



12th August 2009

A Dip into the Graduate Talent Pool

WEXO's review of the new government run internship site

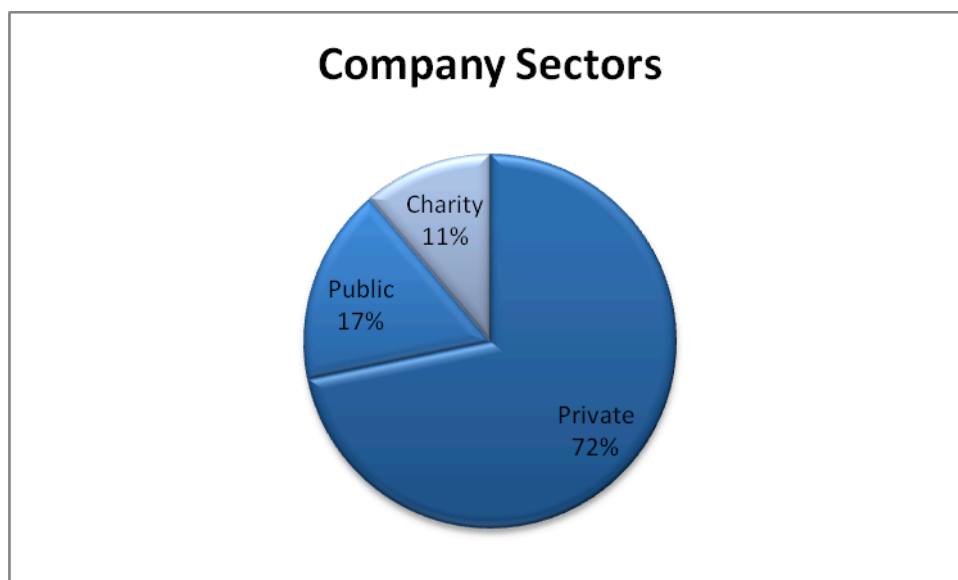
This morning, statistics showed UK unemployment climbing to 2.44m and the BBC have calculated that 12.6% of 16-24 year olds are unemployed. Lord Mandelson told the BBC that work experience, mentoring and internships were needed to avoid a generation "lost to work". With this in mind, the Government has poured £40 million into a new campaign - 'Backing Young Britain' – in the hope of creating another 20,000 internships. This kicked off with the launch of the 'Graduate Talent Pool' – a new website - ahead of schedule on 29th July.

WEXO research found that of the 3,400 opportunities currently on offer, nearly half of them are related to **Marketing (47%)**. The second most common job category is **IT and Management Services (35%)** and the third, **Administration (34%)**.



As would be expected in the current financial climate, there seems to be a lack of **Financial (8%)** and **Legal Service (1%)** related positions. However there is a good overall spread of opportunities on the site ranging from **Healthcare** to **Hospitality & Events Management**.

The 3,400 positions on the site are currently being offered by 411 companies, of which, nearly three quarters are private sector based (72%).



Most of the opportunities are based in the **London** area (41%) and although there is a reasonable geographical spread, only 2% are in **Wales**, 1% in **Northern Ireland** and 3% in **Scotland**. Of all the roles nearly half of them are paid (47%).

Due to the geographical skew of opportunities towards England and London in particular, some graduates in the UK will be unable to access them without the need of relocating. This could be seen as a problem due to some of the placements being unpaid while others are only paid at the national minimum wage.

A survey of managers, graduates and undergraduates by WEXO suggested that only **6-7%** of the companies in 'the pool' were previously known to them. This is evidence that many of the opportunities are being offered by small relatively unheard of businesses.

Robin Kennedy, WEXO CEO, said: "It is encouraging to see that the Graduate Talent Pool is up and running and that there is a good geographical spread of opportunities in England at least. There does seem to be a distinct skew towards marketing in particular as a sector and we were surprised by how many private sector companies are represented. We feel confident that WEXO can work in tandem with the government on this. We currently offer a more intuitive application process and candidate management system for small and aspirational companies in London in particular. Though we also feature a lot of marketing roles, at present we are highly geared towards fashion, media and entertainment"

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For more information, please contact Elliott Rampley at WEXO on 07921 924 205 or email info@wexo.co.uk

Notes to Editors:

Data collected from Graduate Talent Pool (<http://graduatetalentpool.direct.gov.uk>) as of 6th August 2009.

Information on government investment into scheme collected from HM Government site (<http://www.hmg.gov.uk/>) 29 July 2009: Backing Young Britain.

About WEXO: Work Experience Online

WEXO: Work Experience Online (www.wexo.co.uk) is the only work experienced focused networking community. Currently working with over 300 dynamic companies including Sony Music, Working Title and Giorgio Armani, WEXO uses its contacts to open doors to exciting opportunities, offering work experience, internships and job opportunities to its members.

The brainchild of London fixer Harry Becher and ex-investment banker Robin Kennedy, WEXO's unique filtration technology automatically ranks applicants according to their skills. Companies can market, manage and match opportunities to applicants ensuring that the most suitable candidate gets the job. Central to the proposition is to break down the 'it's not what you know, but who you know' barriers traditionally present in industries such as media, marketing, entertainment and fashion.