

# How has early talent recruitment changed post Covid 19

**July 2021** 





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# Agenda

Introduction and welcome – James Austen, Cohesion

Covid's impact on 16 – 25 year olds – Becky Hopwood, UCAS

Samworth Brothers' approach to early talent recruitment during

**Covid –** Victoria Curtis, Samworth Brothers

Online assessment centres – Tom Stroud, Tazio

# How has early talent recruitment changed post Covid 19

Rebecca Hopwood Head of Sales, UCAS





UCAS aims to be the go-to place for all post-secondary options and enable students to navigate apprenticeship opportunities side by side with undergraduate courses.

Clare Marchant, UCAS Chief Executive

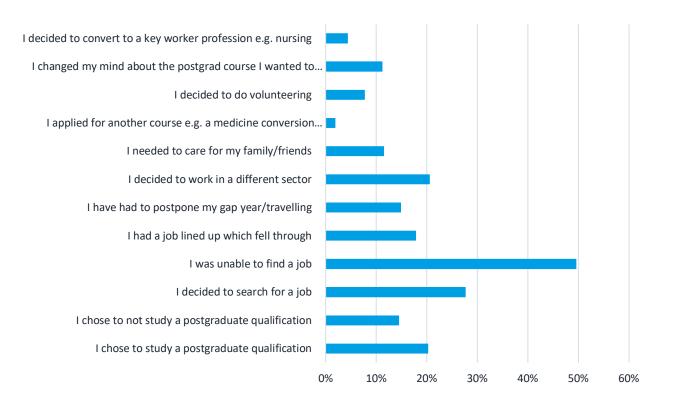




**Covid has impacted availability and opportunity** 



**58%** of graduates said Covid impacted what they chose to do after graduation





#### Graduates cited lack of roles as the primary reason

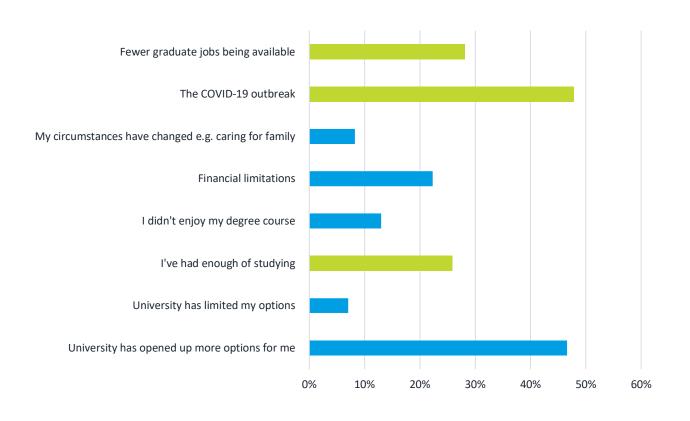
'Graduate schemes and internships I was going to apply for were no longer running'

'It made finding graduate jobs harder, so I am still working part time and am putting plans to move into industry on hold for the year'

'I was unable to secure any internships and unable to go travelling'



48% of final year students told us it has caused their plans to change





#### What caused their plans to change?

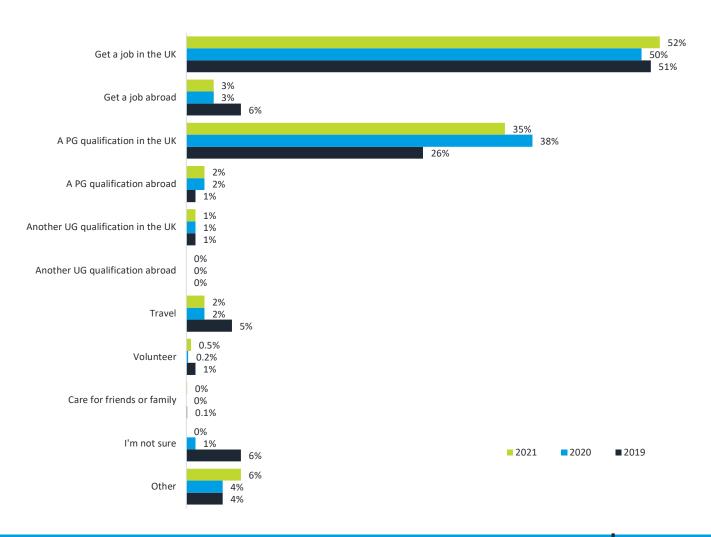
'Didn't enjoy online learning during COVID, put me off doing my LPC so unlikely to persue [sic] a career in law'

