

# Your guide to our graduate jobseekers

Three times a year totaljobs.com undertakes research of our registered graduate jobseekers to discover what their expectations are of the job market and to better understand them – who they are, how they look for a job and how confident they are in securing a job.

The graduate recruiters using totaljobs have also been surveyed to understand their perceptions of the current graduate market.

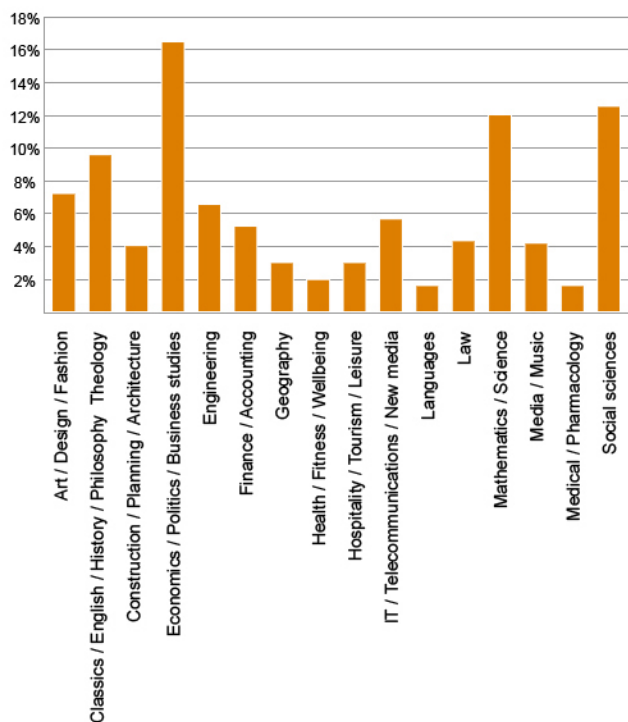
## The graduate audience:

- ▶ 31% have a Masters, post-graduate qualification or doctorate
- ▶ 47% completed their degree in 2010
- ▶ 42% would consider working in the Public Sector
- ▶ 49% are between 21 – 24 years old, with 25% being between 25 – 29 years old

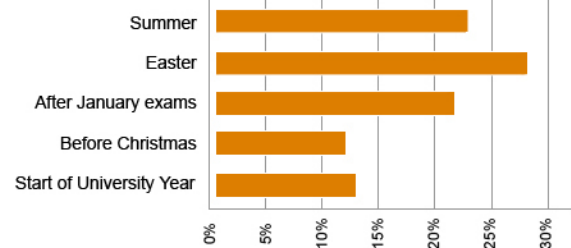
## How do they look and apply for jobs:

- ▶ 91% use a generalist job board
- ▶ 81% use the employer website
- ▶ 49% believe that generalist job boards are the most important source when looking for a job
- ▶ 66% apply for graduate schemes
- ▶ 72% would be prepared to move for a graduate job, with 41% of those respondents being willing to move internationally

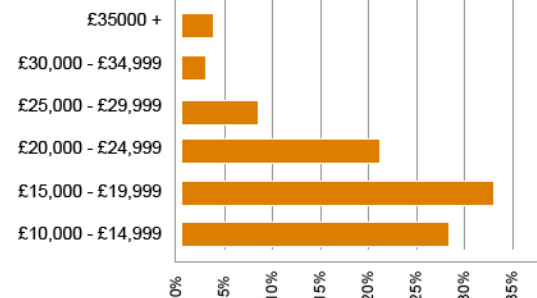
## Discipline being studied



## When do graduates apply for jobs?



## What do graduates expect to earn in their first graduate job?



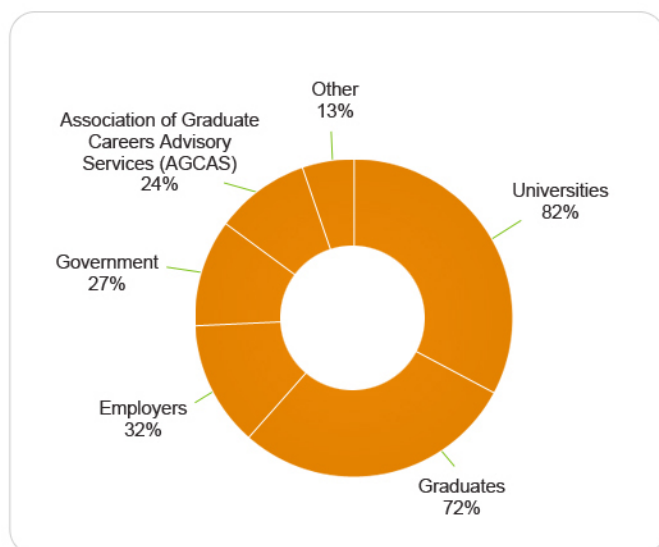
## Life after university

Only half of graduates believe that their degree has equipped them for the world of work, with 52% stating that they wouldn't choose their university course again now that they have left.

This is a view shared by graduate recruiters, with one third believing that graduates do not have the work-based skills to attain an entry-level graduate role in their company. Business acumen is cited as the skill which is most lacking.

## Who takes responsibility?

If graduates are missing certain skills, whose duty is it to develop these assets? Businesses are reluctant to offer training themselves as they overwhelmingly feel it is the graduate or universities' responsibility to develop their skills.



## How have the proposed increased university fees changed perceptions?

- ▶ 73% would not choose their course again if they had to pay the increased fees
- ▶ 64% would have second thoughts about attending university at all if a graduate tax was introduced
- ▶ 77% could not justify the fees without definite employment at the end of the course

## What do graduate recruiters think about the increase in tuition fees?

Many graduate recruiters are concerned that the introduction of student fees will make a considerable difference to the graduate recruitment model, with 71% stating that this will affect the range and quality of university leavers employers have to choose from. Over 52% stated that the UK PLC will suffer in the future due to a decreased pipeline of graduates.

## Mike Feters, Graduate Director, Totaljobs

"We know from speaking to graduate employers that there is a shortage of the skills they need in graduates that universities are producing.

The research is clear that there are two key areas graduate employers believe university leavers are lacking skills in - business awareness and communication. It's shocking that people are coming out of university and are unable to express themselves clearly."

## The future

As a thought leader in graduate recruitment, totaljobs.com is actively behind initiatives that bring universities and businesses together.

Totaljobs.com strongly supports:


- ▶ Work experience programmes during students' degrees
- ▶ Mock-ups of actual business scenarios in university seminars and tutorials;
- ▶ Business leaders speaking in tertiary education colleges, to engage with the students and give them a realistic idea of what they can expect when they enter employment;
- ▶ Long-term link-ups between companies and colleges;
- ▶ Encouraging students from diverse backgrounds (in terms of ethnicity, religion, gender or sexuality) to participate in work-based programmes.

## About totaljobs.com

**Totaljobs.com is one of the UK's leading job boards, attracting over 3.1 million jobseekers every month on the hunt for one of the 90,000 live vacancies the site carries at any one time. All of this activity generates over 1.77 million applications a month, cementing totaljobs.com strong reputation among jobseeker and recruiters alike.**

## Contact us

Find out more about our graduate recruiter offering by contacting the dedicated graduate team on

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Source – Totaljobs Graduate Survey – March 2011