



**Durham**  
University

Careers and Enterprise

# Durham University Careers and Enterprise

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[www.durham.ac.uk/study/careers-employability-enterprise](http://www.durham.ac.uk/study/careers-employability-enterprise)



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@careersatdurham

Durham's global perspective, coupled with our academic excellence and transformative wider student experience, will ensure you stand out in the jobs market.

Durham graduates go on to exciting and fulfilling careers across the world, and are found working in companies such as Deloitte, EY, KPMG, Bank of Shanghai, Ipsos, Bloomberg, Fox Entertainment, PwC, Amazon and many more.

[Employability - Durham University](#)

**Top 5  
UK university.**

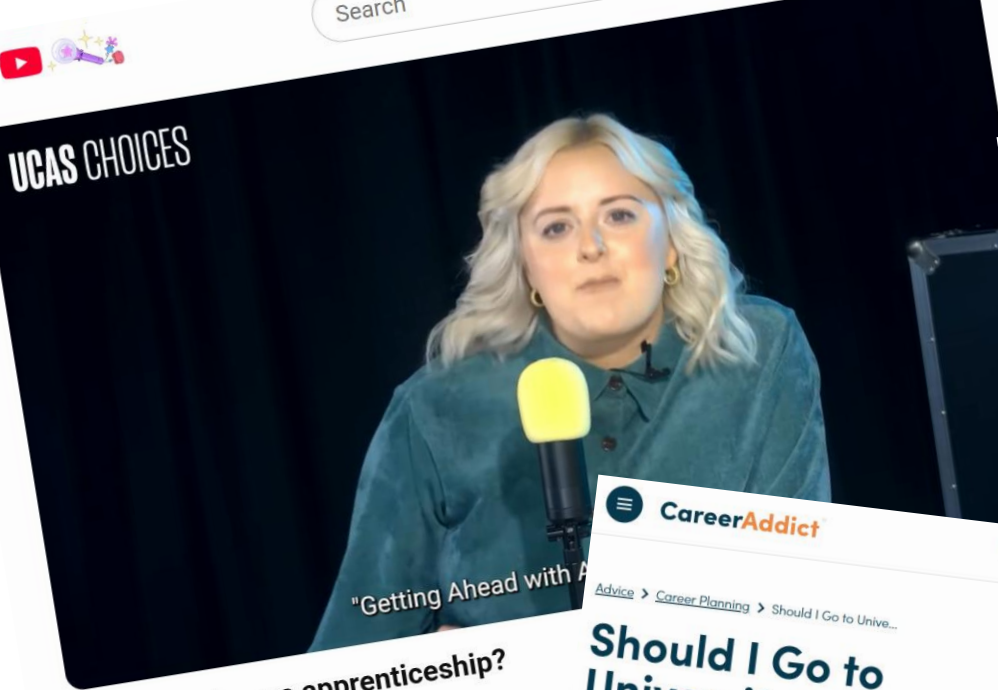
Ranked 3rd in The Times, 5th in The Guardian and 5th in The Complete University Guide

2026

**Top 100  
in the world for  
employer reputation.**

64<sup>th</sup> in the QS World University Rankings 2026.

# Why university?



Buy course Book exam

How to

choose what's right for you

Degree or degree apprenticeship?

UCAS 17.4k subscribers

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The Reality of Graduate Job Searching in the UK: What to Expect in 2026

### Should I Go to University? 10 Pros and 10 Cons to Consider

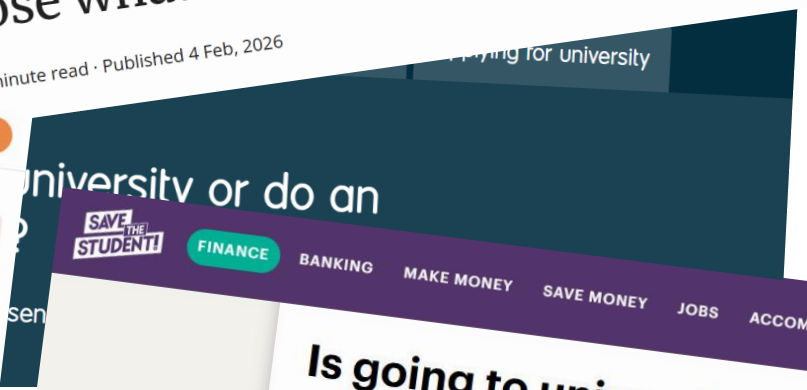
To go or not to earn an academic degree? That is the question.