'The Covid 19 pandemic has currently decimated the industry I would like to go into' 'COVID has meant that more industries are looking to work remotely, which potentially opens up more possibilities'

'My plan was to do a master's degree but due to the Covid-19 pandemic I am now forced to get a job to combat financial issues' 'I would've liked to have started working after my undergraduate degree, but due to limitations caused by COVID-19 it was best to do a masters'



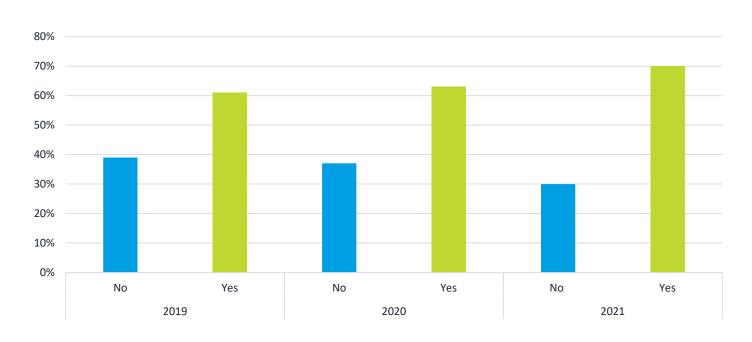
# It hasn't impacted their intentions as much as it could have





#### And they've been resolute throughout

Are your plans the same after graduating as they were before you started uni?





#### Healthcare one of most popular sectors of interest

2021

2020

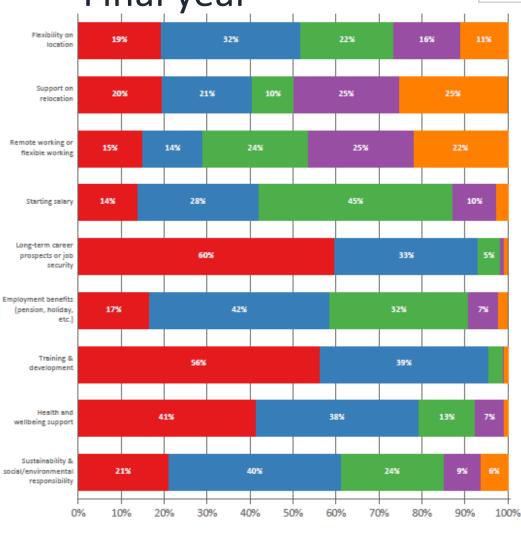
Creative arts & design	Healthcare	Business, consulting & management	Teaching	Media & internet
<b>27</b> %	<b>25</b> %	19%	19%	19%
Healthcare	Creative arts & design	Business, consulting & management	Teaching	Accountancy, banking & finance
24%	<b>22</b> %	14%	14%	13%

# Training & development and long term career prospects/job security are most important











#### Research is starting earlier





What else we have learnt from our surveys

# Interest in apprenticeships is increasing, but opportunities have been declining



Over ½ of students interested in applying for uni in 2022 also registered an interest in apprenticeships

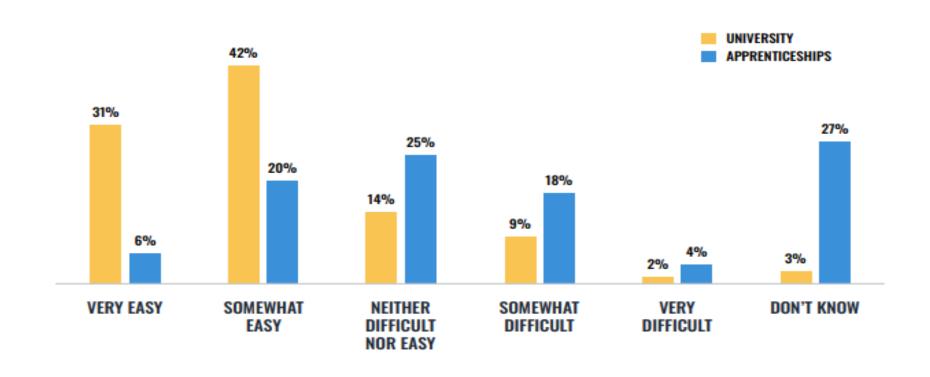
In Sept 2020, 54% of SMEs (and 46% of large employers) felt unable to commit to apprenticeships in the immediate future

