



# Colin O'Hare



**Title...** Senior Lecturer

**Organisation...**  
Monash University

**Summarise yourself in one sentence...**

A hardworking, innovative academic with a passion for educating the next generation of actuaries to be the best that they can be

**My interesting/quirky hobbies...**

Creating online animations describing actuarial concepts for my students

**My favourite energetic pursuit...**

I enjoy cycling and try to cycle around 250km each week

**The sport I most like to watch...**

I'd rather play sports than watch it, my sport of choice would be pool or snooker

**The last book I read (and when)...**

*Statistical and Probabilistic Methods in Actuarial Science* by Philip J Boland. I'm delivering a course on CT6!

**My favourite artist/album/film...**

My top 10 movies (in no particular order) are *Bladerunner*, *Pulp Fiction*, *Fight Club*, *Oceans Eleven*, *The Shining*, *American Beauty*, *The Matrix*, *Star Wars*, *Taxi Driver* and *A Beautiful Mind*. For music, my favourites are, Mike Oldfield, Jean Michel Jarre, Kraftwerk, Tangerine Dream, Vangelis. A good song for actuaries, which I use as an intro to my actuarial podcasts, is *pocket calculator* by Kraftwerk

**I'm most passionate about...**

Educating highly-driven students

**What gets my goat...** Dumbed down reality Television

**I'd like to be brave enough to...**

Cycle around Australia

**In my life I'm planning to change...**

Nothing

**Four words that sum me up...**

Ambitious, bold, creative and driven

**What I wanted to be when I grew up...**

I didn't know what I wanted to do until I was 24 but I knew it had to involve mathematics!

**Why and how I became an actuary...**

I became an actuary because I wanted to use my mathematical ability in the commercial world

**Where I studied to become an actuary and qualifications obtained...**

Through correspondence whilst working in pensions consulting. I completed my fellowship through research with a PhD on modelling mortality at Queens University Belfast

**My work history...** Pensions consulting, 1999 – 2007, (Watson Wyatt, KPMG, Mercer, PwC) and University Lecturer 2008 onwards (Queens University Belfast and Monash University)

**What I find most interesting about my current role...** The freedom to be creative. Currently I am working on projects to improve both how and what we deliver to students

**My role's greatest challenges...**

As a lecturer, the greatest challenge for me is to deliver actuarial material in an engaging and informative way at a level that students want to engage with whilst ensuring that the level remains challenging and relevant

**Who has been the biggest influence on my career (and why)...** My parents, Tom and Irene, for supporting me financially and emotionally through university and into my career. My wife, Diane, also gets credit for her patience whilst I studied for what seemed an age to qualify as an actuary

**My proudest career achievement to date is...** Being a finalist in the UK for the most innovative teacher of the year in 2011

**10 years from now, I will be...** 10 years older, 10 years wiser and 10 years closer to retirement. If I'm fortunate I hope to still be working with great colleagues and with driven students in a well-regarded university

**When I retire, my legacy will be...**

In my day-to-day work I strive to make actuarial education more relevant, more enjoyable and more engaging. I hope that some of that will rub off on my students and colleagues in the future

**Why I'm proud to be an actuary...**

To be a member of a profession, to feel ownership of your career and your profession, to contribute in a small way to its direction and development, to be a respected and well-regarded professional. These are the reasons I'm proud to call myself an actuary

**The most valuable skill an actuary can possess is...** The ability to cut through the fog, to quickly identify the issue and to provide concise advice

**If I were President of the Institute, one thing I would improve is...** The way we deliver our education to our international members. We have online technology now but still we are not yet making full use of it to reduce distances, to redefine the classroom and to reassess the teacher-learner relationship

**At least once in their life, every actuary should...** Step outside their comfort zone and challenge themselves

**My best advice for younger actuaries...** See the bigger picture and don't forget about the non-mathematical side of actuarial science

**If I could travel back in time I would...** Experience life as an actuary before computers when 'back of the envelope' really did mean 'back of the envelope'

**If I win the lottery, I would...** Blow 20% of it and invest 80% of it **A**