2018 CAREER FAIR PREPARATION WORKSHOP

Bruin Actuarial Society



Agenda

- Overview
- Preparing for Career Fair
- Preparing your Resume
- Dress Code
- Speaking with Firm Representatives
- After the Career Fair



Overview: Logistics

- Monday, October 8th from 5:00 PM 7:30 PM
- Ackerman Grand Ballroom
- One of the largest actuarial career fairs in the nation
 - 20+ firms
 - 200+ BAS members



Overview: What is it?

- Most significant and most popular BAS event of the year
- Start of the recruiting season
- All students (whether seeking an actuarial position or not) are highly encouraged to attend
 - Firm representatives do remember faces year to year!
- Amazing opportunity to meet actuarial representatives from all industries



Overview: What will I gain?

- Learn about...
 - Actuarial internship and full-time opportunities
 - Different actuarial industries and lines of business
 - Different company cultures, values, and work environments
- Firm representatives are spending time and money to come out and speak to you. Listen to what they have to share!



Preparing for the Career Fair

- Do your research! Know a few things about the firm before you talk to the firm representative so you don't embarrass yourself.
- Things to know:
 - Line of business (Insurance or consulting? Life, Health, Retirement, P&C?)
 - Current events (Technological and political developments)
 - Business model (Public or private? Corporation? LLP? Government? Non-profit?)



Preparing Your Resume

- Example resume on pages 18-19 of the BAS Handbook, available on our website:
 http://math.ucla.edu/~actuary/handbook.html
- **Double, triple check** for spelling and grammatical errors! They are very obvious when printed.
- Should be carried in a dark portfolio or nice folder
- Be prepared to talk about listed experiences



Resume Tips

- The BAS Resume Book has been delivered to firms, but you can still revise your resume and hand them an improved hard copy
- We will be presenting a resume workshop after this presentation!
- We highly encourage you to stick around if:
 - You're interested in how to polish up your resume before you hand it off to firm representatives or submit it on online applications
 - You want personal advice from a BAS officer on what you can improve



Resume Tips

- 1. Don't lie! You WILL be caught, and actuaries talk to each other!
- 2. Make sure important information (graduation year, exams with date) is clear
- 3. Don't list irrelevant information. Try to minimize the amount of experiences from high school listed.



Resume Tips

- 4. No excess white space! No large margins, no double spacing...
- 5. Properly indent on the left, and align dates on the right (if applicable)—stay after for a trick on how to do this in MS Word
- 6. Keep it simple! You don't need different fonts and colors, nor do you need a fancy design. We **highly** recommend a standard template.



Business Professional Dress Code: Men



- Dark suit with matching pants
- Dress shirt and complementing tie
- Matching shoes and belt
- Long, dark socks



Business Professional Dress Code: Women





- Conservative skirt or pant suit
- Neutral colors
- Pressed, collared button-down shirt
- Closed-toe heels (no higher than 3 inches) or dress shoes
- Limit flashy jewelry and strong perfumes



Speaking with Firm Representatives

Greeting and Firm Handshake

"Hi, how are you doing tonight?"



Quick Introduction:

"My name is [...], and I'm a third-year majoring in Financial Actuarial Math.



Conversation Starter:

"I'm interested in [...] because..."

"I was wondering if you can tell me about [...]"



Speaking with Firm Representatives

- Do ask questions that demonstrate your knowledge
- Do ask questions that show sincere interest
- Do ask about typical internship or full time opportunities
- Do ask what you don't know
- Do ask recruiters about themselves



Speaking with Firm Representatives

- Don't leave awkward silences
- Don't ask too many questions or talk too much about yourself
- Don't be too casual with firm representatives
- Don't lie about yourself through conversation or through your resume

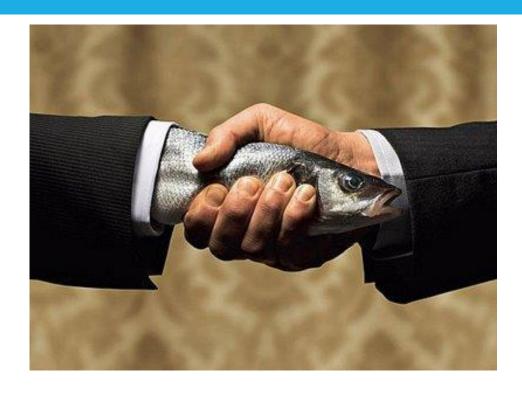


Speaking with Firm Representative: Closing

- Give one, take one
 - Ask to present your resume
 - Ask for a business card
- Clarify application procedures and deadlines
- Thank them for their time



(Not so) Common Sense





Pay attention to your body language!



After the Career Fair

- Follow up with any questions you have
- Send personalized emails of thanks
 - Remind them who you are and what you talked about (nothing generic)
- Apply!
- Work on your LinkedIn and Handshake profiles
- (Hopefully) prepare for interviews!



Final Notes

- "It takes many good deeds to build a good reputation, and only one bad one to lose it" – Benjamin Franklin
- At the career fair, you represent BAS and UCLA student actuaries
- Be prepared. Be professional.



Questions?

