2025 CAREER FAIR PREP WORKSHOP

September 29, 2025



AGENDA



Overview



Resume Tips



Preparing for Career Fair



Speaking with Firm Reps



Dress Code



Firm Rep Feedback + Post Career Fair



01

OVERVIEW



CAREER FAIR LOGISTICS

- Tuesday, October 7th from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM
 - Location: Bruin Reception Room
 - 14 firms will be represented
 - ~ 40 firm reps will be in attendance
- Check-in at 5:45 PM to receive your nametags



ABOUT THE CAREER FAIR

- Our most significant BAS event of the academic year!
- Marks the beginning of recruiting season
- All students are encouraged to attend, regardless of year in school
- Wonderful opportunity to network and meet actuarial firm representatives from various industries



ABOUT THE CAREER FAIR

- Even if you are a freshman, we strongly encourage you to partake in the career fair
- A very underrated trick is to start developing the relationship with recruiters so that you can set yourself up for the next year
 - Play the long-term game!



WHY SHOULD YOU ATTEND?

- Chance to learn more about:
 - Internship, full-time, and part-time actuarial opportunities
 - Various industries and lines of business from different companies
- Like any skill, talking to firm representatives takes practice.
 - Getting those experiences early on will only help you in the long term
- Firm representatives are spending their time to speak with you
 - It is important to listen to what they have to share!



02

PREPARING FOR CAREER FAIR



66

IF I HAD SIX HOURS TO CHOP DOWN A TREE, I WOULD SPEND THE FIRST FOUR

SHARPENING THE AXE.





RESEARCH IS KEY!

 It is crucial to have background knowledge about the company
 AND the internship posting (if already posted) before talking to firm representatives

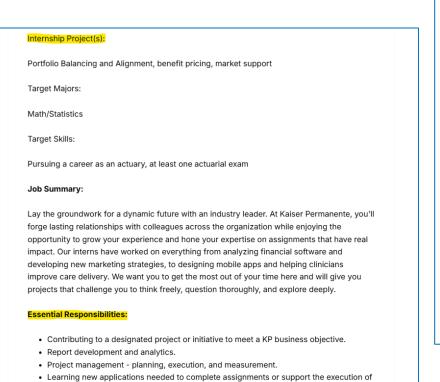
- Non-exhaustive list of things you should know:
 - Lines of Business (P&C, Health, Life, Retirement, Consulting, etc.)
 - Recruiting for internship or full-time
 - The basic responsibilities of an intern (daily tasks, project based, etc.)
 - Career Progression and Growth Opportunities
 - Study Program
 - Current events (technologies and innovation)
 - Mergers and acquisitions

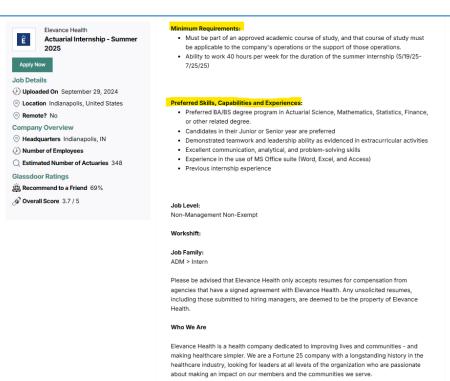


SOME EXAMPLES

business objectives.







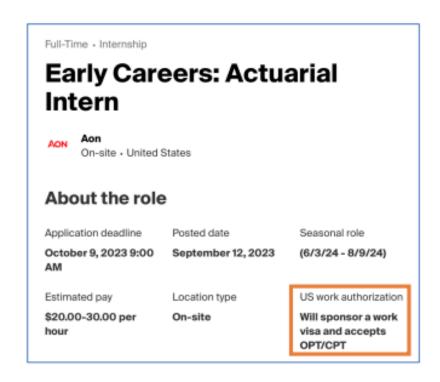


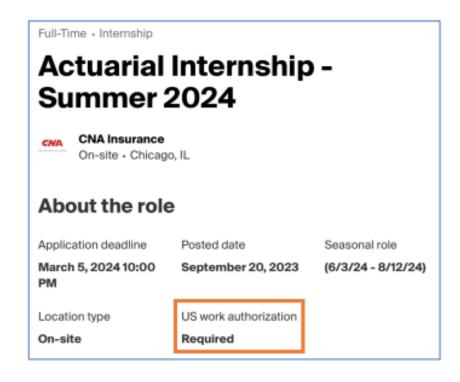
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- If you require company sponsorship, research beforehand whether the company sponsors *DO NOT ask firm reps*
- Firms that conduct on-campus recruitment will post job openings on Handshake: http://www.ucla.joinhandshake.com/
- For each job posting, Handshake will tell you one of the following:
 - "Employers requires work authorization"
 - "Employers does not require work authorization"
 - "Employers will sponsor a work visa and accepts OPT/CPT"



FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS







03

DRESS CODE







DOs

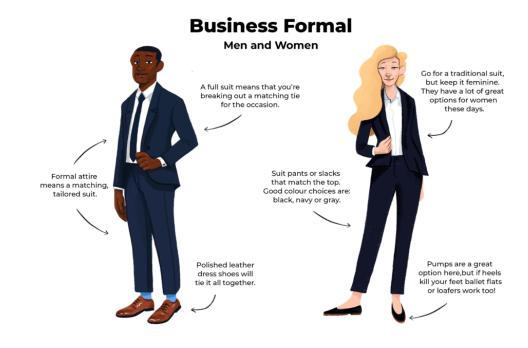
- Dress in Neutral colors (Black, Navy Blue, Beige or Grey is highly preferred)
- Skirt or pant suit must be beyond or near knee-length
- Pressed, collared button-down shirt/blouse
- Dark suit with matching pants is allowed (Light Grey is acceptable)
- Plain dress shirt (preferably white or other light colors)





DOs

- Closed-toe heels or dress shoes
- A color complimenting tie with minimal patterns
- Matching shoes and belt
- Long, dark socks





DON'Ts

- Heels should not be higher than three inches
- Limit flashy jewelry and strong perfumes
- No skinny ties
- No ankle length socks
- Don't carry a bulky purse



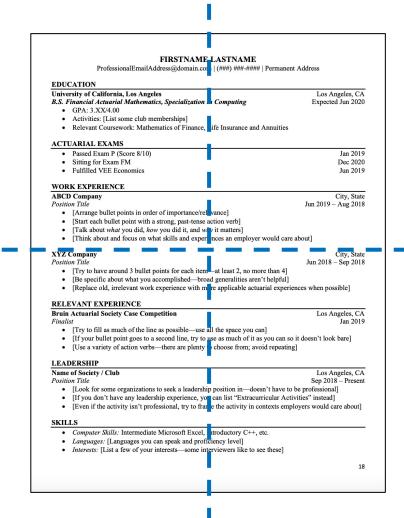
04

RESUME TIPS



FORMAT

- ONE page long
- Avoid large blank spaces
- Consistent margins and fonts
- 10-12 pt. font



"Quadrant Rule": Try to have the same amount of text and blank space in each quadrant

Common Mistake:
Having too much
blank space in the top
right quadrant



CONTENT

- Contact information: email, phone number, city, state, zip code (within US, optional)
- Education → Actuarial Exams → Relevant Experience → Work
 Experience → Leadership → Skills/Additional
- Limit to relevant information exclude high school content unless you are a freshman
- Effective, concise bullet points:
 - WHAT you did, HOW you did it, WHY it matters
 - Varied, strong, past tense action verbs



ACTION VERBS

Action Verbs by Skill Categories

Administrative	Communication	Creative	Organizational	Tutoring	Technical	Management
administered	addressed	conceptualized	arranged	adapted	assembled	advanced
allocated	addressed	created	audited	advised	built	appointed
assigned	articulated	customized	catalogued	assisted	calculated	balanced
attained	authored	designed	collected	clarified	computed	chaired
consolidated	clarified	drafted	compiled	coached	critiqued	coordinated
controlled	composed	fashioned	compiled	communicated	designed	decided
coordinated	convinced	formulated	critiqued	counseled	devised	delegated
corporated	corresponded	founded	diagnosed	demystified	engineered	directed
directed	directed	generated	facilitated	educated	evaluated	established
established	influenced	implemented	forecasted	encouraged	fabricated	expedited
executed	interpreted	initiated	generated	explained	inspected	handled
managed	lectured	instituted	handled	facilitated	investigated	incorporated
organized	marketed	integrated	modified	guided	modeled	lead
performed	motivated	invented	operated	informed	operated	motivated
planned	negotiated	launched	prepared	instructed	programmed	oversaw
produced	persuaded	originated	processed	persuaded	reconciled	planned
scheduled	publicized	pioneered	shaped	referred	summarized	prioritized
strengthened	responded	revitalized	systematized	trained	upgraded	supervised

Check out the Resume Section of our <u>handbook</u> (pages 17-19)





RESUME CRITIQUE COMMENTS

- Use a reasonable amount of bullet points (2–4)
- Know the difference between hyphens, en dashes, and em dashes
 - Keep the spacing on each side consistent





RESUME CRITIQUE COMMENTS

- Ensure month abbreviations are consistent
 - Don't abbreviate "Mar" but not "June"
- Use a professional email address
- Standardize GPA: 3.82/4.00 instead of GPA: 3.82/4.0
- Include your proficiency level for technical skills



COMMENTS FROM FIRM REPS

- Make sure there is some white space to avoid overwhelming the reader
- Clearly indicate your graduation date
 - Helps firm reps quickly identify what type of position you are looking for (internship vs. full-time)
- Avoid generic, qualitative character traits (e.g. hard-working, motivated, etc.)
 - These characteristics should be clear in your bullet points
- Check for spelling errors and grammar mistakes
- If you have not applied and received VEEs, DO NOT include VEEs on your resume



COVER LETTER TIPS

- Address the employer's "wish list"
- Describe your skills and highlight things not already in your resume
- Differentiate yourself from the crowd
- Actively promote yourself
- Send to a specific individual
- Resist the temptation of the "fill in the blank approach"



05

SPEAKING WITH FIRM REPRESENTATIVES



SPEAKING WITH FIRM REPS

Step 1

Greet the Firm Rep(s)

"Hi, how are you
tonight?"



