WHERE TO BEGIN?

I was sitting in my dorm room listening to a soccer game on the radio when the half-time news report explained that the U.K. economy was on the brink of entering a recession. I was barely halfway through my first year at university. “Graduating is going to be fun,” I sarcastically thought.

I wasn’t wrong. There was already going to be very little paid work for an inexperienced journalism graduate, but the harsh economic climate in the years that followed meant that after I graduated my career stalled.

It wasn’t until I took a job in insurance that I realized what the industry could offer. I’d never shied away from insurance, but here was an industry that applies to literally every facet of the economy and I’d never even thought about a job in insurance, not to mention a career.

Today, Invest, an insurance education program affiliated with the Big “I,” is fighting this battle: to get more young people into the industry and raise awareness about the opportunities insurance companies can provide.

While the current job market is vastly different from a decade ago, the need to bring new talent into the insurance industry is paramount. As baby boomers begin to filter out of the industry, there are expected to be over 400,000 insurance job openings in the next few years. Moreover, advances in technology are creating new and exciting opportunities.

Invest’s strategic focus includes the creation of a new apprenticeship program which is designed to attract more people to the industry through the development of “earn while you learn” opportunities that will benefit the insurance industry, employers and apprentices.

I wish I’d known about the potential that an insurance career could provide me when I was staring down the barrel of graduating during one of the worst financial crises in economic history. In today’s uncertain times, I guarantee that there are plenty of young people who would jump at the opportunity for a stable and opportunity-filled career in insurance. They just need to know where to begin and what it could lead to.

― Will Jones
Managing Editor

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