

Press release: Thursday 11 January 2018, 00:01

Graduate jobs market to expand in 2018, reports Institute of Student Employers

Employers expect to increase their graduate job vacancies by 11% this year, marking a return to double-digit growth, reports the Institute of Student Employers (ISE).

The annual Student Recruitment Pulse survey by the ISE (formerly Association of Graduate Recruiters) reported the intentions of 103 of the UK's largest student employers, which hired 12,994 graduates and 4,937 apprentices in 2017.

This year employers are primed to offer an additional 1,423 graduate jobs¹.

This marks a return to double-digit growth in the graduate jobs market, which was last evident pre-Brexit vote. In 2015 graduate vacancies grew 13%, compared to an 8% decrease in 2016 and 1% increase in 2017.

As employers responded to the introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy, apprenticeship vacancies have continually increased during the same period, making up for some of the shortfall.

In 2016 the number of apprenticeships increased by 13% and they rose by 19% in 2017. Compared to last year, employers are expecting to offer 1,501 more apprenticeships – a growth rate of 32%¹.

Efforts to fill vacancies and reduce reneged offers have paid off for many employers. Just 38% of employers didn't fill their vacancies in 2017, compared to 52% in 2016. Last year 4% of offers were reneged, compared to 7% in 2016.

Stephen Isherwood, Chief Executive of the ISE said:

“Over the last couple of years the recruitment season has been heavily influenced by the Brexit vote and nervousness over the economy, but we're now seeing a return to normal state of play. There's a positive mood from employers in this space at the moment and students should feel reassured by this renewed confidence. There are around 20 per cent more vacancies overall this year. If you have the right mix of skills, there are lots of opportunities and students should feel confident to go for it.”

The ISE survey showed growth across a range of sectors. Particularly buoyant were the public sector, IT, and energy, water or utilities sectors with a 22%, 18%, and 13% expected increase in graduate vacancies respectively.

Mark Jackson, EMEA Lead for Internal Mobility and Junior Talent Acquisition at Fujitsu said:

“We need more junior talent to help our business continually adapt to the market. The highly agile workforce coming out of university is an attractive one for many organisations. The IT and digital sector specifically needs the influx of fresh skills, effectively blank canvasses, that they can help shape and continuously evolve over their careers.”

Ends

¹ Annual comparisons are based on employers with data available for 2017 and 2018

Media enquiries and interviews:

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Notes to editors

ISE Student Recruitment Pulse survey

The ISE surveyed 103 of its employer members in December 2017 and January 2018. The survey is intended to provide insight on the number of unfilled vacancies in 2017 and provide informed projections for 2018.

Institute of Student Employers

The Institute of Student Employers (ISE), [formerly the Association of Graduate Recruiters \(AGR\)](#), is an independent, not-for-profit member organisation that was established in 1968.

As the UK's leading independent voice for student employers, the ISE's vision is that every businesses success is maximised by full access to student talent.

The ISE achieves this by bringing together employers, the education sector and supplier partners, providing leadership and support in all aspects of student recruitment and development.

ISE activities include:

- Promoting excellence and innovation in the resourcing, assessment and development of emerging talent including school leavers, apprentices and graduates
- Providing expert information and insight to ISE member organisations, creating engaged communities for professional networking and sharing of best practice
- Delivering comprehensive research on a range of issues affecting graduate, intern and apprenticeship recruitment and development, including current and future trends and benchmarking data
- Investing in the professional development of members to enhance their skills and knowledge, maximising their career opportunities within the profession
- Influencing key policy areas affecting student employment and the education sector
- Building a strong professional organisation with the right structure and team capabilities to deliver the services and support members require to fulfil their objectives

For further information:

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