



Zhenxu Sun

Home Country: China

Degree: BBA Actuarial Science; Risk Management and Insurance

Graduation Date: May 2016

Employer: Windhaven Insurance Company (Richardson, TX)

Position: Actuarial Analyst



What do you do in your current position?

1. As an actuarial analyst, I write SQL queries to pull Texas data and analyze and compare loss frequency, loss severity, loss ratios, etc. by month, by coverage, and by program.
2. I am also responsible for the quarterly reserves analysis for our company.
3. Besides, I am also doing many ad hoc projects requested by the upper management team.

How did you find your position?

My current manager is also a UW alumni and he reached out to my actuarial science professor about this job. I sent out my resume, cover letter along with a recommendation letter from my professor, answered 30 behavioral questions in a questionnaire, passed 3 rounds of Skype interviews and got this job.

Which career services did you find helpful at UW-Madison?

Academic/career advisers; Professors; ISS workshops.

Other than your degree, what skills or experience made you competitive in the US job market?

1. My spoken English, positive personality, and competitive working attitude helped me find at least this job.

Know what matters to you the most. Location, pay, or the job itself? And adjust your job search accordingly.

2. My working experience helped me a lot, too. Tutoring, team member at Gordon Commons, office clerk at the SERF and the Natatorium, and an actuarial internship helped me prepare for a full time job.

What advice do you have for current international students?

1. If you work with your professor, he/she can give you all kinds of advice or even potential job opportunities.
2. Your resume and cover letter can always be improved. So work on them and ask people around you to make changes as much as possible.
3. Know what matters to you the most. Location, pay, or the job itself? And adjust your job search accordingly. Get to know some employers by attending speakers' events and networking lunches/dinners.
4. Be yourself and relax during the interview. Trying or pushing so hard during an interview might bring negative results.