

Why Choose Higher Education?

Professor Tim Thornton
Deputy Vice-Chancellor

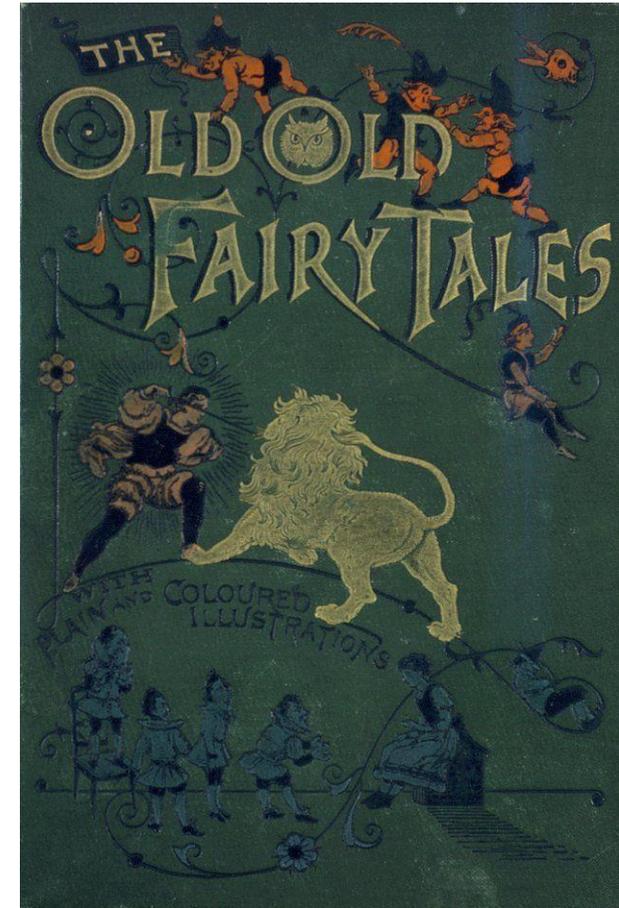


Reach New Heights

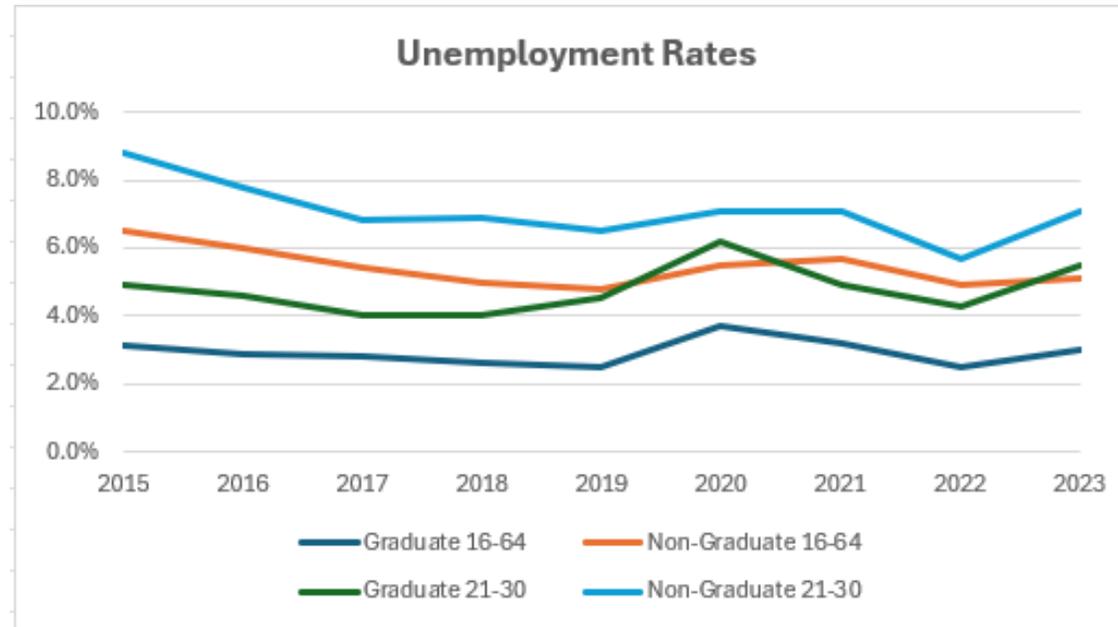


“Everyone has a degree nowadays”

- 47.4% of UK adults (16-64) were graduates at the end of 2024
- Fewer than half of students currently aged 14-18 will ever go to University, and it's unlikely we'll ever see a situation where half even of a given age group goes to University



