

Name: David Bangs

Job title: Reinsurance Broker

Company and Location: Willis Ltd., City

Industry Sector: Insurance

Background: JET for 3 years, Japanese Embassy for two years

1. What does your job involve?

Broking contracts of reinsurance (i.e. insurance of insurance companies) internationally and in Lloyd's of London. All our clients (i.e. insurance companies) are Japanese insurers.

2. How much Japanese do you use in your job?

I liaise with Tokyo staff daily but I generally use English for Business purposes. Japanese is most important socially and also for reading industry articles/ news.

3. What has been the highlight of your Japanese career to date?

I would say JET, but since then attending G8 with the Embassy was very remarkable, especially as I met Koizumi! It is now good to be working in the finance sector and to have a defined career path.

4. How has past experience helped?

As I effectively joined on a graduate scheme I am quite a lot older than some and notice the advantages that maturity gives me. My experience of Japan and the language certainly gives me a head start regarding Japan-specific issues.

5. What do you enjoy most about your job?

Meeting people, travelling, challenging myself and the excitement of placing a deal.

6. What advice would you give to students hoping to use Japanese in their careers?

Don't be scared to try new things. I am completely new to the financial sector and was possibly reticent when looking for work- "I can't do that! Can I?" Japanese of any level is always viewed in high esteem- more than you might think- sell yourself!