

# Student interns “three times more likely to get top jobs”

*Students taking internships are three times more likely to win good jobs amid a dramatic surge in competition for top positions, it emerged today.*



**F**inal year students are three times more likely to get a good job.

Research shows that some 36 per cent of students completing a work experience placement had received at least one definite job offer by the Easter of their final year compared with just 11 per cent of other undergraduates.

Experts warned that work experience was “no longer an option extra” for universities

and had increasingly become an essential element of preparing for the employment market.

Martin Birchall, managing director of High Fliers Research, said: “Work experience is no longer an optional extra for university students, it’s an essential part of preparing for the graduate job market. Students who just focus on their degree studies without spending time in the workplace are unlikely to develop the skills and interests that graduate employers are looking for.”

The study was based on a survey of 18,252 final year students from 30 universities – a fifth of the total number of undergraduates in the year group.

It emerged that 44 per cent of finalists were expecting to join the jobs market straight from university – up from 36 per cent in 2009 and 2010.

Just 11 per cent of students said they would take a break after graduating – usually to go travelling –, the lowest proportion on record. Students were more likely to apply for jobs early, with four-in-10 making applications by the September or October of the final year – up from just a quarter a decade ago.

The study added: “Thirty-six per cent of applicants who had done an internship or other vacation work with a graduate employer had received at least one definite job offer by March 2013, compared with just 11 per cent of applicants who’d had no careers-related work experience whilst at university.”

By Graeme Paton, *The Telegraph*, June 13<sup>th</sup> 2013.

## READING AND UNDERSTANDING

NAME :

Read the title and look at the picture. Now try to answer the questions.

1. What could "student interns" mean? You can circle several answers. /1
  - a) Students who sleep at school.
  - b) Students who intern in companies during their studies.
  - c) Students who do work placements during their studies.
  
2. What can you see on the picture? (several possible answers) /1
  - students
  - interns
  - directors
  
3. What could "three times more likely to get a job" mean? Circle the best answer. /0.5
  - a) Internships increase the chances of students getting a good job.
  - b) Student interns have three jobs.
  - c) Work placements are three times harder for students.

**A Match the words with their definitions.** /5

- (to) graduate ● ● (to) request something, formally and in writing
- an undergraduate ● ● a verbal or written request, for example for a job
- (to) apply for ● ● (to) successfully complete a degree or diploma
- dramatic ● ● spectacular
- an application ● ● a university student who has not passed a degree or a diploma yet

**B Match the words with their synonyms. Give the line number.** /4

- an internship ● ● (to) hope to + V
- a surge ● ● a sudden increase
- a survey ● ● a work placement
- (to) expect to + V ● ● an opinion poll

**C Say what these numbers correspond to.** /4

- 36 % ● ● number of students surveyed out of the total number of students
- 11 % ● ● students who did an internship and can get a good job after university
- 1/5 ● ● students who received a job offer because they did no internships during their studies
- 11 % ● ● students who intend to take time off after graduating and before joining the job market

**D Say whether these statements are true or false. Justify your answer by quoting the text.** /3

1. More than a third of the students who had completed a work placement had obtained a job offer.  
.....
2. Experts believe work experience is not very important for students to prepare for the job market.  
.....
3. Almost half of the students of the survey wanted to start working after graduating from university.  
.....

**E. Write a sentence to introduce the document (type ? source ? date ? author ? topic ?**