Home » Career Advice » Diplomas and Dividends: Is a Degree worth it?

# Diplomas and Dividends: Is Degree Worth It in 2025?

Last updated on 29 January, 2026



SAVE THE STUDENT!

FINANCE BANKING MAKE MONEY SAVE MONEY JOBS ACCOMMODATION

## Is going to university worth it?



by Tom Allingham in Sixth form & college, Student Finance Updated by Hannah Williams 15 July 2025

With mounting tuition fees and the supposed 'decreased value' of degrees, is it worth it? Here's the answer.



# The financial payoff of higher education

- On average, **earning a degree does translate into higher pay and employment prospects.**
- **Graduates tend to earn more** over their lifetimes than non-graduates: it's often cited as a “graduate premium” of **over £100,000** (net of tax and inflation) across a career.
- By the age of 31, **graduates in the UK earn approximately 32%–37% more** on average than peers who could have attended university but chose not to.
- In 2023, about **88% of working-age graduates were employed**, compared to roughly 70% of non-graduates. Two-thirds of graduates held high-skill jobs, compared to only 24% of non-graduates.

# Business

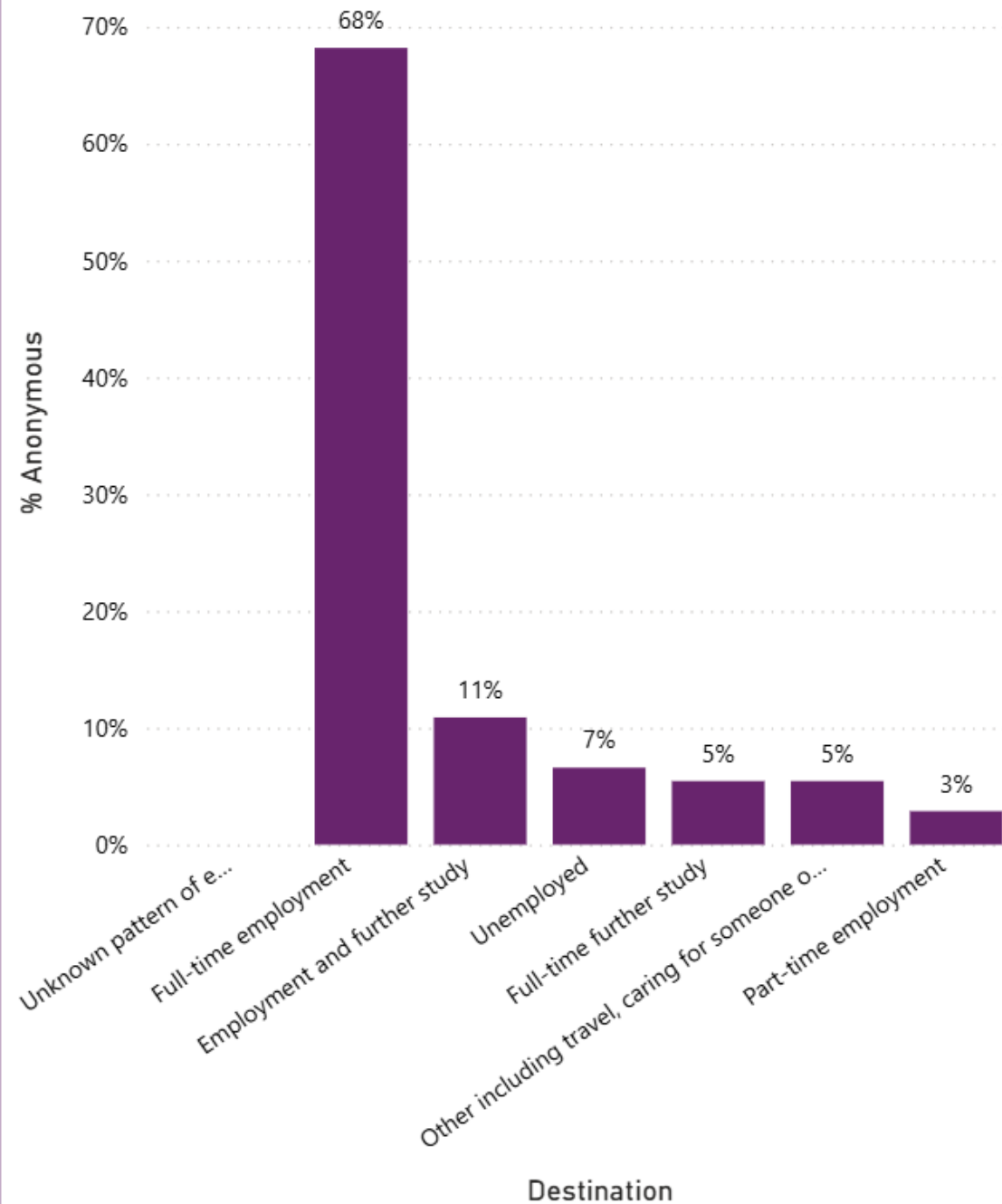
88%

in work and/or further study

£39,000

Median Salary of graduates in full time employment

## Destination



# Sciences

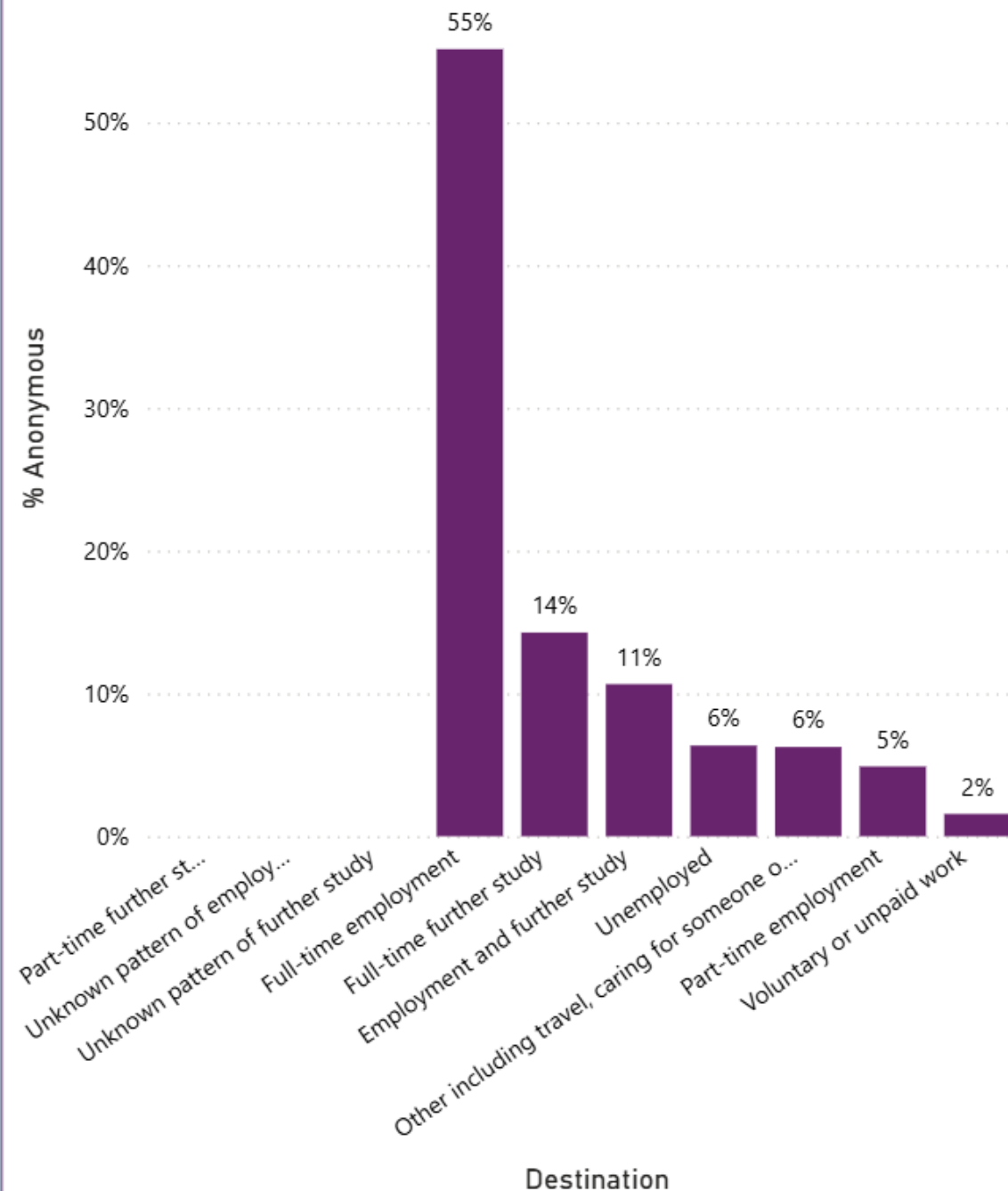
87%

in work and/or further study

£32,000

Median Salary of graduates in full time employment

## Destination



# Social Sciences

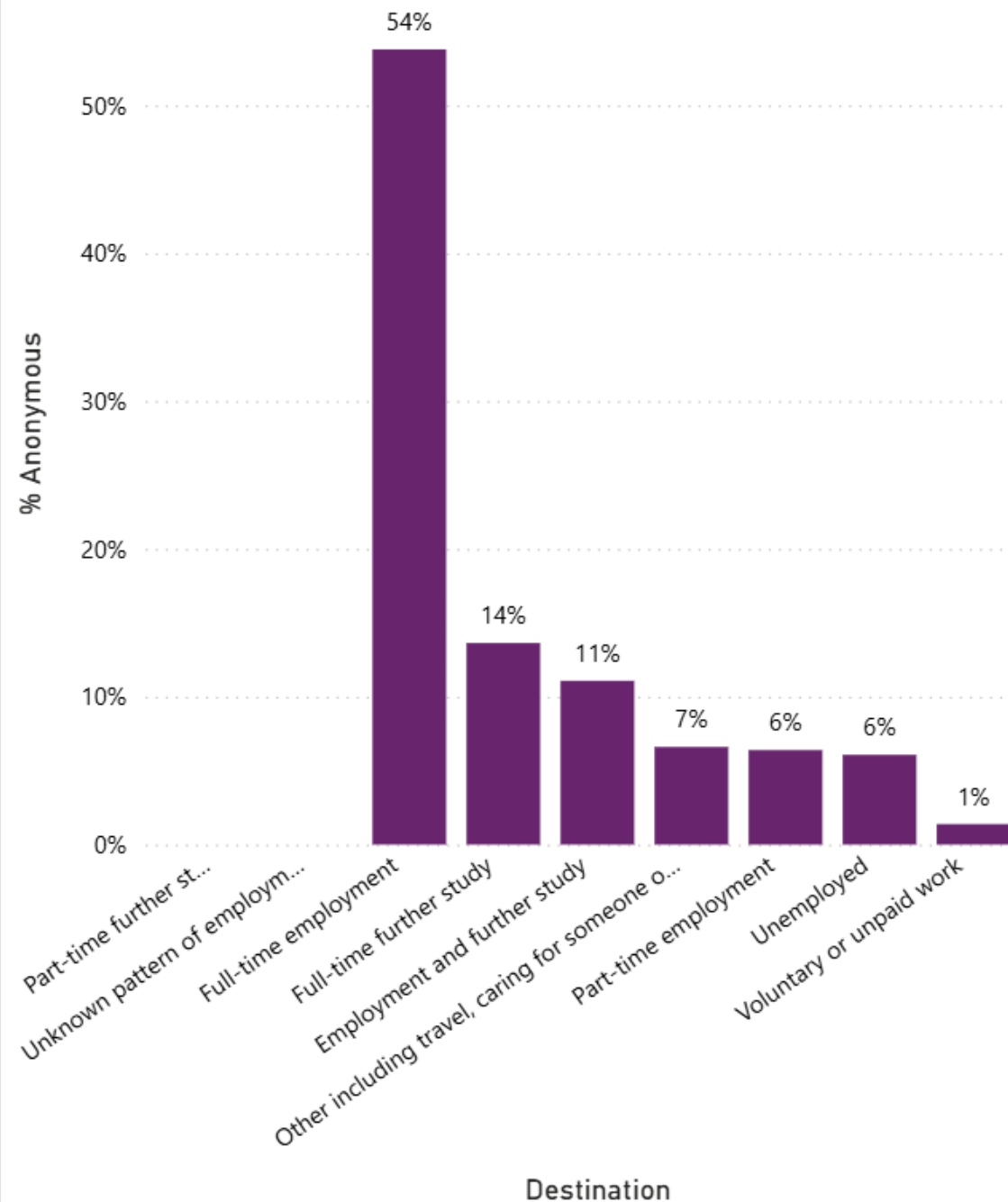
