

1 Situation

Underrepresented student groups face employment challenges to Progress beyond university, often lacking essential skills, confidence, and professional networks. This results in lower employment rates, with LPN students 7% and BAME students 8% less likely to be employed 15 months after graduation.

2 Aims

To enhance underrepresented students' employability skills, career confidence, and professional networks, thereby improving their transition from higher education to employment.

7 Inputs

5 Activities

6 Outputs

3 Outcomes

4 Impact

Process

Impact

- Funding from the Access and Participation Plan
- Staff time and expertise from the Graduate Futures team
- Employer and alumni partnerships
- Marketing and communication resources
- Event spaces and materials

Students take part in interactive workshops to develop employability skills and experiences, including self-confidence, networking, presentation and interview skills, and employer challenges.

Students connect and network with alumni and professionals from diverse industries in a relaxed environment - exploring different career paths and meeting potential employers.

Objective setting at the start of the programme and reflective diary completed at the end.

- 12+ interactive events delivered
- 10+ Alumni and employer speakers engaged
- 50+ Student participants
- Students awarded certificates based on their level of engagement (Bronze, Silver, Gold)
- Personalised career plan for participants

- Movement in students' Career Readiness
- Enhanced career confidence
- Improved employability skills among participants
- Expanded professional networks for students

- Increased student engagement with Graduate Futures services
- Reduced employment gap
- Improved social mobility for students from underrepresented backgrounds
- Improved diversity at graduate-level positions in the region/nationally

8 Rationale & Assumptions

Rationale: Studies show students who network are more employable, better informed, and have more access to career-related knowledge. Developing employability skills and exposing students to professionals through IGNITE will improve students job prospects and understanding of career opportunities. Assumptions: Students will actively engage with the programme, applying learned skills that are relevant to the current job market.