

60 seconds with...

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What do you enjoy most about your job within MBE?

I love that MBE is young, fresh and dynamic. Because we are a growing company, I feel that I can get involved in all areas of the business, from actuarial client projects to marketing. Also, having direct access to our management team really boosts my development as an actuary and consultant.

What's the most important aspect of managing an actuarial project plan?

Communication. It's challenging and time-consuming to manage stakeholder expectations, ensure that team members know what they should be doing at each stage and (try to) stick to deadlines, but it goes a long way in terms of keeping clients happy and reducing stress.

How does the concept of change play a role in your work?

There is a paradox in actuarial work. It feels very traditional in some ways, rooted in centuries-old first principles, but, at the same time, the industry in which we work has experienced some major upheavals in the last few years. This, coupled with the changing face of the actuarial profession (you no longer need to be a nerdy old man in a suit to be an actuary!), means that it's a good time to challenge thinking around the value actuaries can add to the industry and to society.

How do you handle unforeseen issues and problems?

If it's a problem I have never seen before, I approach someone else in the team for guidance. The benefit of working in a multi-disciplinary environment is that there is always someone around to show you a different way of thinking.

I'm going to the bar, what are you drinking?

It has to be a milo and banana milkshake from Royale Eatery in Cape Town...or a malted chocolate shake from Shake Shack...or an M&S Belgian chocolate milk. You don't need to be an actuary to spot the trend here.

Which personalities/schools of thought/concepts do you admire most in your industry and why?

Corporate women in positions of power, who are increasingly attaining success without compromising who they are ...and the men who support them!