87%

in work and/or further study

£30,000

Median Salary of graduates in full time employment

## Destination



# Arts and Humanities

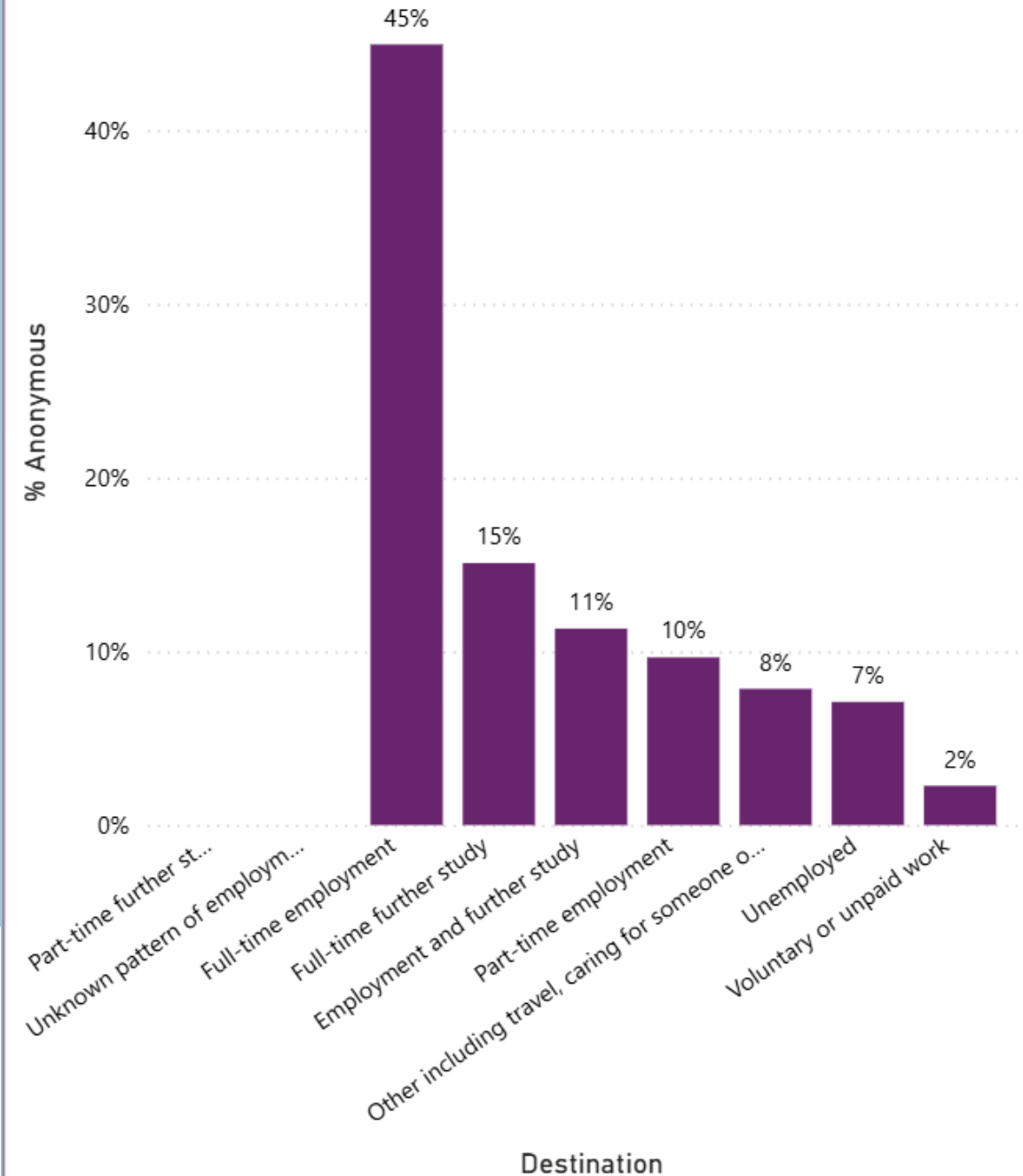
85%

in work and/or further study

£27,000

Median Salary of graduates in full time employment

## Destination



# Beyond the pay cheque

- Experiences result in students being **much more job-ready upon graduation** - extracurricular activities, industrial placements, internships, or study-abroad programmes can enhance CVs, teach workplace etiquette, and enable theory to be applied in practice.
- University **increases self-belief and independence** - independent living, demanding coursework, and various social situations can significantly boost confidence and maturity.
- A university degree shows **evidence of the ability to learn and handle complex tasks** - many employers respect graduate skills more than specific qualifications.
- Simply being part of a university's alumni **network can open doors throughout one's career** - making connections with peers, lecturers, alumni, and industry professionals through classes, clubs, and events can later support job referrals, mentorship, or collaborations.
- Encountering new ideas, individuals from diverse backgrounds, and varied environments at university often **widens one's outlook and cultural awareness** - Research indicates that graduates tend to enjoy better health and are more active in civic duties, such as voting or volunteering, than those without degrees.

