

Employability statement

Graduate success

At Newcastle, the quality of our degrees, a focus on developing students' employability skills and our reputation with employers means that our graduates are in a strong position in the world of work. We consistently have one of the best records for [graduate employment](#) in the UK, with 95.3 per cent of our most recent graduating cohort entering employment or further study within six months of completing their studies (figures based on UK/EU graduates in 2016/17, Higher Education Statistics Agency).

While proud of the proportion of our graduates entering work or study so soon after graduating, our real success is in the high proportion of our graduates employed or studying at a higher level. From our most recent graduating cohort, 85.5 per cent of our students are in highly skilled work or postgraduate study six months after graduating, and this ranks us tenth among all universities in the UK for 'Graduate Prospects' (Good University Guide 2019, Sunday Times).

Education for life

One of the key reasons for the success of our graduates is that we encourage our students to think about their future early in their studies, through opportunities within and outside of our courses.

Each of our Schools has an Academic Lead for Employability and Enterprise and one of their key responsibilities is to design careers education opportunities within all of our courses. Supporting our Academic Leads, each School has a link careers adviser and enterprise adviser, based in the Careers Service, and together these ensure that relevant opportunities are provided from an early stage.

Underpinning our courses and our extracurricular offer is a Graduate Framework, designed in collaboration with employers, professional bodies and our graduates. This framework defines skills and attributes valued in the work place, and ensures that we help our students develop skills for the workplace.

In the past two years the University's Employability and Enterprise Strategy has won prestigious awards at the National Graduate Recruitment Awards (Target Jobs, 2017) and Educate North Awards (2018).

Relevant to the workplace

Recognising the value of work experience, all of our undergraduate degree courses include the option for students to undertake a [placement year](#) in industry, in the UK or overseas. For those seeking shorter periods in work, we also offer the [Career Development Module](#), which enable students to undertake work experience, volunteering, or paid work as an accredited part of their degree, as well as paid internships which are available during vacations and term time.

We also work closely with employers to ensure our degrees reflect the skills needed in the world of work. As well as our Graduate Framework, most of our academic schools have advisory boards with graduates and employers as members. Many of our degrees are also accredited by professional organisations.

Employers regularly come on campus to deliver lectures and practical sessions. Students also benefit from teaching and assessment methods that encourage the development of transferable skills, such as teamwork and project-based work.

The majority of our degrees also offer study abroad opportunities and the skills gained through these experiences, such as language skills and cultural awareness, are highly valued by employers.

Strong employer links

Newcastle graduates are in demand and we are one of the top 20 'most targeted' universities by the UK's leading employers (High Fliers Survey of Times Top 100 Employers, 2018).

More than 1,500 employers advertise vacancies, work experience and placement opportunities with our Careers Service each year, and more than 250 employers come to visit our campus to deliver presentations, hold interviews and attend recruitment fairs.

As well as strong links with leading national and international recruiters, we also have excellent links with local employers, and within each graduating cohort more than 40 per cent of our students gain employment in the North East region, the majority in highly skilled roles.

Adding to your degree

Most of our students add to their academic qualifications by participating in extracurricular activities, including volunteering, student representation, paid work and taking on leadership roles in student clubs and societies.

We offer every student the opportunity to enhance their extracurricular experience by completing our [ncl+ award](#), which helps them recognise and reflect upon the skills and knowledge they have gained, as well as learn how to present these effectively to employers. For those who complete the ncl+ award, we also offer a suite of [advanced awards](#), designed with employers and professional bodies.

The other main way in which we recognise students for their extracurricular activities is through annual '[Celebrating Success](#)' Events organised by the Students' Union and Careers Service. These events recognise around 600 students and student groups each year, and from this we invite award winners to attend our annual [Pride of Newcastle University Awards Dinner](#), held at Newcastle's Civic Centre. Attended by senior staff, businesses, graduates and representatives of the North East community, this is a celebration dinner to recognise the amazing contribution made by our students outside of their academic studies.

Career insights

For students from under-represented groups (e.g. care leavers or students who enter the University through the PARTNERS programme or our Raising Aspirations programme) we offer a [Career Insights Award](#), which aims to support and raise personal and professional ambitions. This programme, delivered across the academic year, includes business consultancy projects with large local businesses such as Accenture and Nissan, employer insight visits to major European cities such as London and Amsterdam, and opportunities to apply for £500 work experience bursaries.

Helping our students start businesses

A key strand of our Employability and Enterprise Strategy is helping our students consider self-employment as a viable and realistic career option. To do this we offer a wide range of support to those with entrepreneurial intentions, from One Day Innovation Challenges which are delivered as part of undergraduate and postgraduate courses, to [workshops](#), elective [enterprise modules](#) and regular events organised as part of our thriving START UP community.

More than thirty new businesses are set up each year by our students, and these are supported by a dedicated team of [START UP and business advisers](#). In our Careers and Enterprise Centre we offer start up space, and each year provide grants to around six graduates to start businesses as [START UP Founders](#).

Award-winning careers support

Our [Careers Service](#) is one of the best, largest and most innovative in the UK. Located in the heart of the University campus, this offers a full range of support, from CV advice and interview technique, through to in depth careers guidance with our team of professional careers advisers. While we will work with your course to help you think about your future early, our support extends for three years after graduation, and from 2019 will include access to [NCL Spark](#), a brand new online platform linking students to our alumni for further support.

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Marc Lintern, Director of Student Experience

Approved by Professor Suzanne Cholerton, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Education