

# A graduate's career journey

In May, we surveyed **3,000 university students and graduates** to better understand their career perceptions. Here we map out a graduate's journey, looking at their **thoughts, preferences and concerns** through each stage:

## University

Whilst **50% always** intended to go to university:

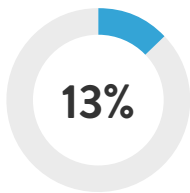
**23%** considered apprenticeships

**11%** considered degree apprenticeships

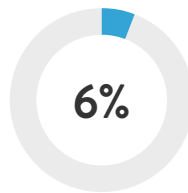
**9%** considered an entry level job

**38%** felt influenced to go to university as they believe their future career prospects require a degree

## Starting the job search early



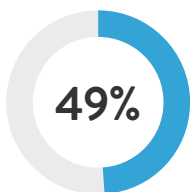
of those finishing university this year had secured a role before graduating



of first year students have already secured a graduate role

**37%** intend to work for a large corporation compared to **6%** who hope to work for a start-up

## Applications and interviews



have felt discouraged applying for a job because of the recruitment process

**74%** prefer applying for jobs with their CV and cover letter as well as favouring face to face interviews

**Vs**

**Only 5%** who prefer applications with a gamification element

Feedback is important to graduates, they reported that they would benefit from personalised, specific and constructive feedback which they can learn from for their next opportunity.

## Securing their first job

**62%**

believe they will work in their **dream industry**

**65%**

expect a starting salary of **£25,000 or less**

**71%**

stated that **COVID-19 has not impacted** their decision on which industry to work in

**46%**

would accept **less money** for their first graduate role due to Covid-19

## Training and development

Training is important for young workers when they start their new roles:

**41%** expressed that whilst university did prepare them somewhat for the workplace, there were still gaps that would help them when entering the workforce

**44%** expressed concern that they're lacking the job function specific skills they need to thrive in their workplace

**45%** would like to build **public speaking skills**

**43%** feel they **lack confidence**

## Career progression, moving to a new company vs. progressing internally

**33%**

plan to stay at their company for **less than 2 years**

**82%**

would be **encouraged to stay longer** if their employer offered a clear path to promotion

**Only 7%**

plan to stay at their company for **more than 5 years**

However **24%** would stay for 5 or more years if offered a clear progression path

Our Candidate Compass Report delves deeper into student and graduate career confidence. Read the full report [here](#).