

Managing your career progression & the current job market for recent qualifiers

Jenny Johnston Acumen Resources, Ireland 29/03/2012

Agenda



- Professional image and networking
- Planning a successful career path
- Tips for maintaining your CV and interviewing well
- The general job market in Ireland currently
- Mobility between the various actuarial practice areas

Professional Image & networking



- Avoid social media?
- What can you do?
 - Join a committee
 - Attend CPD meetings
 - Ask a Question
 - Give a Presentation
 - Read!
 - Well presented



Planning for success



- 1. Identify career objectives early
- 2. Understand your priorities, motivations & strengths
- 3. Changing roles or employer
 - When?
 - Why?
 - Unhappy
 - Poor/limited experience
 - Limited Opportunities
 - Salary & benefits
 - Location & travel
 - Redundancy



CV Presentation



 "I am a qualified Life actuary with 5 years post qualification Pricing experience. I am a committed and rigorous person who dedicates themselves to every task. I am a self starter and results driven. I seek a challenging position in a progressive company with opportunities for advancement."



CV Presentation



- Where did you add value, quantify?
- Clear & concise
- Tailor your CV
- Use explicit action words
- Show progression of experience & skills

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"Any other people skills, besides 400 Facebook friends?"

Skills chart

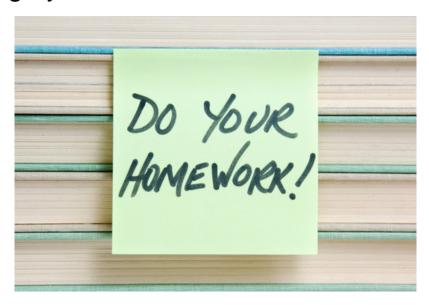


Financial modelling skills	Communication skills	Organisational skills
Risk modelling Cashflow modelling Statistical modelling Data modelling	Verbal skills Written skills Facilitation skills Presentation skills Negotiation skills	Time management Project management Attention to detail
Analytical skills	Client relationship skills	Managerial skills
Problem-solving Financial analysis Strategic analysis Operational analysis	2 ears, 1 mouth approach Professionalism Understand their needs Manage their expectations	Delegation Man management Team working
Technical knowledge skills	Business development skills	Motivational skills
Legislative knowledge Regulatory knowledge European directives Irish taxation law International taxation law	Sales Marketing Business retention	Innovation Assertiveness Enthusiasm Self-starter

Interview Preparation



- Research:
 - Company
 - Role
 - Interviewer (if you can)
- Read, understand and repeat the job description
- Prepare your key message
- State the obvious, take them through your CV
- Be yourself



Opportunities in Ireland



- Demand from:
 - Solvency II
 - Risk Management/ERM
 - Capital modelling
 - Regulators
- Increased opportunities:
 - Consulting
 - Reinsurance
 - Contract work



Mobility between practice areas



- Risk Management Actuary
- Responsibilities:
 - Provide an independent, integrated and transparent view and assessment of risks across the company
 - Assure consistent standards and proper governance
 - Participate in management of key risks (particularly credit and market)
 - Recommend risk appetite and risk limits
 - Develop and maintain Economic Capital models
 - Risk tolerance is well defined and actively managed.

Risk Management Actuary



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Essential

- Ability to work in a multi-disciplinary team and explain technical actuarial issues in non-technical language.
- Ability to understand complex problems and provide accurate results / make recommendations within agreed timescales.
- Willingness to challenge and influence other team members and colleagues.
- An understanding of modelling software
- Excellent communications skills





Sheila Harney

Graduated, Heriot-Watt '08; Qualified '10

Towers Watson, Pension Consulting '08 – '11

Towers Watson, Life Consulting '11 -

Louis Hui

Graduated, UCD BAFS '08 Towers Watson, Life Consulting '08 – '11

Hannover Re, Non Life Reinsurance '11 –

Eoin King

Graduated, UCD BAFS '06; Qualified '10

Irish Life, Actuarial Pricing

 $60^{\circ} - 60^{\circ}$

Milliman, Life Consulting

'08 -

Emmet Leahy

Graduated, UCC '06; Qualified '09

Mercer, Retirement Analyst

'06 – '07

Mercer, Investment Analyst

'07 - '09 (travelling)

Mercer, Investment Management

'10 -

Summary



- Be aware of your professional image
- Think about your career early
- Consider what is most important to you
- Take time preparing your CV and for your Interview
- It's a great time to be an Actuary...

