



## Volunteers' experiences

*"As well as the warm glow I get from seeing students I've advised achieve their career goals, being a career ambassador has been fantastic for my personal development."*



An IFoA Member  
Engagement Profile

## A view from a volunteer: Lloyd Richards



**Lloyd is a Fellow of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA), and works in London for Crowe Horwath Global Risk Consulting. Lloyd began volunteering for the IFoA when he was a student member and has continued to fulfil the role of Career Ambassador ever since. He is also a member of the IFoA's Data Visualisation Working Party.**

### The experience of a volunteer Career Ambassador

"I have been a volunteer Career Ambassador for the IFoA for six years, ever since my time as a junior student actuary. Back then my volunteering was mostly about engaging with school and university students to help them understand how to enter the profession, the different types of companies you can work for, and how you can possibly cope with another six years of exams after graduation.

Now I am qualified I also advise people more advanced in their careers who need an ambassador's help; people who are considering a career change or having exam troubles are the most common. I still talk to schools and universities, and have made some lasting connections with some that have led to additional volunteering opportunities, including tutoring GCSE maths to disadvantaged students (a real lesson for me in how little I remember of GCSEs) and guest-lecturing at universities.

### Time commitment

The time commitment is really as much as you want to put in. Opportunities are offered to all career ambassadors who can choose those they are most able to help. During busy periods I might go months without picking anything up whereas at other times I'll talk to someone every week. After a few years in the role, you tend to be contacted directly by people you have helped, and I always try to make time for a student who followed my advice but is still struggling in interviews, or a school that wants me to talk to their next wave of students. Only recently, a school asked me to return after a student whom I had spoken with a few years earlier landed a place at Southampton to study Actuarial Science.

### Assisting my LifeLong Learning

As well as the warm glow I get from seeing students I've advised achieve their career goals, being a career ambassador has been fantastic for my personal development. It's a common stereotype that actuaries are poor presenters who mumble and struggle to engage their audience, but by the time I was ready to stand up and present in a client's boardroom I had lost count of the number of lecture theatres and classrooms I had presented in. By refining my presentation style each time, learning from others



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I was presenting with, and asking for feedback from some remarkably candid students, I lost all nervousness presenting to audiences – a huge help for any consultant!

It can be both fun and challenging to be the first face many students see of the actuarial profession. I really enjoy doing something that is a little bit different to my day-to-day role and that gives me a chance to meet interesting and driven people and hopefully offer them a little bit of useful insight.”



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To get involved in volunteering for the IFoA visit:  
[www.actuaries.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering-ifo](http://www.actuaries.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering-ifo)