**MEET THE RUSSELL GROUP VIRTUAL EVENT – APRIL 2022**

**EMPLOYABILITY IN THE RUSSELL GROUP**

**(KATIE PAGETT, UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM)**

***GOOD NEWS! – THERE ARE 20% MORE VACANCIES FOR GRADUATES THIS YEAR THAN THERE WERE IN 2019!***

**WHY STUDY AT A RUSSELL GROUP UNIVERSITY?**

* **Research – find solutions to national and global issues / attracts expert academics**
* **Attracts research funding (facilities)**
* **Forges business/employer links – creates bursaries/scholarships/ placements/ internships/targeted by graduate employers**
* **Academic achievement –**
* **higher proportion of 1st/2;1 degree achieved (HESA – HE Stats Agency)**
* **on average, over 80% of Russell Group graduates are in a higher level of professional employment compared to 68% from other universities**
* **Trainer of 80% of Britain’s doctors and dentists**
* **Produces over 50% of maths and physical sciences graduates**

**DO EMPLOYERS FAVOUR RUSSELL GROUP UNIVERSITY GRADUATES?**

* **For some careers it helps – such as in investment banking and for some legal firms**
* **Can give job applicants “a sparkle” – for those competitive careers**
* **It may swing the balance if the application is similar standard to other candidates – other factors important too, of course**
* **It takes time/money to recruit so employers can be selective in where they focus on promoting vacancies – so target Russell Group universities**
* **Big name employers (concerning graduate schemes) who do not require specific subjects at degree level can focus more on Russell Group graduates**
* **Activities at Russell Group universities- presentations/job writing advice/networking sessions/informal events/exhibitions/recruitment fairs - aims are to attract students, for students to talk to employers in person about their opportunities, can give the student the edge re tips and tactics, easier to meet and network with employers**

**Some employers do target NON-Russell Group universities for particular subjects!**

**Examples are –**

* **Civil Engineering/Quantity Surveying – employers like to target Sheffield Hallam University and Nottingham Trent University**
* **Property-based courses – University of Reading and Oxford Brookes University can be preferred by many employers**

***ADVICE – FIND OUT WHICH EMPLOYERS TARGET WHICH UNIVERSITIES!***

**GRADUATE TRAINING SCHEMES AND SALARIES**

* **Examples are (taken from High Fliers) –**
* **BAE Systems (£29,258 – technical and business)**
* **Lidl (£37,500 – buyer)**
* **IBM (£32,000)**
* **Unilever (£37,000 – customer service, supply chain)**
* **BP (£48,000 – engineering and business)**

**According to High Fliers, the median salary for graduates is £32,000 (2022) and according to HESA, the average starting salary is £24,291.**

**Russell Group graduates earn 10% more than their peers.**

***ADVICE – THE DEGREE ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH!***

***YOUR GRADES, WORK EXPERIENCE, ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF YOUR STUDIES, YOUR MOTIVATION AND A WELL WRITTEN APPLICATION ARE ALL GOING TO BE ESSENTIAL IF YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS IN YOUR JOB-HUNTING***

***YOU WILL REQUIRE SKILLS AND QUALITIES IN COMMERCIAL AWARENESS, LEADERSHIP, DIGITAL & DATA AND MORE…***

***GET WORK EXPERIENCE AT UNIVERSITY –***

* ***IDEALLY, PAID QUALITY WORK EXPERIENCE***
* ***UNDERTAKEN IN AN OCCUPATION/PROFESSIONAL AREA – SUCH AS IN ENGINEERING, COMPUTER SCIENCE, BUSINESS***
* ***EXAMPLES ARE SUPPORTING OR LEADING A PROJECT***
* ***WILL GIVE YOU AN OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY AND DEVELOP SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE***
* ***YOU WILL RECEIVE TRAINING AND SUPPORT FROM UNDERSTANDING EMPLOYERS***

**INTERNSHIPS**

* **During the summer (6-12 weeks, usually)**
* **Any degree subjects**
* **Paid minimum wage**
* **Can be virtual**
* **Not usually accredited**

**PLACEMENTS**

* **Usually in 2nd/final year at university (up to 12 months)**
* **Usually for vocational subjects**
* **Usually complete a module and receive academic credit**
* **Salaries approx. £12,000-£18,000 dependant on degree subject**

**BENEFITS OF INTERNSHIPS AND PLACEMENTS**

* **Payment**
* **Helps decide on career you want to do**
* **Give insight into the application process**
* **Helps to develop and apply your skills and knowledge in a work setting**
* **1/3 of recruiters say graduates who have NO experience are unlikely to be successful during selection**

**PROCESSES FOR TOP GRADUATE SCHEMES**

* **Apply for internships when at university**
* **Apply for course with placement/s via UCAS**
* **Competitive so research courses and apply as early as you can**

**FINAL ADVICE! – VISIT THE CAREERS SERVICE AT YOUR UNIVERSITY IN YOUR 1ST YEAR AT UNIVERSITY – DO NOT LEAVE IT UNTIL LATER ON IN YOUR COURSE OR NEAR WHEN YOU FINISH!!**

**VISIT** [**WWW.PROSPECTS.AC.UK**](http://WWW.PROSPECTS.AC.UK) **AND** [**WWW.TARGETJOBS.CO.UK**](http://WWW.TARGETJOBS.CO.UK)

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**CAREERS ADVISER**

**APRIL 2022**