

# Qualifying as an Actuary

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# Introduction – What I want to achieve from this presentation

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Demonstrate that.....

- We have a first rate education system
- It evolves over time
- It has responded to Morris
- It integrates universities more thoroughly
- It responds to stakeholder needs

.....and that we are proud of our achievements

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# Education role in 3 parts

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- Preparing qualified actuaries who are “fit for purpose”
  - recruit appropriate “share of talent”
  - qualify the right people
- Maintaining standards
  - benchmarking – against Society of Actuaries (US)
  - leading international qualification – half new trainees from overseas
- Developing system for the future
  - develop syllabus with wide consultation
  - appropriate skill sets

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# Factors influencing developments in actuarial education - 1

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- Broadening range of roles for actuaries – promoting the Associate Grade
- Pace of change – syllabus updates eg: to reflect longevity and mortality developments
- Competition for bright students – stronger university links
- Globalisation of actuarial profession – IAA links
- Increased work pressure on trainees – learning to work (WBS)

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# Factors influencing developments in actuarial education - 2

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- Maintain standards – international benchmarking
- Reduce time to qualify – accrediting universities
- Increase outside influence on syllabus – input from universities
- Need to attract ‘share of talent’ – careers function
- On-line learning and assessment possibilities

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# Size of System – April 2011 Session

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- 26 exams of which students need 15 to qualify
- 11,256 entries from 7,622 students (out of 10,000 registered students)
- 135 exam centres in 69 countries used (from a total of 182 centres)
- 80 volunteer Examiners who set papers in teams
- 160 volunteer Markers involved in double blind marking each paper
- 338 passed exams to qualify as Fellows
- 29 attained CERA via ST9 (ERM)
- 80 non-members passed CT1 (Financial Mathematics)  
(out of 211 sitting)

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# How we examine fitness for purpose

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- Core Technical – 9 subjects inc 2 day Business Awareness course (with on-line version for overseas)
- Core Applications – 3 subjects inc 2 day Modelling course (with on-line version for overseas) and a Communications module
- Specialist Technical – 2 from 8 subjects
- Specialist Applications – 1 from 6 subjects
- Alternative routes at ST and SA level
- UK Practice Modules
- 3 years' experience + Work Based Skills (Learning Log)

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# Standards

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- **Principles**

- (i) candidates have equal likelihood of passing at each diet and with each marker
- (ii) standards are maintained
  - over time
  - between alternative routes

- **Skill sets**

- qualifications on entry
- development of knowledge and skills
- defining abilities at qualification as Associate and Fellow using skill sets
- post qualification skill development – CPD / Professionalism requirements

- **Governance**

- Actuaries Code
- links to PREC



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# The Board of Examiners

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- Responsible to:
  - Councils and Qualifications Executive Committee
- Responsible for:
  - Setting the examination papers
  - Marking them
  - Agreeing a pass list
  - Preparing a report for candidates on the results
- Works with Director of Education and the Registry in Oxford

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# How is consistency achieved?

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- Training day for examiners
- On the job experience
- Post examination meeting
- Detailed marking schedules
- Double marking of all scripts
- Standardisation of marks
- Discussion of unusual points
- Third / fourth marking of border line scripts

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# Working with Universities – Accreditation

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- Currently 14 Accredited Universities
- Broader range of courses now available, including part-time and distance learning courses
- Equivalence – more scope for universities' expertise in teaching, learning and assessment
- Monitoring – by Independent Examiners, Staff Actuaries, employers, students
- Tracking of subsequent progress with Profession's exams

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# CERA (Chartered Enterprise Risk Actuary)

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- 14 International associations signed Treaty in 2009
- UK CERA qualification first to be validated for:
  - exam route
  - university route
- UK providing administration for CERA
- 15 other associations interested in joining
- Australia, South Africa, CAS (US) and Holland now validated
- France and Germany currently being validated

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# Other developments

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High level review of qualification process 5 years on from Morris covering:

- 1) Role of universities
- 2) Future needs of actuaries – impact on syllabus
- 3) Role of Associate and other intermediate qualifications
- 4) International strategy
- 5) Use of volunteer examiners
- 6) More use of computer based testing?
- 7) Simplify processes

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# Any questions?

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