



Press Release Wednesday 25th September 2019

Civil Service named the UK's number one graduate employer

The new 2019-2020 edition of **The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers**, published today (Wednesday 25th September 2019), reveals that the Civil Service has been named the UK's number one graduate employer.

The latest annual rankings of the most prestigious and sought-after graduate employers have been compiled from research with 19,712 new graduates who left university in the summer of 2019.

The research shows that the number of graduates from the 'Class of 2019' applying to work in the public sector has reached its highest level for almost a decade. And for a record proportion of those who left university this year, 'giving something back to society' was a key priority for their first graduate job.

All five of the inspirational programmes that are transforming society by recruiting outstanding graduates to work in teaching, social work, policing and the prison service – Teach First, Frontline, Think Ahead, Police Now and Unlocked – are now ranked within the UK's top fifty graduate employers.

Highlights from the 2019-2020 edition of *The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers* include:

- After fifteen years at number one, the accounting & professional services firm PwC has been overtaken by the Civil Service, which returns to the top of the rankings for the second time – it was previously at number one in 2003.
- The Civil Service's popularity with university-leavers is a combination of the dramatic focus that the continuing Brexit process has put on politics and government; a record number of places available on the prestigious Civil Service Fast Stream programme; and a reinvigorated campaign to recruit the broadest possible intake of new graduates for Whitehall's best-known government departments and the wider Civil Service.
- The number of new graduates wanting to work in the public sector is at its highest level for almost a decade and a total of eleven public sector employers are ranked within the new *Top 100*, including the NHS at number 5, its best-ever ranking.
- The highest new entry in this year's *Top 100* is Unlocked, the new scheme recruiting graduates to work in the prison service, which has joined the rankings at number 49.

... / continued

- This year's highest-climbing employer is Police Now, the programme that now recruits over 500 graduates each year for community policing and detective roles with more than twenty police forces across the UK.
- Investment bank J.P.Morgan has reached number 10, its highest-ever ranking, and online retailer Amazon and consulting firm Newton are both ranked within the top twenty graduate employers for the first time.
- Employers from fifteen different industries and business sectors are represented within the new rankings, including investment banking & fund management, oil & energy, retailing, consulting and technology.
- Together, the employers featured in *The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers* expect to offer 24,625 graduate vacancies in 2020. This is 0.9% lower than graduate recruitment in 2019 and follows two years of increasing graduate vacancies (up 4.3% in 2018 and 9.9% in 2019). Graduate vacancies at the top employers were cut by 4.9% in 2017 following the EU referendum in the summer of 2016.
- The largest individual recruiters of graduates in 2020 will be Teach First (1,750 vacancies), PwC (1,350 graduate vacancies), KPMG (1,200 vacancies), the Civil Service Fast Stream (1,200 vacancies), Deloitte (1,000 vacancies), HSBC (1,000 vacancies) and Enterprise Rent-a-Car (900 vacancies).
- The median graduate starting salary on offer from employers ranked in the new Top 100 is £30,000, with the highest salaries available at the leading investment banks (£50,000), top law firms (£45,000), and consulting firms (£45,000).
- The highest graduate salaries available in 2020 include consulting firm Newton (up to £50,000), law firms Clifford Chance, White & Case and Baker McKenzie (each £48,000), technology company TPP (£45,000) and retailer Aldi (£44,000 plus a fully-expensed company car).
- The new 2019-2020 edition of *The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers* is published as a hard-backed full-colour book, priced £19.99 from www.Top100GraduateEmployers.com

Martin Birchall, Editor of **The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers** commented:

“For the last two decades, *The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers* has celebrated the UK's most sought-after and prestigious graduate employers. The new 2019-2020 edition is based on research with over 19,700 graduates who left university in the summer of 2019.

The opportunity to influence policy and work at the heart of Government proved irresistible to graduates from the ‘Class of 2019’, who made an unprecedented number of applications for places on the acclaimed Civil Service Fast Stream programme and have named the Civil Service as the UK's number one graduate employer.

And graduates' imperative to shape the future of the country for the better means that all five of the inspirational that are transforming society by recruiting outstanding university-leavers to work in teaching, social work, policing and the prison service – Teach First, Frontline, Think Ahead, Police Now and Unlocked – are now ranked in the UK's top fifty graduate employers.”

The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers 2019-2020

	<i>Last Year</i>		<i>Last Year</i>		
1	2	Civil Service	51	70	BT
2	1	PwC	52	61	ExxonMobil
3	3	Aldi	53	78	Royal Navy
4	5	Google	54	91	Siemens
5	7	NHS	55	79	MI5
6	8	KPMG	56	35	Marks & Spencer
7	6	Deloitte	57	41	Mars
8	4	Teach First	58	60	Slaughter and May
9	12	BBC	59	85	L'Oréal
10	13	JP Morgan	60	NEW	UBS
11	9	EY	61	100	AECOM
12	14	HSBC	62	59	Bloomberg
13	11	Unilever	63	65	Baker McKenzie
14	10	GSK	64	73	Local Government
15	16	Rolls-Royce	65	56	Santander
16	17	Goldman Sachs	66	48	Herbert Smith Freehills
17	18	Barclays	67	54	Boots
18	23	Amazon	68	67	Wellcome
19	34	Newton	69	69	Citi
20	21	McKinsey & Company	70	71	Bank of England
21	25	IBM	71	83	RAF
22	22	BP	72	81	Network Rail
23	24	Lloyds Banking Group	73	33	John Lewis Partnership
24	15	Lidl	74	52	ASOS
25	31	RBS	75	57	Virgin Media
26	36	Clifford Chance	76	58	DLA Piper
27	20	Accenture	77	72	BlackRock
28	49	Microsoft	78	66	Bain & Company
29	29	Shell	79	75	TPP
30	28	Army	80	88	Deutsche Bank
31	32	Procter & Gamble	81	NEW	BDO
32	38	Allen & Overy	82	55	Facebook
33	19	Jaguar Land Rover	83	62	Freshfields
34	27	Arup	84	99	Pinsent Masons
35	47	Boston Consulting Group	85	94	Nestlé
36	42	Think Ahead	86	NEW	Huawei
37	39	BAE Systems	87	NEW	Vodafone
38	30	Sky	88	68	McDonald's
39	44	Apple	89	76	Hogan Lovells
40	51	Airbus	90	89	CMS
41	43	Morgan Stanley	91	96	CharityWorks
42	26	Frontline	92	NEW	Norton Rose Fulbright
43	45	Atkins	93	80	White and Case
44	53	Penguin Random House	94	95	Irwin Mitchell
45	40	Linklaters	95	NEW	GCHQ
46	46	AstraZeneca	96	NEW	Admiral
47	90	Police Now	97	NEW	Mott Macdonald
48	37	Tesco	98	77	Johnson & Johnson
49	NEW	Unlocked	99	86	Grant Thornton
50	50	Dyson	100	NEW	Enterprise Rent-a-Car

© High Fliers Research

The Times Top 100 Graduate Employers has been compiled annually since 1999 by **High Fliers Research**, based on face-to-face interviews with up to 20,000 final year students at universities across the UK. Students are asked the open-ended question 'Which employer do you think offers the best opportunities for graduates?'