



**Press Release** Released on Monday 21st January 2019

# New research shows a surge in graduate jobs at the UK's top employers in 2019

A major new report on the graduate job market, published today (Monday 21st January 2019), shows that the UK's top employers are increasing their graduate vacancies by 9.1% in 2019, the biggest annual rise in graduate recruitment for nine years.

**The Graduate Market in 2019** is a study of graduate vacancies, starting salaries and undergraduate work experience programmes at the country's one hundred leading employers, conducted by **High Fliers Research** in December 2018.

The report reveals that vacancies at the country's best-known graduate employers recovered in 2018, after a sharp fall in graduate jobs that followed the UK's decision to leave the European Union, and are set to rise significantly in 2019.

The research also highlights that employers are offering more opportunities for university students to do paid internships and other paid work experience before applying for their first graduate job.

The median starting salary for new graduates joining the UK's leading graduate employers in 2019 is £30,000.

Key findings from **The Graduate Market in 2019** report include:

- Graduate recruitment at the country's top employers is **expected to increase substantially in 2019**, with employers in eleven out of fifteen key industries and business sectors planning to recruit more new graduates this year.
- Together, the UK's one hundred leading employers are **stepping up their graduate vacancies by 9.1%** in 2019, the highest annual rise in graduate recruitment since 2010.
- The biggest increases in vacancies are expected at **public sector employers, accounting & professional services firms** and **engineering & industrial companies** who intend to recruit more than **1,500 additional graduates** in 2019.
- The number of graduates hired by the top employers **increased by 4.3%** in 2018, following a drop in recruitment in 2017 after the UK's vote to leave the European Union in the summer of 2016.
- **Graduate starting salaries** at the UK's leading graduate employers are expected to **remain unchanged** for the fifth consecutive year in 2019, at a median starting salary of **£30,000**.

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- At least a sixth of places on the top graduate programmes now provide starting salaries of more than **£40,000** and nine of the country's best-known graduate employers are paying salaries in excess of **£45,000** this year.
- The most generous salaries in 2019 are those on offer from the **investment banks** (median of £47,000), **law firms** (median of £45,000), **consulting firms** (median of £45,000), **oil & energy companies** (median of £38,500) and **retailers** (median of £35,000).
- The highest published graduate starting salaries for 2019 include law firms **Linklaters** (£47,000), **White & Case** (£46,000), **Baker McKenzie** (£45,000), **Allen & Overy** (£45,000), **Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer** (£45,000) and **Hogan Lovells** (£45,000), consulting firm **Newton** (£45,000), technology company **TPP** (£45,000) and retailer **Aldi** (£44,000).
- The number of **paid work experience places** available at the UK's leading graduate employers is expected to **increase by 1.8%** in 2019.
- **More than four-fifths** of the country's top graduate employers are offering **paid work experience programmes** for students and recent graduates during the 2018-2019 academic year, providing a total of **13,098 places**.
- Nearly three-quarters of employers provide **paid vacation internships** for **penultimate year students** and over two-fifths offer **course placements** for undergraduates (usually lasting 6-12 months as part of a university degree course).
- Substantial numbers of employers now also have work experience places for **first year undergraduates** – a fifth of organisations offer paid internships and two-fifths of employers run introductory courses, open days and other taster experiences for first year students.
- **Over than a third of recruiters** who took part in the research repeated their warnings from previous years – that graduates who have had no previous work experience at all are **unlikely to be successful** during the selection process for their graduate programmes.

Author of *The Graduate Market in 2019* report and Managing Director of High Fliers Research, **Martin Birchall** commented:

“Our latest research shows that despite all the continuing uncertainty over Brexit, the UK's top employers are planning to recruit a record number of new graduates in 2019. The graduate job market dipped two years ago in the aftermath of the vote to leave the EU but recovered well in 2018. The growth in graduate vacancies for 2019 is the highest for nine years and there are more opportunities than ever before for university undergraduates to do paid work experience with the country's leading employers.”

#### **Notes to Editors:**

1. *The Graduate Market in 2019* is produced by **High Fliers Research**, the independent market research company which has specialised in researching graduate employment since 1994.
2. The **employers** included in *The Graduate Market in 2019* research are the one hundred organisations that final year university students from the UK's leading universities believe offer the best opportunities for new graduates – including Deloitte, Civil Service Fast Stream, Goldman Sachs, BP, Barclays, Rolls-Royce, Unilever, BBC, BAE Systems and the NHS.
3. **Martin Birchall**, Managing Director of High Fliers Research is available for interview.  
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