

Actuaries Abroad

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Actuaries Around the World

- Actuaries practice in most countries around the world
- As in the U.S. work in areas of
 - Life Insurance
 - Property & Casualty (Non-Life, General) Insurance
 - Pensions
 - Health Insurance
- Degree of involvement in particular area depends on maturity of the insurance market and regulation
- Actuaries also work in banking, utilities, Google, and other places

Insurance Market and Regulation

- North America, Europe (including the UK), Australia, Japan, Singapore and some other places generally have a mature insurance markets
 - Broad actuarial involvement in insurance management
 - Insurance products can be complex and need specialized analysis provided by actuaries
- Other areas may have less mature market
- Just about all jurisdictions have some sort of financial regulation of insurers
- Regulation is often the reason an insurer hires its first actuary

Insurance Markets

- Life insurance often a savings mechanism so may not require an developed economy
- Non-life insurance covers property and liability for damages
 - Property requires protects owner of property
 - Liability insurance protects other assets
- In undeveloped economies property ownership is often limited to sources of production (land, animals, etc.) so agricultural insurance more likely and “usual” covers less needed

Becoming an Actuary

- Different in different parts of the world
- In the U.S. the major credentialing organizations are all primarily examination based (some credits for college classes in VEE)
- In Canada membership in the CIA open to members of CAS, IFoA, and SoA with Canadian experience and passing a Canadian-specific examination.
- Now CIA offers credits for certain preliminary examinations for passing certain college courses at a sufficiently high grade. CAS accepts those waivers, SoA does not

Becoming an Actuary

- In contrast to the rest of North America to become an actuary one only needs an actuarial degree. Many Mexican actuaries work outside of “traditional” actuarial jobs
- Some Mexican actuarial organizations require a limited number of exams beyond degree for membership
- Much of South America as well as much of Europe depend almost exclusively on universities to qualify actuaries

Becoming an Actuary

- The UK, Australia, and South Africa are primarily examination based in qualification of actuaries.
- They all have waivers for certain examinations for passing certain college classes.
- SoA and CAS both have mutual recognition agreements with certain other actuarial organizations allowing Fellows of one to join as Fellows of the other with minimal additional requirements
- SoA and CAS also grant preliminary exam waivers for university credit from some other organizations

Becoming an Actuary

- The China Actuarial Association is the actuarial organization in China. Primarily examination based
- Taipei also exam based but takes CAS exams including Teipei-specific Part 6.
- Singapore Actuarial Society, as are many others is a “derivative” organization with membership open to members of major other societies such as CAS, IAAust, IFoA, and SoA.
- In general Fellowship in CAS, IFoA, SoA, or IAAust is deemed worldwide to satisfy most educational requirements to practice, though it often needs to be supplemented by local experience and knowledge

Working as an Actuary

- Often actuarial expertise is called upon in response to regulatory and market requirements
- Consider China as an example
 - Life insurance as a savings product has had a long history in China so life (actuarial) practice somewhat mature
 - Non-life insurance much more recent
 - Until relatively recently
 - Reserves were set by formula
 - Rates were government controlled
 - Result – little demand for actuarial talent
 - Actuaries often not recognized as management

Working as an Actuary

- More recent non-life market in China
- Mandatory motor (automobile) insurance
- Motor rates were mandated by the government now there is limited competition among insurers for insureds
- Reserve regulation no longer by formula
- Result is an increased recognition of the skills of the actuary

Working as an Actuary

- If you want flexibility where you work focus on the “gold standard” designations; CAS (for Non-Life), SoA or IFoA (for other disciplines)
- If you know where you want to stay and have less interest in mobility, check local actuarial organization and focus on qualification there
- Some regions (e.g. Singapore) have an oversupply of actuarial candidates, other SE Asia countries may have more opportunities
- An internship in country a good first step if available, if not look for actual position there

Working as an Actuary

- Actuarial employers interested in those wanting to do actuarial work, not those waiting till investment banking job market opens up
- Experience and talent in complementary areas (computer programming, data analytics, etc.) very helpful
- Language and communication skills important everywhere
- Be aware of cultural conditions. In some countries foreigners have much more difficulty succeeding than natives

Thanks

Questions?