



Volunteers' experiences

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A view from a volunteer: Barbara Fewkes



"I first volunteered with the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA) in 2010 when I joined the Pensions Conference Programme Committee, having been approached at the 2010 conference at Celtic Manor. I won't deny that at first it was rather daunting – I was unaware of who many of the suggested plenary speakers were and there was much internet research required on my part! However, undeterred, and following a very successful conference in 2011, I stayed on the Conference Programme Committee for 2012."

The experience of a volunteer working in Pensions

"Having been bitten by the volunteering bug, I then joined the Pensions Education and CPD (ECPD) Sub-committee, responsible for the design, management and delivery of CPD for pensions actuaries. This sub-committee consists of a diverse group of actuaries (and non-actuaries) allowing us to consider and provide a broad range of topics at our CPD events. I am passionate about providing quality CPD for members and am honoured to now Chair the ECPD Sub-committee.

I also sit on the Pensions Board – another daunting experience as I initially thought this was only for those actuaries with more years under their belt than me. I was wrong. The Pensions Board have been incredibly welcoming and, whilst at first I may have been a little lost with the jargon on the various workings within the profession, I have now found my feet with the help of the Board members and support staff.

The ECPD sub-committee this year (2018) have been responsible for the design and content of the annual IFoA Pensions Conference. Having listened to member feedback, we decided to try something new this year and ran the event as a one and a half day conference with a dinner on the opening evening. Being able to change the format of events and take on board the feedback of IFoA members is important to me and I have been delighted to work with the sub-committee members and the IFoA events team to put together such a successful event.

The main highlight of volunteering for me has been meeting and interacting with such a broad range of individuals. These have included countless other actuaries, as well as Executive staff, numerous high profile industry experts, and even politicians. I could never have imagined the huge list of connections that volunteering would generate for me.

I also mark CP3 (Communication) exams having previously marked CA3 for a number of years. This can be challenging at times with tight timescales but it is rewarding – being able to see the importance the IFoA places on the quality of the actuarial exams and the marking of them instills a great deal of confidence in the future of the profession and the actuaries starting out in their careers. I'm just glad I qualified quite some time ago now!



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Engagement Profile



Institute
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I thoroughly recommend volunteering with the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries. Don't be shy – you can give a lot of your time, or just a little. There will be an opportunity to suit you and you will definitely be made to feel welcome, regardless of your level of experience.”



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