



Institute
and Faculty
of Actuaries

Volunteers' experiences

"As a newly qualified actuary, I feel I better understand the professional body I am part of, my career as an actuary, and the prospects it entails, because of my volunteering roles."



An IFoA Member
Engagement Profile

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A view from a volunteer:

Josephine Robertson



Josephine is a Fellow of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA), and is a CERA qualified R&D Actuary at Pacific Life Re, Europe. Josephine has a keen interest in the continued learning and development of the profession; volunteering as Vice Chair and member of the Momentum Committee for two years and SIAS regional society as Programme Convenor. In addition, she has volunteered with the Digital Volunteer Group and supported the IFoA's education teams including as member of the Student Consultative Forum. Josephine is now seeking additional volunteering roles and has started to volunteer with the Worshipful Company of Actuaries Committee.

The experience of a 'younger member'

"The term younger member is funny; at what age do you become an 'older member'?! However, being a member of the profession with less years of experience did not prevent me feeling I could volunteer and provide a valuable contribution to my professional body. I started volunteering in my second year of membership and have enjoyed all roles held. I would encourage others to get involved as I have found volunteering to be a rewarding opportunity.

Time commitment and knowledge base

For members still undergoing qualification it can seem daunting to add any extra time commitments. However, there are volunteer roles that can be undertaken which require few additional hours. Your employer may support volunteering during working hours, or may not, but considering the study time undertaken outside of study days, adding an extra hour or so to further your career in a different way seems small in comparison.

For less experienced members, if it seems you do not yet have anything fruitful in your knowledge base to contribute to a volunteering role - it is worth reconsidering. The IFoA may be seeking a student's view point - or a nearly or newly qualified member to talk at a school careers event. The best advice I had was to put yourself forward and let the working party Chair or the selection panel decide. If you do not get the role, it's not personal - it comes down to relevant experience and the number of applicants. Keep applying to those volunteering roles that are of interest to you and that you can commit to.

Why I volunteer?

Volunteering offers great opportunities to better understand the professional body that you are a member of. The IFoA, and each regional society, offer an opportunity for you to meet fellow actuaries and students, to learn across practices and wider fields, to hear new view points and to have your own constructively challenged. Volunteering also provides opportunities to work on personal objectives, for example establishing a network, speaking publicly, learning how to chair meetings or simply giving back. These are all opportunities to develop and learn. As a newly qualified actuary, I feel I better understand the professional body I am part of, my career as an actuary, and the prospects it entails, because of my volunteering roles."

To get involved in volunteering for the IFoA visit:
www.actuaries.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering-ifo

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