

# Why Choose Higher Education?

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Deputy Vice-Chancellor

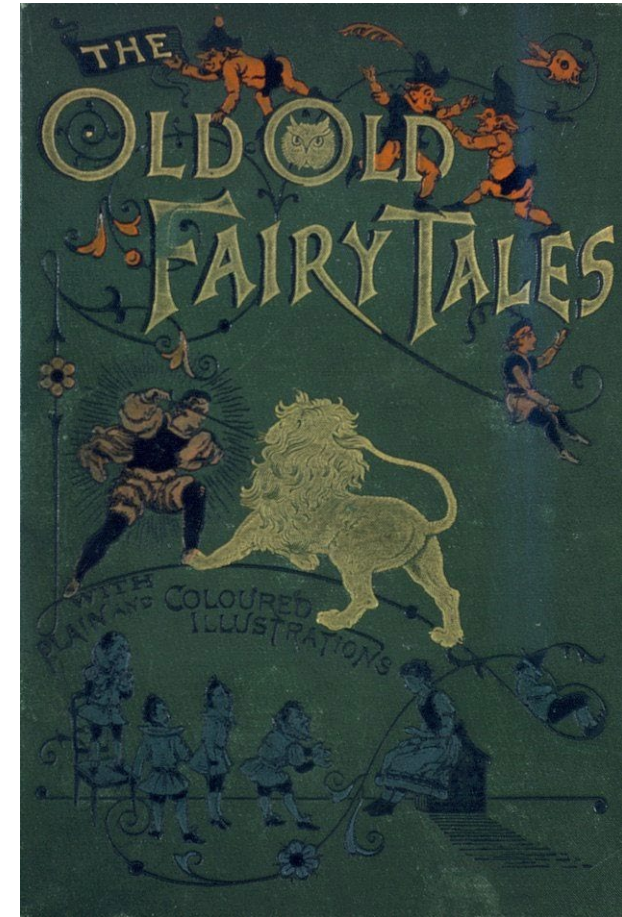


# Reach New Heights

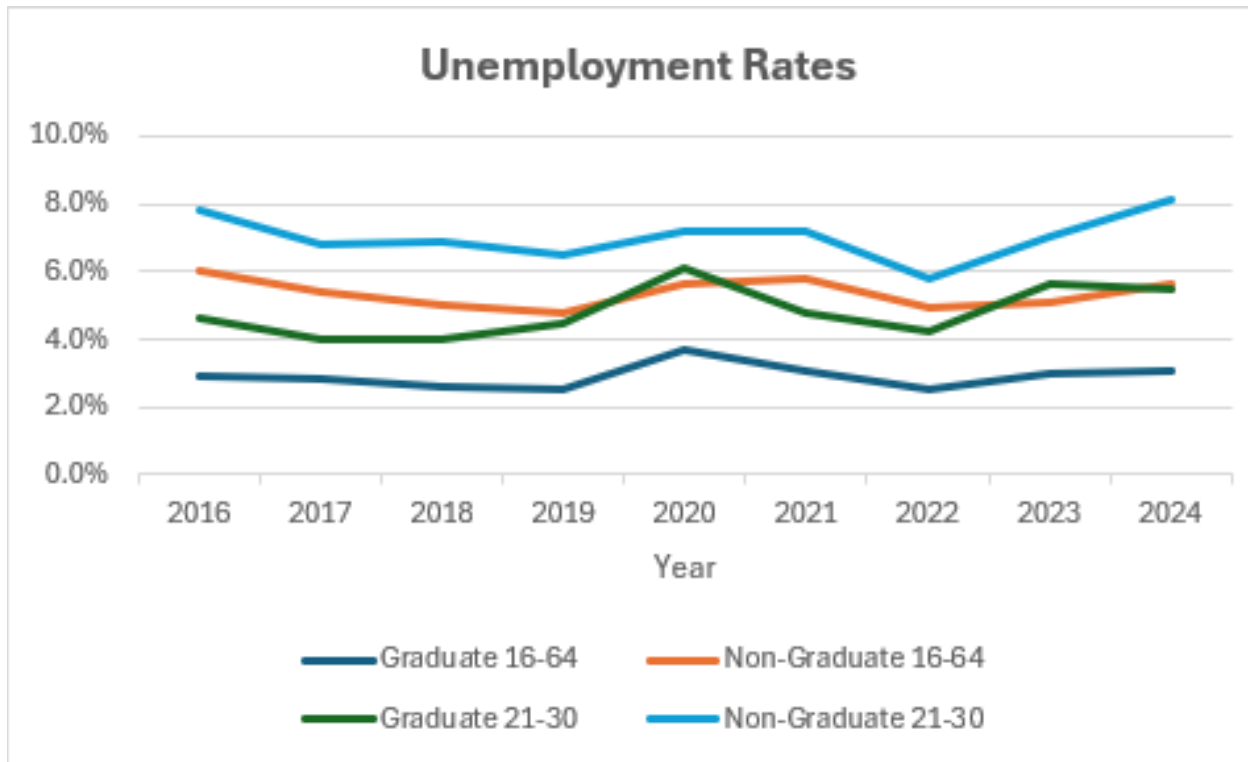


# “Everyone has a degree nowadays”

- 47.4% of UK adults (16-64) were graduates at the end of 2024
- Fewer than half of students currently aged 14-18 will ever go to University, and it's unlikely we'll ever see a situation where half even of a given age group goes to University



