

NAME	Rachel Trickett
LOCATION	Leeds
UNIVERSITY	Nottingham
DEGREE	BSc Mathematics
ROLE	Qualified Actuarial Consultant

My degree

My degree in Mathematics opened my eyes to just how many different career paths were available to me. I always knew that my strength was with the application of numbers to real life scenarios.

Until my second year of university, I didn't know what an actuary was, never mind what the job role entailed, but as soon as I researched more about it, and met various employers at careers fairs, I knew it was the perfect career choice for me.

Choosing XPS Pensions Group

I knew XPS Pensions Group was the company I wanted to work for as soon as I attended the assessment centre. It was different to any others I had attended, and was so personable; I knew it was a company I could see myself fitting in with from the start. The tasks included in the assessment centre were challenging, whilst also retaining your interest, most of which made you think outside the box and work as part of a team in order to reach a conclusion.

My job

As clichéd as it may sound, I have genuinely learnt something new every day during the four years I have been at XPS Pensions Group.

Right from the start, I have always been given a wide range of tasks, and been involved in client team discussions, enabling me to communicate with senior members of staff from the outset.

Professional development at XPS Pensions Group

Training is a key part of my life at XPS Pensions Group. There are always opportunities to attend internal training sessions on various topics, including 'hot topics' currently being reported in the news.

The study package with XPS Pensions Group is excellent. It is very flexible to allow you to manage your time effectively and enable you to progress at your own pace through the exams.

There are always people within the team who are responsible for the development of current processes and ensuring we are providing a service to our clients that is as efficient as possible – there is always the opportunity to have input in the way these are developed, as these processes need testing with the feedback relayed to the rest of the team.

Life at XPS Pensions Group

Ever since I joined XPS Pensions Group I have felt part of a welcoming team. There is support in every area, including the initial pressures of balancing work and study time. To help balance this out, there are always a variety of social events; more recent events include wine tasting, pool evenings and playing foot-golf.

I'm looking forward to developing my career at XPS Pensions Group with the knowledge that I am being supported all the way – I would highly recommend working at XPS Pensions Group to anyone wanting to start their career as an Actuary. ●

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UK's specialist actuarial job board

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ZURICH

If you're looking for a challenging, dynamic work environment where your creativity, innovation and determination is rewarded and recognized, work with us.

Zurich's graduate programmes offer you an opportunity to join a global company that has a real desire to make a difference to our customers, whilst developing new technologies to help them protect what they love most.

Our programmes are designed for candidates who have the drive and enthusiasm to innovate the future of Zurich. A graduate role with Zurich gives you a real job, with real responsibility from day one. You'll also enjoy all the training, support and opportunities you need to put you well on the way to a successful career with us.

One of our major focuses is on our people and culture where we have a desire to make a difference to our customers and the communities in which we work.

Our diversity and inclusion initiatives are shaping an environment where everyone feels welcome, regardless of age, gender, religion, culture, sexual orientation or mental health status. Our approach ensures that Zurich is a place that values different opinions, respects personal needs, and provides equal opportunities for all.

Zurich is passionate about supporting employees to help others by getting involved in volunteering, charitable and community activity through the Zurich Community Trust.

Why Zurich?
We are one of the world's largest insurance groups, and one of the few to operate on a truly global basis. Our mission is to help our customers understand and protect themselves from risk.

With over 55,000 employees serving customers in more than 170 countries, we aspire to become the best global insurer as measured by our shareholders, customers and employees.

EMPLOYEE NUMBERS

No. of Employees
55,000

No. of Qualified Actuaries
36

No. of Part-Qualified Actuaries
15

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities Offered
- ✔ GRADUATE JOBS
- ✔ INTERNSHIPS
- ✔ SCHOOL LEAVER SCHEMES