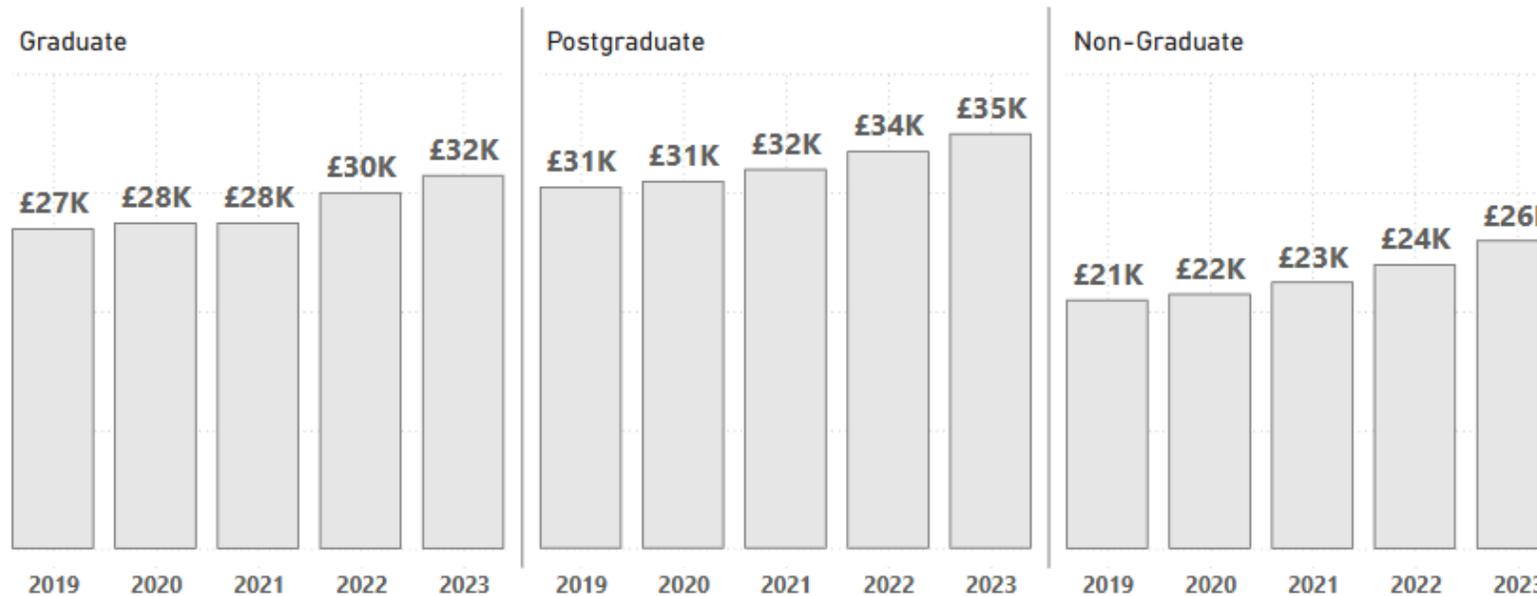
“You’re better off not going to Uni”



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Graduate 16-64	3.1%	2.9%	2.8%	2.6%	2.5%	3.7%	3.2%	2.5%	3.0%
Non-Graduate 16-64	6.5%	6.0%	5.4%	5.0%	4.8%	5.5%	5.7%	4.9%	5.1%
Graduate 21-30	4.9%	4.6%	4.0%	4.0%	4.5%	6.2%	4.9%	4.3%	5.5%
Non-Graduate 21-30	8.8%	7.8%	6.8%	6.9%	6.5%	7.1%	7.1%	5.7%	7.1%

“You’re better off not going to Uni”

Median Salary (nearest £500 , 21- 30 Year Olds)



- “Young people with a higher degree – such as a master’s degree – earned 58% more than those from the same socio-economic background with no GCSEs. Young people with an undergraduate degree earned 48% more.”

“There aren’t any jobs for graduates”

- Annual Population Survey (APS) data showed that at the end of 2024, there were **17.5m people working in professional-level jobs in the UK**, this is **2 million more than just 5 years ago**.
- In that time, the HE sector has seen **2 million new graduates from First Degree** courses across the UK.



Why Choose Higher Education ?

- Employment
- Economics
- Excitement



“Up against the competition of 2 billion people in China and India – with 5 million graduates a year – Britain cannot compete on low skills only high graduate skills”

- 80% of all new jobs
- 50% of all new job vacancies
- 40% of the working population



Improves career prospects

More skills: more choice

- Intellectual capability
- Communication
- Problem solving
- Teamwork
- Networking
- Technical ability
- Business awareness
- Flexibility



Employment



- ***Graduate premium*** remains strong
- Additional lifetime earning, net of student fees and living costs



Male: £430,000

Female: £260,000

Source: 'Institute for Fiscal Studies / Department for Education: The impact of undergraduate degrees on lifetime earnings; 29 Feb 2020'

Salary Range	%
More than £50,000	10%
£40,001 - £50,000	23%
£35,001 - £40,000	10%
£30,001 - £35,000	33%
£25,001 - £30,000	21%
£25,000 or less	3%

Median Salary - £34,000

Source: *The Graduate Market in 2024*

The Graduate Market in 2024

UK's leading employers' graduate recruitment:

Despite the country slipping into recession in the second half of 2023, leading graduate employers are offering 1.5% more graduate vacancies in 2024, compared to 2023

Graduate recruitment target by industry or business sector in 2024, e.g.

- Engineering & Industrial + 20.8%,
- Oil & Energy + 18.1%,
- Public Sector + 9.4%,
- Retail +9.1%, Law + 7.8%

For the third year running graduate starting salaries at the UK's leading graduate employers are set to increase in 2024, to a new median starting salary of £34,000

Source: 'High Fliers report 'The Graduate Market in 2024'

Huddersfield – Career Success

- 95% of our undergraduate students go on to work and/or further study within fifteen months of graduating*.

*HESA Graduate Outcomes 2021/22 UK domiciled; other activities excluded

“University opened up possibilities for me I could never have dreamed of”



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR
08-09

Hannah James

Here at Huddersfield we're all about being international. This could be learning a language whilst you study with us, or making friends with international students (we have students from over 120 countries). Or it could be going on an international trip or placement. That's exactly what Hannah James did. ▶▶



Hannah with her colleagues at Marc Jacobs, and on Brooklyn Bridge in New York.

Excitement

Higher Education is a personal experience





John Warhurst, former student of the University of Huddersfield, and his sound editing team won an Oscar for their celebration of Freddie Mercury and Queen at the 91st Academy Awards

Thank you for listening

University of
HUDDERSFIELD
Inspiring global professionals

2025 Open Days:

Saturday 21 June

Saturday 27 September

Wednesday 15 October

Saturday 22 November

hud.ac/open-days