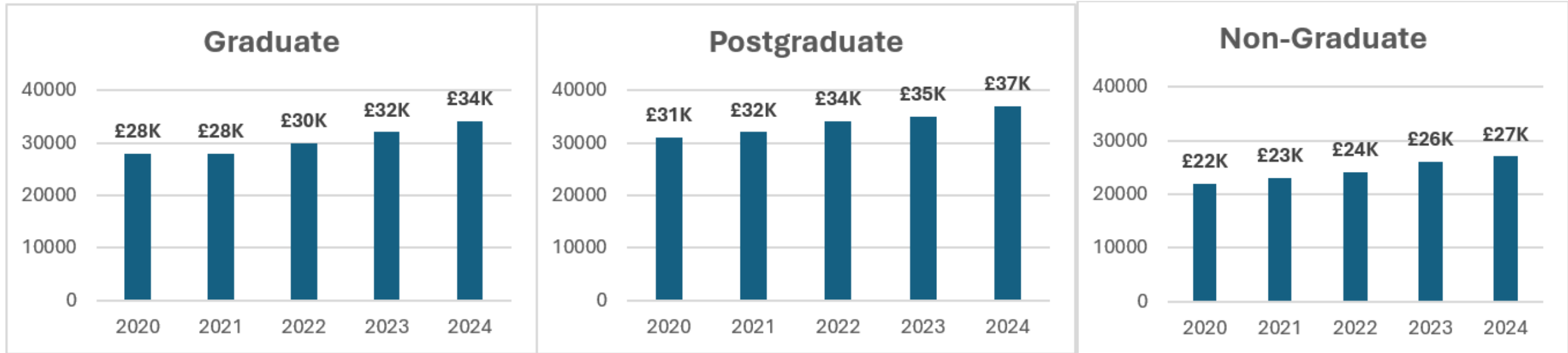
# “You’re better off not going to Uni”



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Graduate 16-64</b>	2.9%	2.8%	2.6%	2.5%	3.7%	3.1%	2.5%	3.0%	3.1%
<b>Non-Graduate 16-64</b>	6.0%	5.4%	5.0%	4.8%	5.6%	5.8%	4.9%	5.1%	5.6%
<b>Graduate 21-30</b>	4.6%	4.0%	4.0%	4.5%	6.1%	4.8%	4.2%	5.6%	5.5%
<b>Non-Graduate 21-30</b>	7.8%	6.8%	6.9%	6.5%	7.2%	7.2%	5.8%	7.0%	8.1%

# “You’re better off not going to Uni”

**Median Salary**  
(nearest £500 , 21- 30 Year Olds)



In the 3 years to 2024, young people with a higher degree – such as a master’s degree – earned 41% more than those from the same socio-economic background with no GCSEs. Young people with an undergraduate degree earned 27% more.



# Why Choose Higher Education ?

- Employment
- Economics
- Excitement



“Up against the competition of 2 billion people in China and India – with 5 million graduates a year – Britain cannot compete on low skills only high graduate skills”

- 80% of all new jobs
- 50% of all new job vacancies
- 40% of the working population



## Improves career prospects

More skills: more choice

- Intellectual capability
- Communication
- Problem solving
- Teamwork
- Networking
- Technical ability
- Business awareness
- Flexibility



# Employment



- ***Graduate premium*** remains strong
- Additional lifetime earning, net of student fees and living costs



**Male: £430,000**

**Female: £260,000**

Source: 'Institute for Fiscal Studies / Department for Education: The impact of undergraduate degrees on lifetime earnings; 29 Feb 2020'

Salary Range	%
More than £55,000	13%
£50,001 - £55,000	8%
£45,001 - £50,000	8%
£40,001 - £45,000	7%
£35,001 - £40,000	14%
£30,001 - £35,000	38%
£30,000 or less	13%

**Median Salary - £35,000**

Source: *The Graduate Market in 2026*

- **Long-Term Demand:** Official government forecasts indicate that the UK economy will require 11 million extra graduates by 2035, with a target of 61% of the workforce holding higher education qualifications.
- **Higher Earnings Potential:** Data from late 2025/early 2026 confirms that graduates still enjoy higher employment rates and better pay than non-graduates. By age 31, graduates earn on average a third more than their peers.
- **Healthcare Job Boost:** New government legislation is set to prioritize UK-domiciled medical graduates for training positions, improving job security for nurses, doctors, and other NHS professionals.
- **Focus on Local Jobs:** Graduates are being encouraged to look locally, where high-growth sectors outside of major cities are seeking talent, providing opportunities for graduates to build careers close to home.

## Huddersfield – Career Success

- 94% of our undergraduate students go on to work and/or further study within fifteen months of graduating \*.



\*HESA Graduate Outcomes 2022/23 UK domiciled; other activities excluded

“University opened up possibilities for me I could never have dreamed of”



Hannah James

Here at Huddersfield we're all about being international. This could be learning a language whilst you study with us, or making friends with international students (we have students from over 120 countries). Or it could be going on an international trip or placement. That's exactly what Hannah James did. ▶▶



Hannah with her colleagues at Marc Jacobs, and on Brooklyn Bridge in New York.

# Excitement

Higher Education is a personal experience





John Warhurst, former student of the University of Huddersfield, and his sound editing team won an Oscar for their celebration of Freddie Mercury and Queen at the 91<sup>st</sup> Academy Awards

# Thank you for listening

University of  
**HUDDERSFIELD**  
Inspiring global professionals

## 2026 Open Days:

Saturday 25 April

Saturday 20 June

Wednesday 29 July

Saturday 26 September

Wednesday 21 October

Saturday 28 November

[hud.ac.uk/open-days](https://hud.ac.uk/open-days)

