

HE Employability Digest

A regular update on policy developments, reports and opportunities to influence decision-making in HE employability from The Careers Group, University of London

Number 3 — December 2016

Updates

LEO Data second release: 'Overall employment and further study outcomes 5 years after graduation vary little by subject studied (2008/09 graduates)'

Department of Education: Employment and earnings outcomes of higher education graduates: experimental statistics using the Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO) data: further breakdowns

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/573831/SFR60_2016_LEO_main_text_v1.1.pdf

The Department for Education's new Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO) dataset focuses on the employment and earnings outcomes of those graduating with an undergraduate degree in 2008/09 from an English higher education institution (HEI).

LEO data uses information from HM Revenue and Customs and the Department for Work and Pensions to provide a uniquely powerful insight into the employment outcomes of university graduates in England.

This second LEO publications includes:

- Employment, further study and earnings outcomes by subject studied (1, 3, 5 and 10 years after graduation)
- Employment, further study and earnings outcomes of graduates 1, 3 and 5 years after graduation, split by ethnicity, gender, age, home region and prior attainment at A level.
- Employment and further study outcomes by institution, and earnings for those who studied law by institution attended.

Compared to existing sources of graduate outcomes data, LEO is also based on a considerably larger sample, uses raw data, does not rely on survey methodology, and can track outcomes across time to a greater extent than is currently possible.

Although the LEO data will not form part of the metrics used within this year's TEF assessment process, due to the experimental nature of the data, the Government has indicated its intention to look at options to develop and use LEO-based data within its measurement of employment metrics for future TEF assessments.

See more at: First LEO experimental statistical release - <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/graduate-outcomes-longitudinal-education-outcomes-leo-data> Formal LEO consultation response:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/573771/Formal_LEO_consultation_response.pdf

State of the Nation report recommends new HE social mobility league table

State of the Nation 2016: Social Mobility in Great Britain

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/569410/Social_Mobility_Commission_2016_REPORT_WEB_1_.pdf

This annual social mobility report reviews the deep seated social mobility problem prevalent in the UK, and presents new evidence that 'for young people, social mobility is getting worse, not better'.

The report highlights the need for fundamental reforms within England's education system, labour market and local economies to address Britain's social mobility problem.

From the early years through to universities, there is an entrenched and unbroken correlation between social class and educational success.

Key Findings

- For every one child from a *treadmill family* (those in the bottom two income quintiles) who goes to university, seven do not.
- Pupils on Free School Meals who gain the high GCSE grades to get into a Russell Group university are still almost 7 percentage points less likely to get a place than their better-off classmates.
- Universities have sought to widen participation but with varying degrees of commitment and of success.
- Young people cannot access higher education (HE) locally in many parts of the country, exacerbating the gap between those parts of England that are pulling ahead and those that are falling behind.
- Internships have become a new rung on the professional career ladder and many of them are unpaid, making them inaccessible to youngsters from struggling family backgrounds.

Key Recommendations

- An annual new social mobility league table should be published to highlight which universities are doing most to widen access, improve retention and ensure good career progression for their students.
- Existing prestigious universities should, as part of their Widening Access Agreements, forge partnerships with FE colleges where there is currently no university to provide local communities with higher education.
- There should be locally accessible HE provision everywhere by 2025.
- The Government should introduce a legal ban on unpaid internships of recruitment data, especially from under-represented groups, and sharing effective practice and interventions.

Higher Education and Research Bill 2016/2017 Progress through Parliament

Higher Education and Research Bill 2016/17 <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/highereducationandresearch.html>

- The Higher Education and Research Bill 2016/2017 has now passed to the House of Lords
- The next stage is the Committee Stage in the House of Lords which is due to start on the 9 January 2017

See more at: https://www.heacademy.ac.uk/about/news/ukes-2016-undergraduates-engaged-their-courses-only-half-feel-equipped-world-work?utm_source=CRM%20-%20HEA%20Update&utm_campaign=Surveys%20-%20UKES&utm_medium=Email#sthash.QleVdiDK.dpuf

Consultations and feedback

LEO data – open consultation

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/he-education-strategy-and-policy/he-stats-dec-2016/>

- The Department for Education is surveying higher-education-sector stakeholders' views on the outcome measures that would be most useful for people choosing higher education courses.
- The survey results will feed into decisions on future releases of government data on graduate employment and earnings outcomes, known as the Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO) data.
- Submissions are open until noon on **Friday 27 January 2017 noon**.