

## **Press release**

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### **Resilient graduate jobs market with 10% growth**

Institute of Student Employers' (ISE) [annual student recruitment survey](#) reports a resilient graduate labour market with 10% more jobs than the previous year.

Nearly 22,000 graduate jobs were created. This was mainly driven by significant increases in finance and professional services as well as public sector employers who recruited 35% more graduates, particularly in policing and education.

Since the 2008 recession graduate jobs have grown 10% or above on just two other occasions - in 2013 and 2014. While this suggests a buoyant market, employers are cautious: the short-term and temporary hire of graduates through internships or work placements has dropped by 4% and 7% respectively. Employers also anticipate that Brexit and/or a recession will reduce hiring over the next five years.

The energy and engineering, and legal industries were the only sectors to make small reductions in the number of graduates they recruited, down 1% and 3% respectively.

Employers had challenges recruiting graduates for engineering, IT programming and development, and technical and analytical roles. Actuaries, electronic engineers, prison officers and quantity surveyors were also highlighted as shortage areas.

The average graduate starting salary offered by ISE members remains competitive at £29,000. This was up £750 on last year, however, when indexed to the Consumer Price Index, salaries have not recovered to pre-recession levels in real terms. Graduates entering law, finance or IT are the most highly paid.

Employers have also increased hires onto school leaver programmes to more than 6,000 - up by 7% on the previous year.

The average ISE member is paying £1.225 million annually to the government through the apprenticeship levy. They reported starting 11,224 apprentices this year of whom 52% were non-graduates, 25% graduates and 23% existing staff.

Stephen Isherwood, Chief Executive of ISE said: "Although the drop in temporary opportunities is concerning as this offers students the opportunity to gain valuable work experience, employers are mainly resisting the urge to dial down their recruitment in the face of current and future challenges.

"Hiring is up, employers are receiving a healthy volume of applications and they are paying more. We hope that this continues and will do everything that we can to support firms as they manage the uncertainty that lies ahead."

## **Ends**

### **Media enquiries**

For a copy of the report, interviews or more information please contact:  
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## **Notes to editors**

### **ISE Annual Student Recruitment Survey 2019**

ISE Annual Recruitment Survey explores how employers are bringing young people into the labour market to gather the talent that they need to meet their skills and business requirements. The report presents data collected in July and August 2019 from 153 of the ISE's members. Employers had recruited 37,389 young people during the 2018/19 recruitment season, which were made up of 21,877 graduates, 6,218 non-graduates, 6,734 interns and 2,560 placement students. The findings are strongly indicative of the experience of larger employers who are recruiting skilled young people.

### **About the Institute of Student Employers (ISE)**

ISE, formerly Association of Graduate Recruiters, is the recognised national voice for UK employers that recruit and develop graduates, school leavers, interns, placement students and apprentices. The independent, not-for-profit organisation has more than 750 members from both the public and private sectors, uniting employers with universities, colleges, schools and industry suppliers.

### **For further information:**

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