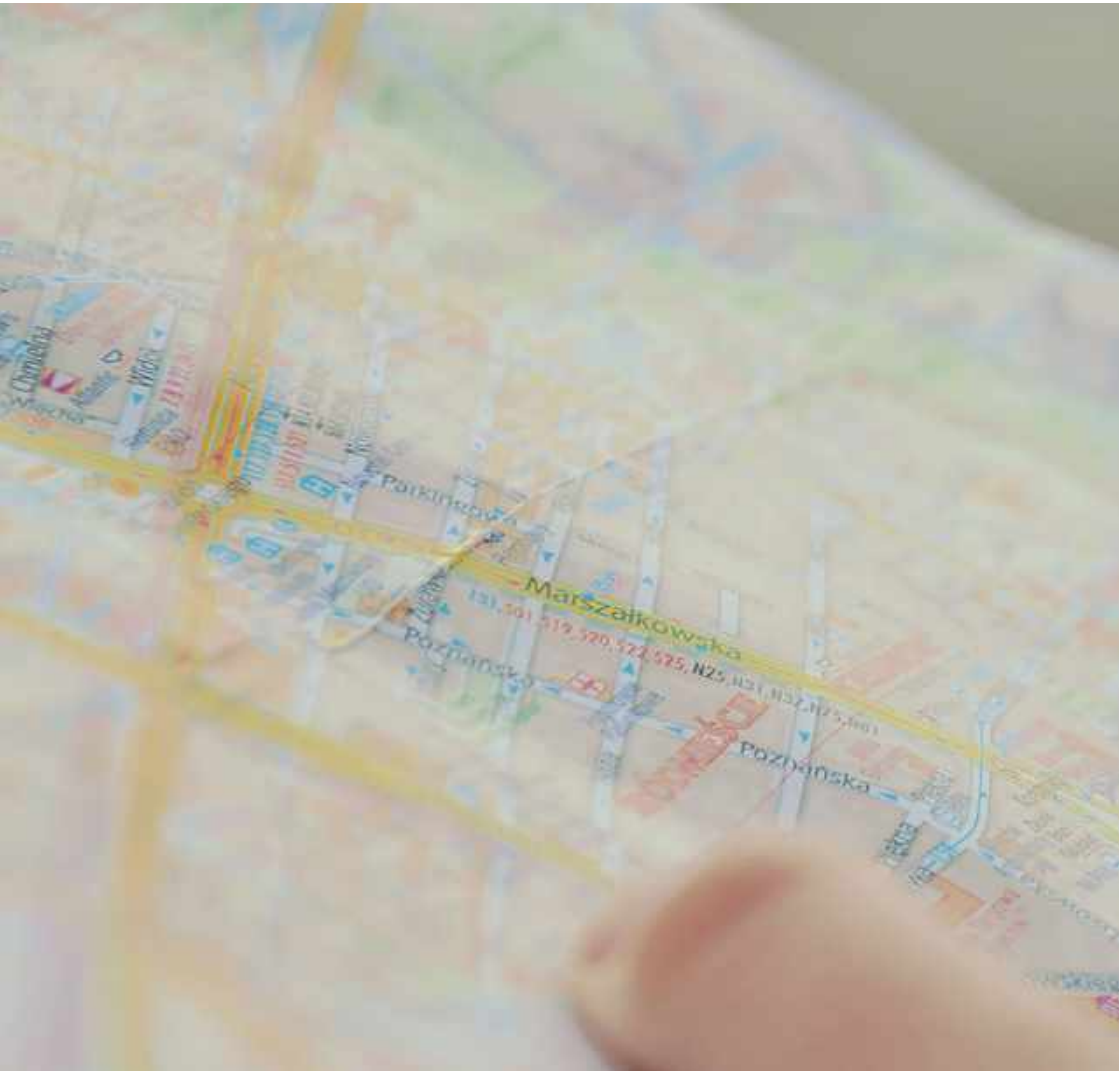
No. of Graduate Jobs
25

No. of Undergraduate Opportunities
c.30

No. of School Leaver Opportunities
Varies

Office Locations
Fareham, Swindon, Birmingham, London, Glasgow and Farnborough

For the latest jobs visit www.actuarialcareers.co.uk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JOB FINDER

Provides summary information on employers recruiting trainee actuaries.