Step 2

Introduce Yourself

"My name is ..."

"I am a ... year"

"Majoring in ..."



Step 3

Start a Conversation

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

"I was wondering if you could tell me about ..."





SPEAKING WITH FIRM REPS



DOs

- Be confident
- Be sincere
- Ask questions to demonstrate your knowledge
- Ask questions about internships & full-time opportunities
- Ask recruiters about themselves



DON'Ts

- Lie about yourself
- Ask too many questions
- Be too casual
- Be too nervous
- Leave awkward silences
- Bad mouth other employers or competitors



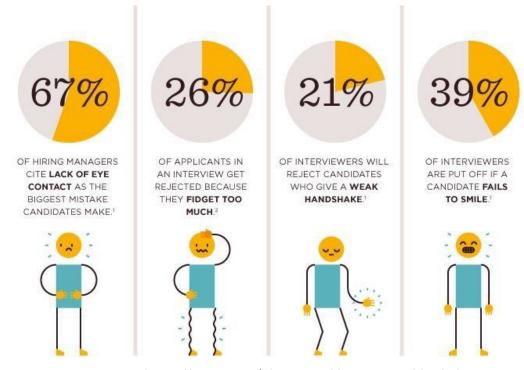
CLOSING

- Give one, take one
 - Ask to present your resume
 - Ask to take their business card or contact
- Clarify about application process and deadlines
- Thank them for their time
- Be mindful of others waiting to speak to the firm rep



THE POWER OF BODY LANGUAGE

- Maintain appropriate eye contact
- Don't fidget too much
- Give a confident handshake
- Remember to smile
- Engage actively to show attentiveness (ie. nodding)



https://www.oneeighty.co.nz/the-power-of-body-language



06

FIRM REP FEEDBACK + POST CAREER FAIR



FIRM REP FEEDBACK

- Do not ask simple questions that can be answered through Google
 - For example: What departments are in your firm? Which teams are hiring?
- Make sure you research the industry and the firms in attendance
 - We will send out a Firm Info Sheet later this week
 - You should do research on your targeted companies over the weekend
- Ask specific, genuine questions
 - While you should be prepared, do not be too scripted. A good way to do this is to make sure you have a "transition" between your questions, so that they are not too abrupt when you move to your next question
 - Enjoy the experience!



EXAMPLE QUESTIONS

- What would you say is a typical project that an intern would work on at your firm?
- Could you please share the typical career path for someone starting in an entry-level actuarial position at your firm?
- What kinds of training and professional development opportunities does your company provide for new hires?
- How does your firm support employees in their journey to pass actuarial exams?
- How is your experience of the company culture like, and how does it influence your work?
- What qualities do you value in candidates, aside from technical skills?



AFTER THE CAREER FAIR

- You should follow up with the firm representatives with any questions
- Send the firm reps personalized thank you emails
- Remind them of your name and what you talked about
 - Try not to be generic
- Apply to opportunities!
- Update your Handshake and LinkedIn profiles
- Prepare for potential upcoming interviews







FINAL NOTES

- You are representing BAS and UCLA at this Career Fair
- BAS is here to provide you with all that you need, but you must prepare yourself
- Be prepared and be professional!
- Good luck!

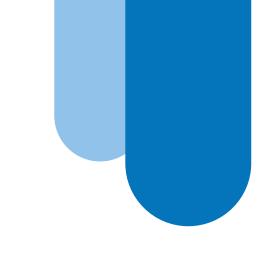


KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Showing up is only half the game; remember to dress well, be engaging, take care of body language, make a good impression and follow-up!
- Do you research before attending the Career Fair. We will send out Firm Info
 Sheets later this week so you can research over the weekend.
- Feel free to bring along a folder with your printed Resume.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Career Fair RSVP is OPEN! Deadline for Career Fair Registration is Friday, 10/3,
 11:59PM PDT. Must be a Paid Member to join.
- Office Hours on Wed-Fri at 3pm-6pm @MS2354.
 - · You can pay membership fees here.
 - You can bring Resumes for critique or drop by with questions on how to prepare for the Career Fair (how to do company research, talking points etc).





www.math.ucla.edu/~actuary/



bruinactuaries@gmail.com



@bruinactuaries



THANK YOU!

Any questions?

