

Graduate Profiles

with Towers Watson

Benefits

Hadas

Bachelor of Commerce (Actuarial Studies) (Hons), University of Melbourne

How does Towers Watson support you as a graduate?

Towers Watson has offered great support for my actuarial exams, providing financial support and a generous number of study days. I have also been very well supported with my professional development with help to formulate career objectives and monitor progress. In this way, I've been able to put myself in the combined quantitative and qualitative role that I wanted, and have been able to seek out the specific jobs that I enjoy.

What does your role involve? What's your day to day schedule like?

I have had the opportunity to work on a variety of challenging projects. Some of the more traditional work I have been involved in includes actuarial valuations for funding and accounting purposes, co-ordination of the monthly practice meetings, and monitoring the financial position of many funds, which has been especially important during the financial crisis.

I have been very privileged to be heavily involved in a number of research projects investigating the interaction between population longevity, social security and income in retirement. This research has attracted a number of high profile client projects, requiring us to apply our research to the clients' particular situation. The work was also used in the client's submissions to the government for the various reviews of the tax and superannuation systems happening at the moment.

What's your favourite part of the work day?

My favourite part of the work day is first thing in the morning when you get to start a fresh piece of work. Needless to say, that task is much easier when you are always getting a friendly greeting from your coworkers on the way to the kitchen for your morning cup of coffee. The camaraderie in the office is a strong contributor to what makes every day at work very entertaining.

Brian

Bachelor of Commerce (Actuarial and Finance) and Masters of Actuarial Studies, University of New South Wales.

What was it about Towers Watson that first appealed to you? And now?

Towers Watson first appealed to me because of the talented people who work here and its reputation as a market leader. Now that I've been working here for a year, Towers Watson appeals to me because of all these reasons but also because of the great culture. The people I work with have really made my experience here that much more enjoyable—they are sociable and supportive. As an actuarial student they provided the guidance and advice that I needed to pass my Part III actuarial exams.

What do you do at Towers Watson?

I'm an analyst in the Benefits line of business and am involved in many different types of remuneration and superannuation projects.

What aspects do you look forward to in your role?

Working in a consulting company, I get to work on a wide variety of projects and clients which provide different challenges every day. This keeps me on my toes and makes work more interesting.

What did you study in Uni and how did it prepare you for working at Towers Watson?

A Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Actuarial and Finance, and a Masters of Actuarial Studies. My undergraduate studies provided the technical background required at Towers Watson while my masters gave me a broader understanding of the actuarial industry.

Snapshot



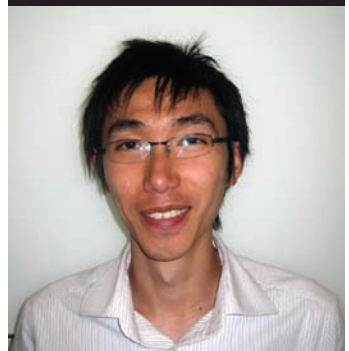
What do you look forward to when you leave work?

Dance class, play rehearsal or a good meal with friends.

Dream:

Living in a Tuscan villa sampling great Italian food.

Snapshot



Dream:

To become a world renowned Formula One driver while also being a qualified actuary.

What do you look forward to when you leave work?

Meeting up with friends, driving my weekend car and after work drinks on Fridays.

Risk and Financial Services Consulting

Terry

Bachelor of Applied Finance / Bachelor of Actuarial Studies, Macquarie University

Why did you join Towers Watson?

I joined Towers Watson because it is a well established consulting brand around the world. I knew Towers Watson would give me a range of opportunities in terms of work, travel and developing my career.

What does your role involve? What's your day to day schedule like?

My role so far has involved quite a bit of modelling (this has included life insurance products, economic capital and asset modelling). Our work is fairly project based so my schedule on any given day depends on the current project I am working on. Projects usually last about two to three months but some can be a lot longer.

What is the culture like at Towers Watson?

