



BusinessLDN presents

Skills LONDON

August 2023

YOUNG LONDONERS AND THEIR CAREERS' OUTLOOK

A SNAPSHOT ANALYSIS OF CAREER PROSPECTS AS UNDERSTOOD BY 16-18 YEAR OLDS

The pandemic disrupted education for many students and those entering the world of work will find that the skills they need to succeed are rapidly changing due to technological advances and the race to reach net zero. Businesses in the capital are already facing challenges to recruit and retain talent, despite London's workforce having the highest qualifications in the country.

To tackle the capital's skills gap, BusinessLDN is calling for urgent action to ensure young Londoners are equipped with the skills they need to succeed. This includes creating a one stop shop careers advice service, reforming the apprenticeship levy and encouraging more businesses to offer high quality work experience placements. BusinessLDN, has recently set out an ambitious plan to tackle skills shortages, address inequality and boost labour market following the biggest data deep dive on the issues the capital has ever seen. The Greater London Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) sets out a blueprint for getting more Londoners into better, higher-paying jobs by matching training provision to employer demand. It has been led by BusinessLDN, in partnership with partnership with Federation of Small Businesses London (FSB London), London Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), and CBI London, with the backing of the Mayor of London and funded by the Department for Education.

This report presents the findings from a survey of over 500 young Londoners and outlines how they felt about their future careers' prospects. We asked them what skills they valued, what industries they're interested in, and delved into the barriers and rewards of work experience. We urge students and businesses to get involved with Skills London, - the UK's largest jobs and careers fair for 14-24-year-olds at ExCeL London on 24 and 25 November - so that they can tap into the opportunities on offer.

When asked how confident they felt about their future career prospects.



63% said optimistic



29% said unsure



8% said negative

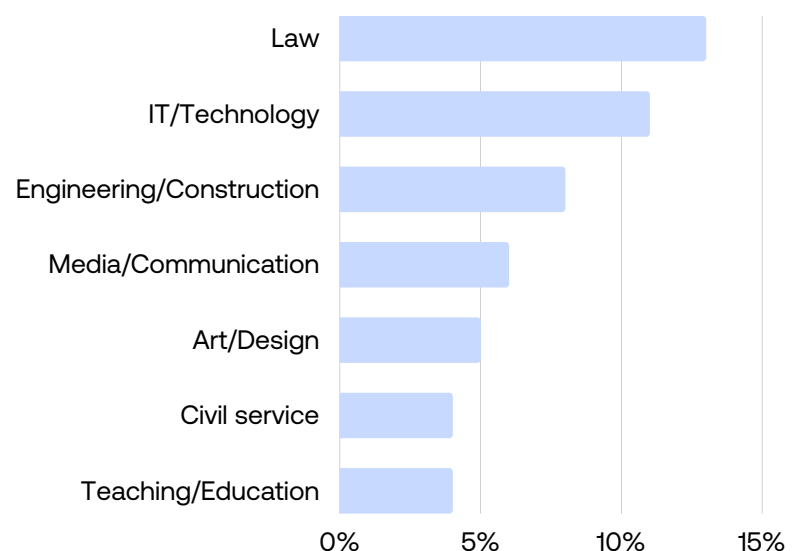
They were also asked which industry would they like to start a career in.



15% said Healthcare/ Medicine



14% said Finance



Melissa Kose, Emerging Talents Manager, British Airways shares her experience of Skills London:

"I love working with young people. That's why my role at British Airways is incredibly rewarding, as I get to help the next generation of talent find a future that works for them. My career journey started at Skills London in 2012, enabling me to explore all my options.

The event allowed me to speak to professionals and broaden my horizons, which guided me to apply for an apprenticeship at British Airways. This was a fantastic learning experience, and I encourage anyone considering applying for an apprenticeship to go for it.

Our goal at Skills London is to change the perception of recruitment and show that a vast number of roles are available outside the usual cabin crew and pilot positions.

Throughout the two-day event, attendees can meet our current cohort of graduates and apprentices. From engineers to head office colleagues, all are available to answer questions and offer insight to their roles.

Skills London has also enabled personal development for our colleagues through acting as role models and ambassadors to help inspire over 20,000 attendees.

