



Certified Actuarial Analyst

Institute and Faculty
of Actuaries

A CAA Journey

by **Georgina Jenkins, Institute and Faculty of Actuaries**



Ewa Burdon

Role: Senior Actuarial Analyst

Employer: QBE

Location: London, UK

Ewa gained an MSc in Mathematics before going on to become part-qualified actuary in her native Poland. On moving to the UK she became a student member of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA).

“I was particularly
interested in the fact
that I could use my
passed exams as
exemptions”

Georgina Jenkins is the Careers Marketing Leader at the IFoA and can offer support and guidance to anyone wishing to pursue CAA.

georgina.jenkins@actuaries.org.uk

This week I met with Ewa Burdon, one of the first to pass the Certified Actuarial Analyst (CAA) exams.

It was a chance for me to congratulate Ewa on her success and she talked me through her journey to her professional qualification.

Georgina: Tell me where your journey started?

Ewa: On becoming a student member of the IFoA I was only able to gain one exemption from exams which was a bit deflating having studied for so long in Poland. I began sitting the IFoA exams but after a while life took over, my priorities changed, I had two children and my employer wanted me to succeed in my role and progress in my career, my actuarial exams soon took a back seat. If I'm honest I got a bit bored of pursuing the full fellowship qualification and focused my attention on my career and family.

G: What do you do at QBE?

E: I work in a development role within the actuarial team. I develop, implement and improve models, tools and processes for my actuarial colleagues. My role really plays to my strengths – statistics and probability, this is what I am particularly good at.

G: How did you hear about CAA?

E: I received an email from the IFoA detailing this new qualification – I was particularly interested in the fact that I could use my passed exams as exemptions. I did a bit more research and discovered I was exempt from five of the six exams.

I took the 6th exam from home and passed! I now just need to submit my work based skills, which I have been keeping a log of and will then, finally, have a professional UK qualification.

G: That is wonderful, congratulations! What does that mean for you?

E: It means I now don't have to provide proof of what I can do at interviews, it means I have closure and don't have an incomplete qualification hanging over my head and that I now have a professional qualification – it's great!

It's given me the confidence to perhaps, in the future, to look at other jobs with a renewed confidence and I would certainly recommend to colleagues in a similar position to apply for CAA.

What does Ewa's manager Damian at QBE have to say?:

Ewa is such an asset to the team, she provides all the important statistical work which is the backbone to our work as a department. It's great that Ewa has been able to achieve this qualification which just reinforces our confidence in her abilities and talent in actuarial work.