

Graduate Experiences of the Job Market in Lincolnshire

Introduction

This project explores the experiences of university graduates in the job market in Lincolnshire, and discuss how graduates are able to navigate the job market and the challenges they can face when searching for employment.

Despite many graduates having work experience prior to graduating, they are now in contact with unemployment agencies or had to relocate to find available work. To investigate the experiences of graduates, five graduates living in Lincolnshire were interviewed and asked about their unique experiences navigating the job market.



Results

Job Centre

3/5 Participants engaged with the Job Centre and expressed dissatisfaction with the aid they were given. However, they were involved with an external charity service that provides help to unemployed young people and found this service to be beneficial. Participants felt that the Job Centre did not have their interests in mind and would not help them find employment in the industry related to their degree.

University Careers Service

All participants had engaged with their university careers service, with 4/5 stating that further support towards the end of undergraduate study would have been beneficial. 3/5 Participants felt that their university had not adequately prepared them to enter the job market, and the careers service was unable to provide them the help they had approached them for.

Lincolnshire Concerns

All participants agreed it was easier to find employment outside of Lincolnshire. 2/5 Participants stated they had to take employment elsewhere as there were no opportunities available to them locally. 3/5 Participants had extended periods of unemployment after graduating due to lack of job opportunities. Participants also described Lincolnshire as inaccessible, with issues with public transport or long drive times in Lincolnshire that caused problems with commuting to work if their workplace was outside of walking distance.



Methodology

This research was conducted through semi-structured interviews with participants aged between 21-35 years old who had graduated university since 2014 and currently live or work in Lincolnshire.

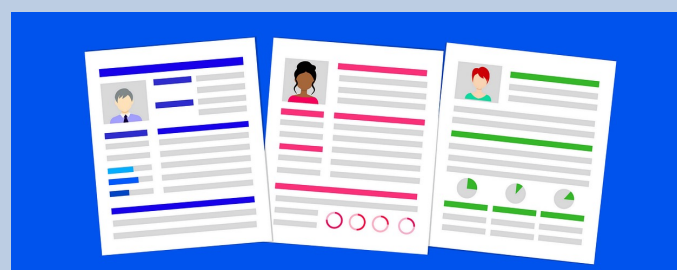
Participants were recruited through social media flyers and professional networks. All participants were offered a £20 amazon gift voucher upon completion of the interview.

All interviews lasted between 30-60 minutes and were conducted both face-to-face and over MS Teams.

Discussion

From the sample, two participants had achieved their goal of entering employment which related to their degree, and the remaining three participants had so far been unable to. There was also a variety of degrees and areas of employment among the participants.

Whilst conducting this UROS project, I was given the opportunity to work directly alongside academics and develop a range of skills, including working to a tight deadline, interviewing participants, and professional communication and writing. This experience has been especially useful as it has helped me prepare for my future in academia and allowed me to become more confident for further research I will conduct.



Conclusion

This research indicates that the labour market in Lincolnshire is currently unprepared to handle the number of graduates searching for work and graduates in Lincolnshire are being forced to search for opportunities in other cities or take unpaid or part-time work. The participants indicated a lack of graduate opportunities available in the Lincolnshire area and a lack of aid from their careers centre and Job Centre, directly impacting their likelihood of obtaining an industry job.

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