

INTEGRATED EQUITY

MANAGEMENT

IEM Employee Feature – Muqing Yue

From One End of the Earth to the Other: Finding a Home with IEM

It's hard to believe this is my 9th year in the United States since travelling from China. I came to the U.S. in 2012 to study Mathematics at the University of North Carolina, and to gain a master's degree from the University of Minnesota in Financial Mathematics. I joined IEM as an intern in 2017 and became a Financial Planning Associate in 2018 after finishing graduate school. I'm so lucky to have met my husband that same year. We were able to bond over having the same major, and we quickly realized we both had a passion for numbers. I'm happy to say that we got married in January of this year, have a cute dog as our family member, and it's the best decision I've made in my life!

I feel so thankful that I can work in IEM and I really enjoy how I'm able to contribute to the team here. To be honest, I was kind of lost and unsure of my career path when I was a graduate student. I didn't know what I would do in the future, where I would work or whether I would end up staying in the United States. My mindset was trying to do the right thing every day, study hard and after class, I spent a lot of time submitting my resume to find work, even if it was an internship to start with.

One day out of the blue, Cammy received my resume and called me. During the call, after Cammy asked me some behavioral questions, she said one of her best friends and I are from the same hometown in China. For how small my hometown is, it felt incredible when a foreign stranger mentioned knew about my beginnings in life and could relate to my personal journey. It's the small things through conversation and having someone relate to me that made me want to work with IEM. At that moment I had to jump at the opportunity.

At the start, and not being a native English speaker, it was quite confusing to get used to the meetings we had as a team at IEM – especially not knowing what the State of the Union was all about. I think it's great our company takes time each week to assess and reassess our work for clients, and any updates that need to be made. Especially since I work with numbers throughout my day, it helps me work even harder when I hear about client backgrounds, challenges, and successes they deal with day-to-day.

After I graduated from school, I started working as a full-time financial planning assistant, and I'm so proud to have been promoted to Senior Financial Planning Associate. I want to especially thank Danny for training me how to do IEM's financial plans from scratch, and I wouldn't be on this path if it wasn't for him! Everyone in the company has helped me to grow into the business, they are very patient while listening to me, and answer all of my different questions.

The company emphasizes doing the right thing for clients above all else and providing them with the perfect solution customized to their personal situation. I am very happy this is what I have been taught in my first job and believe I will use this principle in the future. I enjoy working at IEM, and I will keep studying to bring more value to the company and continue to grow personally and professionally.

Muqing Yue

Senior Financial Planning Associate