

Samuel Dang

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How long have you worked at Pacific Life Re?

For just over two and a half years. Joining as an intern was interesting as the position I filled was exclusively advertised at what is somewhat of a "rival" university to mine in relation to actuarial studies. I was luckily able to weasel my way in and win over the hearts of the interviewers. The internship lasted the summer, then I was offered a flexible casual role whilst I finished the last year of my degree over 2018. I started as a full-time analyst in 2019 and things have been smooth sailing ever since.

What range of tasks would your role see you working on in a regular work day?

Experience monitoring (investigating how actual experience tracks to our expectations), client analytics projects, developing and improving analytics tools, and providing support to the Pricing team.

What do you look forward to when you come in to work each morning?

I really look forward to interacting with everyone. The culture at Pac Life Re is great, everyone is approachable, knowledgeable and there's a great diversity of thought. Managers are receptive to new or innovative ideas which really gives you an opportunity to contribute at all levels. Knowing that I'm able to contribute in this way and help build up the business has been super motivating for me.

What opportunities for development have you had in your career so far?

Even at the analyst level I've been given a lot of responsibility. This has allowed me to do some really interesting analysis and has developed my technical capabilities. Being trusted to take on such responsibilities also builds up your own sense of accountability and gives you a sense of pride when it comes to your work.

Pac Life Re also has a real sense of inclusion and encouragement of participation. This helps to contextualise your own work and the work of other teams, lending to a better understanding of the business, key concerns from management and strategic objectives. This helps to develop your own business sense and elevates your own level of thinking.

Lastly, there has been real encouragement from people across the business with regards to the actuarial exams post-university. There are internal study support groups, a wealth of intelligent people who are more than happy to help me translate the study material into practical application and who also encourage me to balance work and study. Seeing the practical application of what I'm learning has helped to retain the material and also close the gap between what I'm learning and the eventuating application - which has made my studies more interesting!

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