

**Press release: Friday 25 January 2019**

**Brexit concern over filling technical roles as apprentice and graduate jobs rise by nearly a third, reports  
Institute of Student Employers**

Brexit is not impacting the number of apprentice and graduate jobs available this year, yet employers are concerned about filling specialist and technical roles.

[Institute of Student Employer's](#) (ISE) Pulse Survey 2019 found that some of the UK's largest employers are increasing their apprentice and graduate vacancies by 27% this year. Respondents are offering more than 17,000 entry jobs and the majority (70%) don't anticipate Brexit will have any impact on their recruitment needs.

However, with more than half (55%) of employers unable to fill entry-level jobs last year - 1,839 jobs were left unfilled – there are concerns that Brexit may make it more difficult to source the talent they need (49%). Filling specialist jobs both at entry level (32%) and in more experienced roles (38%) is of greater concern than filling more general positions (17%).

Graduate roles continue to dominate the market at 66%, compared to apprenticeships. However, apprenticeships are growing more rapidly at 47% than graduate jobs at 18%. Growth in vacancies is reflected in how much of the apprenticeship levy employers are spending, which is expected to increase by more than a quarter this year to 39%.

Demand for graduates has increased the most in the public sector (up 32%). More graduate jobs are also more likely to be found in finance, FMCG, the built environment and IT.

The number of apprenticeships available has increased the most in retail and IT, up 128% and 65% respectively. While there is also significant demand for apprentices in energy, engineering and industry (up 40%), this is the only sector to reduce the number of graduate jobs (3% fall).

Stephen Isherwood, Chief Executive of the ISE said: "It will be welcome news to students and graduates that companies are optimistic about the number of jobs they'll be offering this year. There are more routes into some of the country's best jobs and apprenticeships continue to grow at pace, suggesting the government's apprenticeship strategy is maturing and starting to have the desired effect.

"There are, however, concerns from employers over the supply of talent: that the market is contracting and Brexit may compound the issue and make for an even tougher climate. Getting the specialist and technical skills necessary for businesses to not just survive, but also grow and thrive, will be vital over the coming months and years. Clarity is needed as soon as possible to enable employers to plan."

**Ends**

**Media enquiries, a preview of the report and interviews:**

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**Notes to editors**

**ISE Student Recruitment Pulse survey**

- The ISE surveyed 287 of its employer members in January 2019, resulting in 97 valid responses.
- Respondents are some of the UK's largest employers of early talent and reflect a wide range of industries.
- [ISE members](#) include apprentice and graduate employers, education providers and industry suppliers such as GlaxoSmithKline, British Airways, PNB Paribas, Johnson & Johnson, Pinsent Masons and Barclays.

### **Institute of Student Employers**

The Institute of Student Employers (ISE), [formerly the Association of Graduate Recruiters \(AGR\)](#), is an independent, not-for-profit member organisation that was established in 1968.

As the UK's leading independent voice for student employers, the ISE's vision is that every businesses success is maximised by full access to student talent.

The ISE achieves this by bringing together employers, the education sector and supplier partners, providing leadership and support in all aspects of student recruitment and development.

ISE activities include:

- Promoting excellence and innovation in the resourcing, assessment and development of emerging talent including school leavers, apprentices and graduates
- Providing expert information and insight to ISE member organisations, creating engaged communities for professional networking and sharing of best practice
- Delivering comprehensive research on a range of issues affecting graduate, intern and apprenticeship recruitment and development, including current and future trends and benchmarking data
- Investing in the professional development of members to enhance their skills and knowledge, maximising their career opportunities within the profession
- Influencing key policy areas affecting student employment and the education sector
- Building a strong professional organisation with the right structure and team capabilities to deliver the services and support members require to fulfil their objectives

### **For further information:**

- [www.ise.org.uk](http://www.ise.org.uk)
- Follow us @IoSEorg
- Connect with us on LinkedIn/company/Institute of Student Employers