

# International Graduate Recruitment Information Session for Regional Employers March 2023



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The information session was held due to feedback from both staff and the large body of international students at the University of Huddersfield, that international graduates are struggling to gain UK-based, graduate-level employment, often due to employers stating that they need to have the right to work in the UK and not require sponsorship.

The event took place online for 90 minutes on 30th March, and was recorded for future circulation. Regional employers and relevant university staff were invited to attend.

## ACTION & APPROACH

This session was a collaborative activity between two university departments:

- Careers and Employability Service, who invited the speakers and chaired the event, and,
- the Kirklees Top 100 Team, who look after the Kirklees Top 100 employers. This Team invited attendees and looked after the follow up.

The session was split into 3 parts:

1. The Head of Careers interviewed two non-UK-national, Huddersfield graduates about their experiences trying to gain graduate-level employment in the UK.
2. Two employers - one international and one local - spoke of the benefits of employing international graduates.
3. An immigration law firm gave practical advice around visas and removing barriers to employing international graduates.

## IMPACT

- Non-UK-national graduates were given a platform on which to tell their stories and explain what international graduates can bring to UK employers.
- The two employer speakers were able to impart their experience on the subject, whilst also promoting their services to the attendees.
- The immigration law firm was able to advise attending employers, whilst also promoting their services.
- The University can evidence that we are trying to help international graduates to gain UK-based, graduate-level employment by educating employers. Session advice has been captured through recordings.
- Attendees learned how international graduates can benefit their business, and how to go about hiring them.
- In addition to the recordings and contact details of speakers, all attendees were provided with further information.

## CONCLUSIONS

The day before this session, the Careers and Employability Service held an event for international students called: 'How to find a job in the UK'. The 'International Graduate Recruitment Info Session for Regional Employers' was, in essence, the second step of this project.

As the 'International Graduate Recruitment Info Session' was recorded, we plan to circulate it beyond those who signed up, as we sometimes get asked for advice around recruiting international graduates. This will be the event's legacy.