# We want you to leave Durham with more than a degree



We want you to graduate with the skills and qualities that enable you to thrive in the world. That's why we focus on our Graduate Attributes.

Our Graduate Attributes are designed to support personal and professional growth giving you the knowledge, skills and values needed to succeed in an ever-changing global society.

They serve as a cornerstone to the Durham student experience, academic programmes and college activities. Through this holistic approach, we provide opportunities for you to develop the skills and competences needed to thrive long after you leave university.



## As a Durham student you:



Are open minded



Act ethically and  
with integrity



Lead, follow and  
collaborate well



Are intellectually  
rigorous and  
courageous



Are curious and  
creative



Learn and grow from  
your experiences



Are resourceful in a  
rapidly changing world



# Exploring options: Career Support at Durham University



# Who do we support?

- **Durham University students** from day one of their studies – we're here for first years, undergraduates and postgraduates
- **Durham University graduates** – we offer careers support for years after graduation



# Careers Advice and Guidance

- Careers appointments
- Central Programme of interactive workshops
- Faculty and Departmental Collaboration
- Career insight events



**Want to talk to a careers adviser?**

You can book a 20 minute Careers Appointment with a careers adviser on CareersConnect

A range of appointment days and times are available, and bookings can be made up to 7 days in advance



Swipe to find out how to book an appointment →



**Graduate careers week**

**3 - 6 June**

Durham University  
Learning & Enterprise



**HOW TO:  
NAVIGATE THE HIDDEN  
JOB MARKET & MAKE  
SPECULATIVE  
APPLICATIONS**

Where? In person  
When? Wednesday  
15th February  
1-2pm

Sign up via the link in the caption



Durham University  
Careers and Enterprise

Recruitment Presentation

**Careers in Interpreting**

Join our webinar to explore exciting opportunities in interpreting at the EU institutions and the United Nations!

Speakers: Morag Neath & Rebecca Edgington



WED  
19 JUN 2024

TIME  
12.30 - 1.15 PM

Register via CareersConnect

# Careers Resources

## Feedback

- Get CV, covering letter and LinkedIn profile feedback with our online AI tools.

## Funding

- Research and support finding funding for postgraduate study.

## Practise

- Real practise recruitment tests and video interviews.

## Personalised

- International student hub.
- Disabled and neurodivergent student support.

## Preferences

- Help to understand your career preferences, values, and learning styles.

## Global

- Explore worldwide jobs and internships.



# **Boosting skills: Opportunities to develop at Durham**

# Placement Years at Durham University

## A Placement Year is:

- Minimum 40 weeks
- One long or up to three shorter opportunities
- Professional level work experience
- Formally assessed
- Between 2nd & 3rd year



## Why do a Placement Year? :

- Enhances CVs and applications
- Opportunity to trial a future career
- Increases academic prospects
- Earn money
- Discover a new city or country



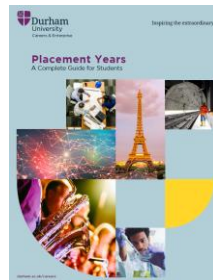
# What support do students receive during the Placement Year process?

## Faculty Placement Manager

Offer 1:1 appointments, workshops and in department events to support students in securing a quality assured placement.

## Communications

Closed LinkedIn group where we publish “harder to find” placements, weekly newsletter and a Facebook group for pre and on placement support. We also have a fantastic ‘Complete guide for students’ resource.



## Employer Events

Careers and Enterprise has hundreds of employers on campus for fairs, recruitment events and skills workshops such as “mock interviews”.

## Quality Assurance

Placements have a dual approval process to make sure they are safe and are at the appropriate level. Organisations must sign a placement contract with the University.