In 2019/20, the number of apprenticeship starts **fell** in **every** enterprise size band compared to 2018/19



# And it's hard to get information

#### HOW EASY OR DIFFICULT DO YOU FIND ACCESSING INFORMATION FOR APPLYING FOR THE FOLLOWING?





#### 2 in 5 students believe they would have made better choices with more I&A



60% of these students want the advice pre-GCSE/National 5



Students who want more I&A are three times more likely to have a 'door closed'



More likely to affect disadvantaged students



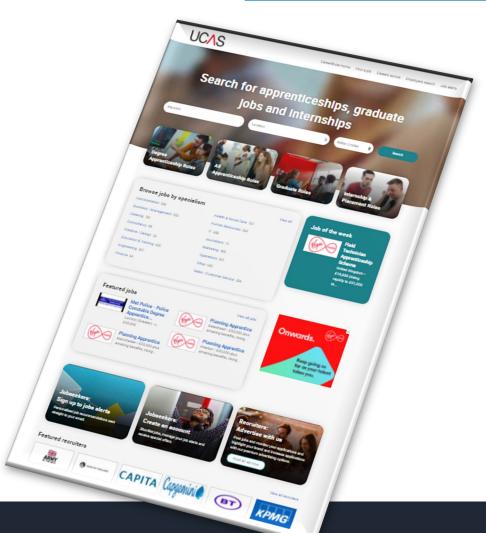
#### Reputation continues to be an issue for apprenticeships

only 8% of students surveyed associated apprenticeships with leading to a good job

And only 4% of students associate the word 'prestigious' with apprenticeships compared with 76% for a traditional university degree



#### **Career Finder:** <u>careerfinder.ucas.com</u>



Career Finder offer gets 70k users per month, with over **50,000 registered 'apprenticeship seekers'** who have signed up to alerts

Currently, Career Finder has over 600 registered employers who can post their available apprenticeships We have strategic relationships with the NHS and Amazing Apprenticeships that provide an API feed into our existing Career Finder service.



What does this mean for employers?



#### What students want from employers

#### Practical vs emotional needs at play

#### **Facts**

- Role: starting salary, detailed job description, typical day/tasks, specific skills gained etc
- Process: application process and timelines
- Requirements: qualifications/experience/skills/employer expectations

#### **Benefits**

- Future prospects and progression
- Examples of previous successful apprentices

'Do i need qualifications?
What qualifications?
What will be expected of me? Skills that may be useful Salary Perks How to contact them'

'For me seeing what they can offer in terms of benefits for employees is important as well as the chance to progress further into the company'



#### What students want from employers

#### Practical vs emotional needs at play

#### **Connections**

- Social aspects of apprenticeships
- Making friends
- Experiences

Overall they are hungry for detail and reassurance

'Any coronavirus
restrictions. the average
age of an apprentice in
their organisation, to allow
you to see if you would fit
in with the dynamic'

'How many people they're taking on, and whether you would be working with other people your age or you'd be the only apprentice they're taking on.'

#### Earlier, broader and more personalised

- Almost 1 in 3 applicants receive no information about apprenticeships but over 50% are considering alongside University applications
- Learners want more information and advice that reflects all pathways but they expect personalisation
- Potential candidates want more reassurance and information on pastoral support, social and cultural aspects



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# Early Careers post Covid-19

7<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Samworth Brothers

QUALITY FOODS

QUALITY FOODS

#### **Samworth Brothers Overview**



Est. 1896

Founded by George Samworth with origins in the meat industry



**Family Owned** 

4<sup>th</sup> generation family business



14

Bakeries and kitchens with a vast array of capabilities



10,000+

Colleagues across our business

QUALITY FOODS

### **Group Business**



Food to Go 4 Bakeries



Sausage & Deli

2 Kitchens



Prepared Meals

2 Kitchens



Savoury Pastry

3 Bakeries



Plant Based

1 Kitchen













Samworth Brothers
Supply & Chain



#### QUALITY FOODS

#### **Samworth Brothers Values**







#### We are a family

We provide opportunities for all of our people to grow, improve their prospects and reach their full potential.

