



“The CERA qualification really allows a common taxonomy and problem solving assertiveness.”

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A CERA tells us their story

Since the credit crisis companies have evolved in the way they think about risk, as a result the actuarial focus has had to adapt as an advisor to align with this holistic outlook. Broader thinking is needed and newer more relevant methods need to be employed. The CERA qualification really allows a common taxonomy and problem solving assertiveness to help in this ever changing area.

I enjoyed the course material and found that my experience working for a reinsurance company and broker gave me the edge when looking at narrow problems which make up the majority of day-to-day work. The exam process is more about experience and thinking widely than bookwork and lists. The qualification process and the one day seminar have been really carefully thought out with the pre-work and discussions. This is more akin to problem solving in the real world than I remember in the mainstream examinations.

The value of CERA has made me more aware of how the reinsurance value-added fits into the overall organisation. It has made me think of reinsurance as a form of capital which should be compared to other forms of capital such as equity and debt.

It has also made me think about our offering to clients and how I can incorporate more than just a contracted view of underwriting risk into our modelling. The qualification is also interesting from the stand point that it incorporates risk professionals from other bodies and allows the overall group to think in a variety of ways.

I think the idea of doing another exam is really daunting especially with minimal support and an ever expanding ‘to-do’ list. However, I think the best way to proceed is not to over think it and realise that the investment has very real and relevant rewards.