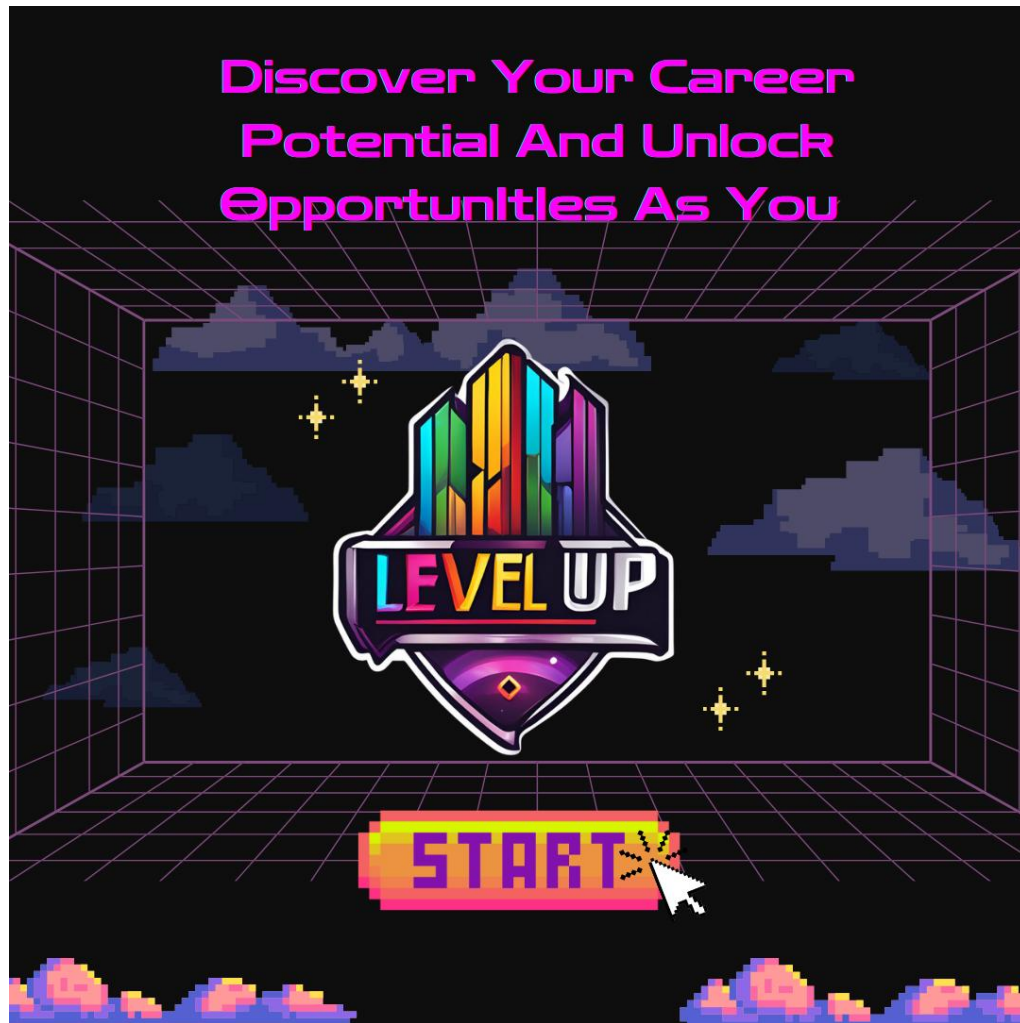
## Practical Support

Pre-placement briefings to ensure they are prepared for their placement and connects them with other outgoing students.

## On-placement support

Students will be allocated a placement tutor during their time on placement. They will be the point of contact at the University whilst on placement.

# Exclusive Opportunities



## Level Up

Engage with:

- Tailored resources.
- Personalised support.
- Curated events.
- Quests & challenges.
- Earning points and prizes through a rewards system.

Work through levels and unlock additional benefits:

- Strengths Assessment:
- AI-Enhanced CV & Cover Letter workshop.
- Employer visit.
- Micro-Internship.



# Global Internships & Volunteering

The Global Internships & Volunteering programme supports Widening Participation students at Durham to build skills and gain international experience via organised placements with trusted partner organisations.

- **Boost employability.**
- **Build your CV.**
- **Gain work experience.**
- **Meet people from across the UK and around the world.**
- **Improve inter-cultural fluency.**
- **Develop problem solving.**
- **Increase self-confidence.**



# Career Mentoring Programme



- Hybrid career mentoring programme tailored for selected first and second year undergraduate students.
- In collaboration with employers.
- Connect with industry professionals who provide guidance, advice, and support.
- Valuable career guidance and networking opportunities aimed at enhancing employability.

# **Gaining Experience: Meeting employers and starting new ventures**

# Example events

- STEM Careers week.
- Law Careers Week.
- Business, Finance and Consulting Careers Week.
- Explore More Careers Week.
- North-East Regional Career Fair.
- British Film Institute Careers Week.

Academic Year 2025-2026  
Careers Weeks and Fairs



# Opportunities

We advertised **6,399 vacancies** in the 2024-25 academic year.

Opportunities include:

- Part-time jobs.
- Graduate jobs.
- Internships.
- Placement years.
- Durham Exclusive opportunities.
- Positive action initiatives.



Inspiring the extraordinary

**Student Employment Service**



# Enterprise at Durham – Venture Lab

Supporting students to develop innovation and entrepreneurship skills

## Welcome to Venture Lab

We help Durham University students and graduates to create new ideas and launch new ventures.

