



Volunteers' experiences

"I would advise any students thinking of volunteering to just do it! It will open a door to something different and it is not as difficult as it may seem."

A view from a volunteer: Heting Yang



Heting Yang is a student of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA) based in New Zealand, where he works for Sovereign Assurance as a Senior Actuarial Analyst.

Heting started volunteering for the IFoA shortly after joining, as a member of the Global Student Consultative Forum and the Data Science Conference Programme Committee 2018/2019.

The experience of a student member

Being a student member, it can be hard to balance work, study and volunteering. However, I did not want to be a member simply sitting the exams. It was important to me to contribute and be involved, at least in the aspects that I am interested in.

The importance of feedback

As a Global Student Consultative Forum Representative, I helped spread the request for IFoA exam feedback and reported back to the committee for discussion. Being a regional representative is one of the most impactful ways to contribute to the profession and make positive change. The IFoA has six global forums to ensure that members can have a say, no matter where they are located in the world.

Data Science and its potential for Actuaries

Data science holds huge potential for changing the way in which actuaries work and being involved in the conference programme committee, I was enlightened by the angle of approach to data science as a pre-emptive and preventative tool rather than simply analysing and predicting possible results. In addition, getting to know people who share a common interest in applying actuarial techniques in non-traditional fields encouraged me to explore more cutting-edge data analytics skills.

For the Data Science Conference Programme Committee 2018/2019, I was involved with reviewing paper submissions for both the physical and virtual events. Working alongside other committee members was very helpful, and with guidance from more experienced committee members I developed my skills in reviewing a submission from different perspectives: inclusion of different actuarial practices, possible level of audience interest, etc. With support from the IFoA Events team and IFoA Executive support it made me realise that I do not have to be the best event organiser to put my name down to help. One can grow in the process of simply stepping up and doing.

Balancing, work, study and volunteering

It can be challenging to find time to study; however, balancing work and volunteering was not as difficult as it seemed.



An IFoA Member
Engagement Profile



Institute
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A good start is halfway to success but actually starting itself is already good enough.



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