The event is also a fantastic one-stop shop for school leavers, graduates, and people who aren't sure what's next. It gets young people serious about the world of work and gives them the confidence to be in charge of their future and aspirations.

"Without Skills London, I wouldn't be in a job that I love."

WORK EXPERIENCE

Meaningful work experience is mutually beneficial for businesses and students. Not only can it offer businesses a new perspective, but it also gives students access to a workplace and supports the development of transferable skills.

However, following the shift in ways of working following the pandemic, including hybrid working, we wanted to understand the effect of this on young Londoners.

When asked if they had secured work experience within the last two years.



responded yes



30% responded no



13% said they tried to obtain work experience but were unsuccessful

The benefits of obtaining work experience are still clear: The below two questions were asked to what extent they agree or disagree with the given statement.

Do you feel your work experience has positively affected your ability to choose your future career path?



61% agreed

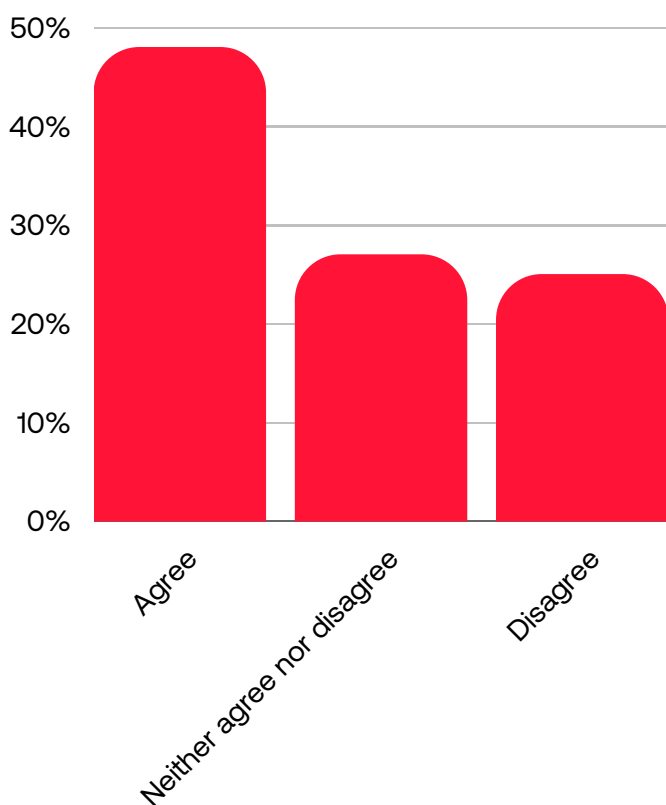


24% neither agreed nor disagreed



15% disagreed

Do you feel the lack of work experience has negatively affected your ability to choose your future career path?



Kews Chulakasevee, Careers and Work lead in the education sector shares his experience at Skills London.

“I work with young people from vulnerable backgrounds to help them explore opportunities and unlock their potential. For some students, the idea of further education or apprenticeships is out of reach, and it’s my job to show them that these options, and more, are available after they finish the school year.

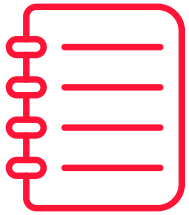
I was immediately impressed by what was offered at Skills London. It’s free to attend, which was a bonus to my students. I was shocked by the size of the event – it was huge! There was something to look at in every direction and there was a buzz of excitement in the air.

The fair did an excellent job of broadening their horizons. For vulnerable young adults, they don’t necessarily think they fit into the apprenticeships or college courses, so it was fantastic to see them speak and engage with professionals who started from those positions.

I would encourage anyone thinking about their next steps or who needs a little help in the right direction to attend Skills London. I’m very proud of the students I came with and excited to see what their future holds.”

Which of the following skills do you think is the most important to help you achieve your dream job?

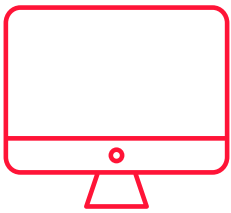
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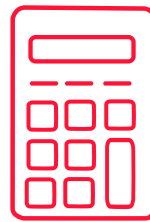
61% communication/
writing skills



39% soft skills
(interviews, confidence)



37% digital skills



37% numeracy/maths
skills

