



Institute
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of Actuaries

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IFoA Buddy System

The Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA) is delighted to announce the trial of an “IFoA Buddy System”. The introduction of this new service will be facilitated by the IFoA and it aims to provide IFoA members with access to experienced [qualified] IFoA members who are willing to share their thoughts and experiences, and have a conversation, with other members, around the globe.

Fellow, Matthew Pearlman said:

“Some of the most rewarding moments of my career have come from being able to help someone else move forward in their own personal journey as an actuary. I am therefore very pleased that the IFoA is setting up a new buddy system and I would encourage you to take part in this, not only to help more junior members of the profession, but also to help in your own personal development.”

How it will work

We are looking for qualified actuaries who would be willing to volunteer to take part in this trial and who would like to volunteer to share some of their experience to help other members of the profession. Our new buddy system will offer the opportunity for members to get in touch with other members if they are looking for an independent person to talk to about career choices, professional, or other issues.

Please note: Initially we are trialling this in the general insurance, finance and investment, and risk areas. If this is successful we will expand this to all practice areas.

The service is entirely free and is based on members volunteering to provide this support. You should be aware that the IFoA does not monitor this service. Any views expressed or advice, recommendations or guidance given by members via this service are not reviewed or endorsed by the IFoA.

This new service will complement existing IFoA initiatives, such as:

- [The Professional Support Service](#)
- [Female Actuary Mentoring Scheme](#)
- [The Diversity Advisory Group Back To Work Mentoring Scheme](#)
- [Careers Advice](#)

Key points

For Members wishing to make use of this service:

Once operational (from June 2018) any member of the IFoA will be able to access a list of qualified members (the buddies) who are happy to hear from other members. Members will need to login to view this list in the Members’ area of the website. This list will initially contain the following information for each Buddy:

- Name
- Geographic Location

- Email Address
- Practice area (i.e. General Insurance, Finance and Investment, and/or Risk Management)

For qualified members willing to volunteer to act as a “buddy”

If you are a qualified member of the IFoA please volunteer to join the list of “buddies”. Please note:

- You will provide an avenue for another member to contact you and to arrange to meet/talk on a 1-2-1 basis with you
- Discussions may include long-term development goals, short-term career issues, sharing insights from experience
- By volunteering to get involved, you will be happy for your details to be shared with all members of the IFoA, via the members’ area of the website and you will respond to any requests that you receive.

We hope this connection and conversation will be beneficial to both sides, and that you too will gain insight from the discussions.

In particular, the General Insurance community believe that there is a particular need for this in the field of general insurance because members are sometimes the only, or one of few, actuaries in an organisation, and may not readily have access to a more senior actuary. This is, of course, also relevant to all members and also particularly for those working in wider fields; or as self employed contractors where they may move employer on a regular basis.

Location is not a barrier, indeed we are keen to hear from qualified members around the globe.

Providing feedback

To allow us to see how this is working in practice and to allow us to support you, we will ask for some feedback from time to time. We will adapt this request to suit you as much as we can and it will be as non-onerous as possible.

If your circumstances change, or you receive too many requests

If you volunteer to become a buddy you can, of course, step down at any time. Please contact us as soon as possible if you find yourself in this situation, and we will remove your name from the list (even on a temporary basis) at the earliest opportunity. You should contact [Debbie Atkins](#), Head of Engagement.

Disclaimer

This service is facilitated by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA). Other than facilitating this informal support and discussion amongst members, the IFoA plays no role in how the service operates, i.e. the IFoA does not oversee how, where and when members meet and does not monitor and/or endorse the advice, guidance or recommendations that may be given by any member, or the processes or procedures that any member suggests. Nor is the IFoA responsible for the availability of, or follow up by, members to members. The IFoA accept no liability (to the fullest extent permitted by law) for any loss, damage, or inconvenience arising as a result of a member’s use of this service. The IFoA reserves the right at its sole discretion to exclude members from using this service if the IFoA considers that a member’s use is not in keeping with the purpose for which the service is provided.

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