We have the culture of a small company whilst also being part of a large global company. The people are friendly and willingly share their experiences and knowledge. It's an ideal environment for a graduate who is keen to learn.

How long have you worked at Towers Watson? What has your time been like?

I have worked at Towers Watson for one year now. My time has been excellent and I have had the chance to work on some very interesting projects. One of the highlights so far has been going to Hong Kong for a project and meeting my colleagues from our overseas offices.

Snapshot



Dream:

Playing for Liverpool FC.

What do you look forward to when you leave work at the end of the day or week?

I love football (soccer), so I look forward to the weekends when we have a game. I also look forward to going out after work on Friday nights.

Michael

Bachelor of Commerce (Actuarial Studies) / Bachelor of Science (Mathematics), University of New South Wales

What do you do at Towers Watson?

I work on building the models and producing the numbers that form the basis of providing solid actuarial advice. The work can be quite varied; for example I have worked on valuing life insurers for Mergers and Acquisitions (M&As), calculating risk capital under a number of metrics, product development and reserving calculations.

What are the biggest challenges you face?

Every project is different and I will often encounter a new issue specific to a company or business that requires a lot of thought or hard work in order to provide the correct analysis. Meeting client deadlines can also be challenging but satisfying to achieve.

Are you involved in any Towers Watson social activities?

Our recent functions have been a lot of fun and have ranged from cocktail making to archery. I have also participated in various corporate running events that have been quite popular in the office. And of course I enjoy the Friday night drinks events which are organised quite frequently and a good chance to chat with colleagues in a casual setting.

How long have you worked at Towers Watson? What has your time been like?

I have worked at Towers Watson for three years, and it has been a very interesting and rewarding experience. I have spent a lot of time working overseas—in particular I spent more than a year working in Tokyo on various projects. I have gained a large amount of experience in my field, more than I would expect at many other companies, due to the variety and amount of work.

Snapshot



Career Goal:

To manage high profile client projects and to be responsible for providing insightful and useful actuarial advice to large financial institutions.

Dream:

I would like to experience all of the wonders of the world such as hiking the Inca Trail or walking the Great Wall of China.

Financial Modelling Software

Dale

Bachelor of Multimedia, Griffith University and Masters of Science (Financial Mathematics), University of Queensland

Why did you decide to work for Towers Watson?

It offered a chance to move out of my previous IT developer roles into something more quantitative, with a mix of math, programming and some finance.

What is your role and what's it like working in your team?

I'm part of the Financial Modelling Software line of business and my tasks mainly involve research, requirement elaboration and model validation depending on which stage of the project lifecycle we're in. The role involves an interesting mix of engaging with internal clients, gathering requirements, analysing the best approaches and offering recommendations. It's a nice blend of individual contribution and team-based work.

Are you involved in any Towers Watson social activities?

Members of our team meet up socially quite regularly for dinner and sport. Rock climbing is a recurring favourite.

What did you study in Uni and how did it prepare you for working at Towers Watson?

I'm slightly atypical in my team as I don't have an actuarial background. I did a 3D Game Programming major for my undergrad, followed by several years working in IT as an analyst/programmer. Then in 2008, I finished a Masters of Science majoring in Financial Mathematics (probability, statistics, and stochastic calculus—typical areas that are used in quantitative finance). The combination of programming and maths lends itself to understanding a client's modelling requirements and to being able to propose reasonable solutions.

Arthur

Bachelor of Commerce (Actuarial Studies) and Master of Commerce (Business), Macquarie University.

What is your role and how has it progressed in your time here?

I work in the Financial Modelling Software team. I have increasingly been exposed to a variety of actuarial practice areas, as well as becoming more involved in the sales and marketing process for our software. During my time, I have also had the opportunity to see other cultures by working in our London and Tokyo offices.

What's your favourite thing about working at Towers Watson?

There is a strong focus on career and personal development. I work in an excellent team, all very friendly people.