Explore Ideas and Launch New Ventures →



- Startup Coaching.
- Workshops and events.
- Competitions and funding including the Blueprint Startup Challenge.
- Game Changer - innovation challenge.

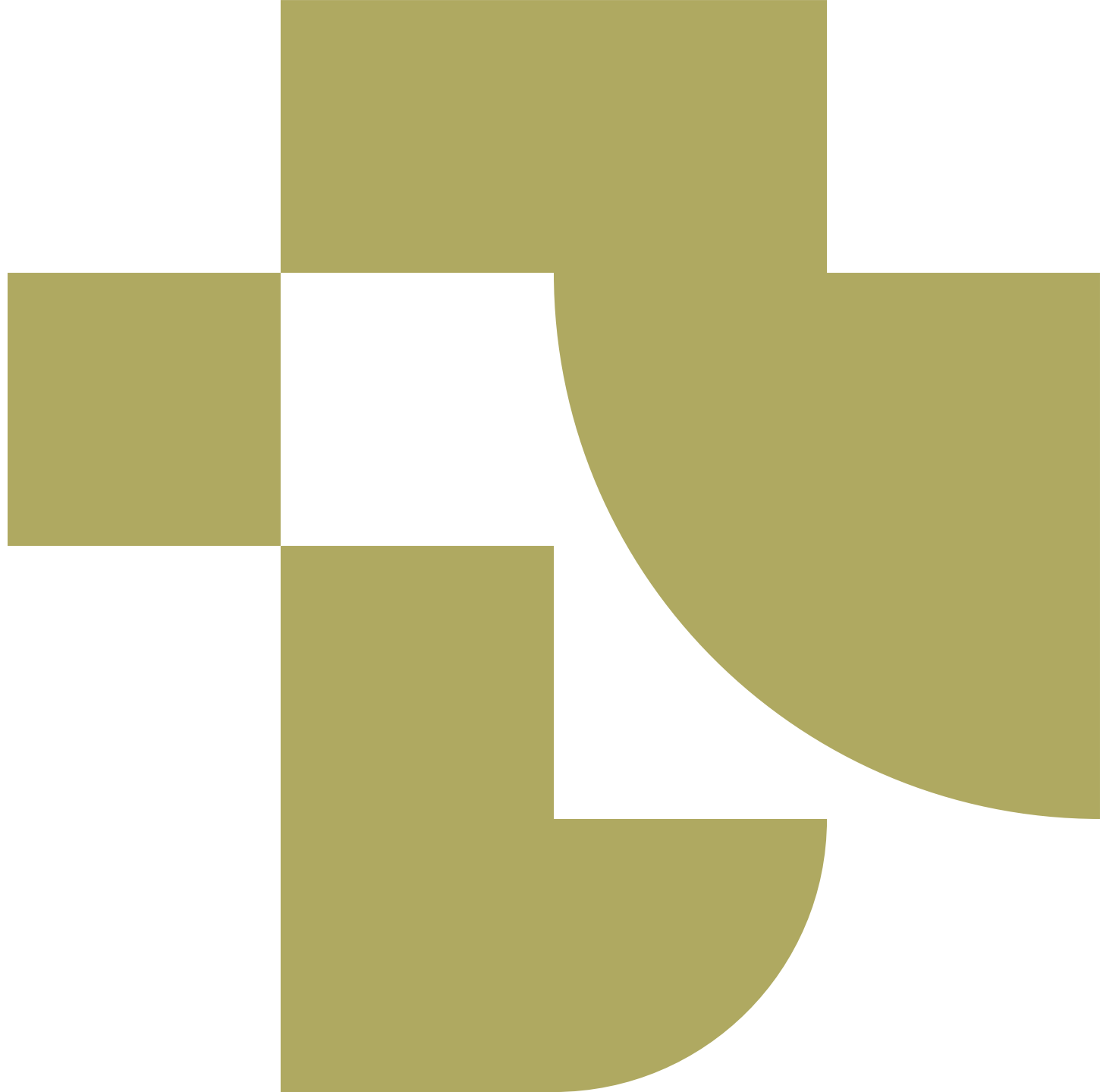
Past participants in Venture Lab activity have gone on to feature on Dragon's Den, Forbes 30 Under 30 and have been finalists in the Earthshot Prize.



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# Questions





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# Thank you

## Contact us here:



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[careers@durham.ac.uk](mailto:careers@durham.ac.uk)



[@careersatdurham](#)