

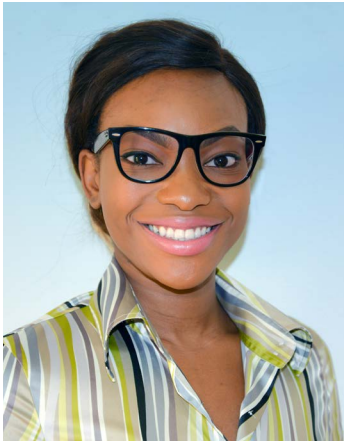


Certified Actuarial Analyst

Institute and Faculty
of Actuaries

From IT to CAA

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



Halima Michelle Sadiq

Role: Risk Application Manager

Employer: Zurich Insurance

Halima has a degree in computer science but with a passion for maths found herself enjoying working as part of an actuarial team .

"I call myself an 'IT Actuary'!
I make sure the IT programs
and systems are in place
for my actuarial colleagues
to do their jobs. The CAA
qualification means that I
can now also "speak actuarial"
to my colleagues and support
them in their roles"

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

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After the initial flush of delight at seeing her name in *The Times* newspaper pass list, I grabbed a moment with Halima to chat with one of the first newly qualified Certified Actuarial Analyst's.

Halima talked me through her journey to her professional qualification.

Georgina: Tell me how you got to this point?

Halima: I studied computer science at university and on graduating worked at Lehman Brothers in IT. Following a move to Zurich Insurance I started in the actuarial team, helping with incident and change management and software development - it was here that I discovered actuarial work and was hooked. My employer offered to support me through the IFoA's core technical exams which I passed with ease, I enjoyed studying for the exams but I was keen to remain in the IT area of business rather than move fully into the actuarial side of things, so sitting all of the IFoA exams was not in the forefront of my mind.

G: How did you hear about CAA?

H: 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. The option to qualify with this professional qualification seemed a perfect fit for me and my employer was supportive.

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

H: I believe CAA makes me stand out in the IT Insurance job market – where employers were not looking for a fully qualified actuary to manage their actuarial IT systems but someone with an IT background and a good understanding of actuarial work, the CAA meant I have the qualification to demonstrate this understanding.

G: What do you think CAA offers young people wanting to work in the finance sector?

H: The CAA will suit anyone from any background that wants to get into an analytical or actuarial role. By passing 3 or 4 exams you will be ahead of the competition as you demonstrate you have knowledge and language required to work in a support role. I think it's a great professional qualification and I would recommend it to anyone wanting to get a taster of actuarial work.