Company	No. of Employees	No. of Qualified Actuaries	No. of Trainees	OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED					No. of Graduate Jobs	No. of Undergradaute Opportunities	No. of School Leaver Opportunities	Further Information (page)
				Gradaute Jobs	Placements	Internships	Insights	School Leaver Schemes				
Allianz	4,200	20	15	●	●	●	●	–	5	5	–	87
AON	50,000	c.400	–	●	●	●	–	●	80	80	Varies	88
APR	55	13	35	●	–	–	●	●	5-7	–	2-4	90
AXA	Over 160,000	30	40	●	–	–	–	–	Varies	–	–	92
BARNETT WADDINGHAM	Over 1,200	Over 140	120	●	–	●	●	●	25-30	20-25	20-25	94
BUCK	610 (in UK)	65	58	●	●	●	–	–	Varies	Varies	–	96
Bupa	83,000 worldwide	32 (in UK)	15 (in UK)	●	●	–	–	–	3	6	–	97

Company	No. of Employees	No. of Qualified Actuaries	No. of Trainees	OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED					No. of Graduate Jobs	No. of Undergradaute Opportunities	No. of School Leaver Opportunities	Further Information (page)
				Gradaute Jobs	Placements	Internships	Insights	School Leaver Schemes				
Canada Life	c.1,500	Approx. 58	Approx. 50	●	–	–	–	–	c.4	–	–	98
CAPITA	63,000+	20	41	●	–	●	–	–	3-5	4-6	–	99
EY	284,000 worldwide	–	–	●	●	●	–	●	850	350	Varies	100
first actuarial	325	59	66	●	–	●	–	–	5-10	5-10	–	101
FIS	55,000+	–	–	●	–	–	–	–	5-10	–	–	103
Government Actuary's Department	190	100	40	●	●	–	–	–	5-10	1-3	–	104
Grant Thornton	4,500	–	759	●	●	●	–	●	300-350	80-100	300-350	108

Company	No. of Employees	No. of Qualified Actuaries	No. of Trainees	OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED					No. of Graduate Jobs	No. of Undergradaute Opportunities	No. of School Leaver Opportunities	Further Information (page)
				Gradaute Jobs	Placements	Internships	Insights	School Leaver Schemes				
HISCOX	3,140	25	35	●	–	●	–	–	4	12	–	109
HYMANS ROBERTSON	892	155	129	●	●	●	●	–	20+	20+	–	110
JUST. RETHINK RETIREMENT	c.1,100	c.35	c.60	●	●	●	–	●	3-8	6-10	Varies	113
LCP INSIGHT CLARITY ADVICE	600+	181	94	●	–	●	–	–	c.35	c.35	–	114
Legal & General	8,000+	250+	120+	●	●	●	–	–	12-20 annually	Varies	–	116
MERCER	25,000	400 (UK)	–	●	●	●	–	●	30-40	Varies	Varies	119
PACIFIC LIFE RE	700 globally	–	–	●	–	●	–	–	Up to 10	Varies	–	120

Company	No. of Employees	No. of Qualified Actuaries	No. of Trainees	OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED					No. of Graduate Jobs	No. of Undergradaute Opportunities	No. of School Leaver Opportunities	Further Information (page)
				Gradaute Jobs	Placements	Internships	Insights	School Leaver Schemes				
QUANTUM ADVISORY	120+	17	7	●	–	–	–	–	Varies	–	–	122
REDINGTON	180	9	6	●	–	●	●	–	10-12	10-12	–	124
RSA	12,370	40	c.150	●	–	●	–	–	3	Varies	–	126
SPENCE	179	20	14	●	●	–	–	–	5	1-2	–	128
Willis Towers Watson	45,000	c.570	c.410	●	●	●	●	●	See Website	See Website	See Website	130
XPS Pensions Group	1,200 group wide	237	118	●	●	–	–	●	10+	Varies	Varies	132
ZURICH	55,000	36	–	●	–	●	–	●	25	c.30	Varies	135

NOTES

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We have consulting & broking opportunities for graduates, interns and apprentices available in Actuarial, Investment, Insurance & Reinsurance, Employee Benefits, Insurance Strategy, Reward & Remuneration, Talent & Employee Engagement and Cybersecurity.

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Olauria,
Aon Graduate