**How competitive is it *really* for International Students to find jobs in the UK? Video transcript**

Many international students have heard that job hunting in the UK is competitive. But just how competitive is it really?

Well that depends on a number of things, such as the type of work you are looking for, the type of company, the area of the UK the job is in and the salary. So a highly paid graduate scheme in London in Investment Banking with a large, well-known company is going to be far more competitive than a graduate job in Exeter in a logistics company with 50 employees that you probably haven’t heard of before. This is because most students and graduates target large household names and so you are competing with many other applicants. Actually in the UK 99.9% of business are small to medium sized and names that you will never have heard of before, it’s simply that the big well-known companies have big advertising budgets and pop up in our lives on places like the TV. So, if you restrict your job search to only graduate schemes in London with recognised companies, you are going to be faced with stiff competition. However, if you can be more open minded, you can find other opportunities where you may be one of only a small number of applicants and have a much higher chance of success. Remember you can always apply to larger companies later!

It is worth pointing out here that until recently it was extremely difficult for international students to find work in the UK after their studies, because the only option was to find an employer to provide sponsorship. In 2021, the UK government introduced a second visa option, the graduate route. The graduate route is far more flexible than the Skilled Worker route as it has no minimum salary, or professional level and doesn’t require any action from the employer. So, this is really positive news for international students. There is lots of support available at Exeter to help you with understanding the visa regulations from the International Student Support team who can provide you with advice. We also run workshops that address visa issues.

You can increase your chances and tackle the competition by starting early, seeking support from Career Zone, being open minded about less-competitive roles, following the UK conventions for job applications, explaining your unique value as an international students and being able to explain the basics of visa rules to employers in a simple way- all topics covered in our workshops which are bookable on Handshake.