Can you describe what it's like working in your team/practice?

We have a fairly relaxed atmosphere. We work on many projects in small groups, which means we are often visiting each other's desks to build ideas.

How long have you worked at Towers Watson? What has your time been like?

Close to four years. The time has moved rather quickly. The wide variety of tasks makes each day interesting (and somewhat unpredictable!).

Snapshot



Career Goal:

To work in a challenging, quantitative environment.

Dream:

To retire early, motorcycle around the world, learn to surf properly and read more.

Snapshot



Dream:

To be a concert pianist, or at least be able to follow one around the world.

If you were a superhero, what power would you have?

Teleportation, so I could see the world, my family and friends in an instant.



Investment Consulting

Maroun

Bachelor of Business Administration (finance and economics) /
Bachelor of Economics, Macquarie University

What does your role involve? What's your day to day schedule like?

My role and responsibilities are quite diverse and varied. As a member of the investment consulting team, I am assigned to specific clients and work alongside the lead consultant to develop solutions for them. This gives me a great understanding of the client's needs.

We use financial models to create tailored investment portfolios for clients, as well as preparing research reports on recommended money managers within each asset class. I am also responsible for performance monitoring and reporting for my assigned clients. More broadly, I also work with the manager research team in researching commodities and writing quarterly economic reports—commenting on both the Australian and global economies and financial markets. It's really interesting work.

How does Towers Watson support you as a graduate?

Towers Watson is firmly committed to assisting each employee's career progression. I have successfully completed all three levels of the CFA Program, for which Towers Watson has provided financial support as well as generous study leave. Towers Watson also provides support for graduates wishing to sit the actuarial Fellowship exams.

How long have you worked at Towers Watson? What has your time been like?

I've been here for three years now on a full-time basis. Before that though, I worked at Towers Watson for six months on a part-time basis whilst finishing off my undergraduate studies at university. My time so far has been incredibly enjoyable. I've been fortunate enough to learn so much from the people around me, and the atmosphere and working environment are great. Everyone in the office gets along extremely well and it's wonderful to work within a close knit team.

Amanda

Bachelor of Commerce (Actuarial Studies) (Hons) / Bachelor of Law (Hons),
University of Melbourne

What's your favourite thing about working at Towers Watson?

Our close team, with different areas of expertise and styles, the encouraging culture and the freshness of ideas.

Are you involved in any Towers Watson social activities?

Yes! We have quite a few formal and informal events that get everyone together. Having worked at another organisation previously, I can definitely say that the Towers Watson social dynamic is much more group orientated.

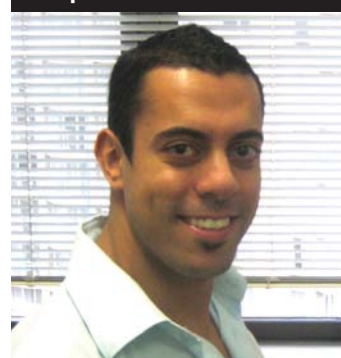
Can you describe what it's like working in your team/practice?

Our team is split into three areas according to the way we deal with our clients: we have a client consulting team, a manager research team and a strategy team. I work in client consulting which means that our team knows the clients' requirements most intimately. Working in my team, I assist the lead consultant with whatever is needed to develop a solution to clients. That could involve liaising with our colleagues locally and globally as well as liaising with investment fund managers to get data and undertake analysis. It's a lot of variety.

How did your Uni course prepare you for working at Towers Watson?

The work I do at the moment is not traditionally actuarial but the analytical aspects of my studies have really helped in the work I do. That is, to look at a problem or a report and ask sensible questions as to why something is the way it is and whether the line of argument we have put forward is logical and convincing.

Snapshot



We know it's your desk because:

It's clean, organised and spotless.

If you were a superhero, what power would you have?

Hulk-like strength.

Snapshot



Career Goal:

Investment professional.

Dream:

To be an astronaut.