#### We take pride

in our work and quality is our way of life.

Our business is a force for good and we all play our part in doing things right.

#### We make things happen

There are no limits to what we can achieve together. We make profit to reinvest in a better future.





	Operations	Commercial	Food Technical
Graduate Scheme		3	3
Placement Year	3	3	4

#### **Challenges**

QUALITY FOODS



candidate uncertainty

going virtual



candidate priorities

effective onboarding



### **Impact of Covid-19**

#### 2020

- 264 applications
- 88% attendance
- 13 offers accepted, 2 rejected
- all started
- On-site Recruitment Day

#### 2021

- 300 applications (12% increase)
- 100% attendance
- 19 offers accepted, 2 rejected
- 3 retracted (replaced)
- Virtual Recruitment Day

#### Recruitment

#### 2020

- Bakery tour
- Assessor Brief on criteria, etc
- Lunch with current Grads / IP's
- Identified first reserves

#### 2021

- 'Inside the Factory' screening
- Assessor Brief on engagement, etc
- Virtual lunch / concierge room
- Identified all reserves

#### **Candidate Priorities**





- Less focus on salary
- More focus on geography and WFH
- Interest in wellbeing and all round support on offer
- Increased awareness of Responsible Business (impact on people, planet, communities)
- **Opportunity to make a difference**

#### How we found it...

# QUALITY FOODS

#### Wins

- Time / cost efficient **Recruitment Days**
- Less paper and travel happier planet
- Geography advantage
- Cohesion!

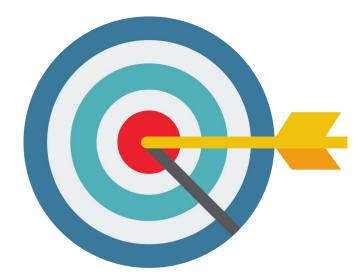
#### **Drawbacks**

- Compromise on connection
- Lots more communication and preparation
- Nail-biting!

#### For the future

- Opportunity to make a difference
- Enrich our programmes
- Al-round support

Virtual or not...???





# "OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGES OF MOVING YOUR CLASSROOM-BASED ASSESSMENTS ONLINE"

TOM STROUD, CEO

# WHO IS TAZIO?



Over 10 years of experience



One of the first to launch a video interviewing platform



Expanded to offer an AC scoring solution



Developed one of the very first virtual AC platforms



Roadmap: 360s and the future of work with skills ontologies



Our ultimate goal is to help people unleash their potential

# ADVANTAGES OF VIRTUAL ASSESSMENT CENTRES



Assess anytime, anywhere



More at ease at home



Reduced costs



Secure documents



Less time required



Fair and consistent process



Automated scheduling



Automated feedback reports



Integrate with other platforms



Environme -ntally friendly

# PERCEIVED DISADVANTAGES - PLEASE SHARE ANY OF YOUR OWN CONCERNS...



Requires specialist tech



Concerns over D&I bias



Harder to score social interaction



It's expensive



lt's impersonal



Quieter candidates will be overlooked



Can't offer physical tests



Assessors not digitally ready

# HOW DO WE OVERCOME THEM?

Specialist tech



99% of 16-44-year-olds have relevant access

D&I concerns



It's a fair and consistent process

Score social interaction



Use immersive, fun exercises

Expensive



It's more cost effective than classrooms

Impersonal



Use lots of videos to convey culture

No physical tests



Can video themselves

Quieter candidates overlooked



Provide familiarity and confidence

Assessors not digitally ready



Full training and hand-holding should be offered

WHICH EXERCISES BEST TRANSLATE INTO A VIRTUAL AC?

SJTs

Virtual desktop

Escape the room

Group role play

Group presentation

121 interviews

Panel interviews

Psychometric tests

Aptitude tests

Combine exercises to add pressure

HOW ELSE ARE THEY ADAPTING IN THE VIRTUAL SPACE?









## THANK YOU



# Questions

