

Internships in London – TNS survey topline results

Background

The Economy Committee scrutinises the work of the Mayor and investigates matters relating to economic development, wealth creation, social development, culture, sport and tourism in London. The Committee is currently exploring the internship situation in London and are seeking to understand more about:

- a) Scale: The numbers of young Londoners doing internships
- b) Quality: The quality of the internships, peoples motivations, experiences and the outcomes i.e. are they paid/ unpaid, why they chose internships over other things, the skills they have developed, if they have led on to employment etc.

The research

The Committee have commissioned TNS to carry out a representative survey of over 500 young adults aged 19-30 in London (post education and pre career ages). The aim of this survey is to assess young Londoners awareness and views on internships and gauge how many young Londoners have taken part or intend to take part in internships. Further research is being carried out via Talk London via an online survey with young Londoners who have undertaken an internship to explore the quality issues.

Results

This report summarises the results from the TNS internet survey. Results are based on a sample of 697 Londoners (weighted base 727) aged 19 – 30 years old. Interviewing was conducted by online self-completion from 10th July to 5th August 2014. Where results do not sum to 100%, this may be due to multiple responses, computer rounding or the exclusion of don't knows/not stated.

Definition of internship for the survey

For the purposes of this survey an internship is one kind of employment taken up by an individual after they have completed their studies (school, college or university), but before they start their career. It lasts between one month and one year, and involves an agreement to work set hours and complete specific pieces of work that would otherwise be carried out by someone else. It does not include work experience, volunteering or apprenticeships, or internships that form part of a degree course or are done at the same time as studying. This definition was explained to respondents at the start of the survey.

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Q1. How much would you say you know about internships?	Total
Unweighted Base	697
Weighted Base	727
Nothing	111
	15%
A little bit	362
	50%
A fair amount	183
	25%
A great deal	70
	10%
NET : Know something	616
	85%
NET : Know a lot	254
	35%

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Q2. Are you currently or have you ever undertaken an internship in London?	Total
Unweighted Base	697
Weighted Base	727
Currently doing an internship	54
	7%
Have done an internship in the last 12 months	80
	11%
Did an internship more than 12 months ago	127
	18%
Never done an internship	465
	64%

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Q3. How many internships have you undertaken in London (including your current one if you are doing one)	Total
Unweighted Base (All who have done or are currently doing an internship)	259
Weighted Base (All who have done or are currently doing an internship)	262
1	137
	52%
2	72
	27%
3	27
	10%
4	16
	6%
5	3
	1%
More than 5	7
	3%

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Q4. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements....	Internships are for people like me	I would consider doing an internship now or in the future	Internships are a good way to develop skills for work	Internships can help young adults in London to obtain permanent jobs
Unweighted Base	697	697	697	697
Weighted Base	727	727	727	727
Strongly agree	159	190	244	219
	22%	26%	34%	30%
Agree	227	221	318	345
	31%	30%	44%	47%
Neither agree nor disagree	177	147	110	102
	24%	20%	15%	14%
Disagree	83	78	13	17
	11%	11%	2%	2%
Strongly disagree	45	55	12	12
	6%	8%	2%	2%

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Don't know	36	36	30	32
	5%	5%	4%	4%
NET : Agree	386	411	563	564
	53%	57%	77%	78%
NET : Disagree	127	133	24	29
	18%	18%	3%	4%

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'Q5. Some internships are paid and others are not. Internships may offer the interns a number of benefits including the opportunity to develop new skills and gain experience of the workplace. The benefits for the business/ organisation may include the chance to bring new talent into the workforce and trial staff before potentially offering permanent employment. Bearing in mind the possible benefits to both the interns and the business/organisations do you think interns should be paid....	Total
Unweighted Base	697
Weighted Base	727
The National Minimum Wage (£6.31 per hour/ £233 a week/ £933 per month/ £11,200 per year)	239
	33%
The London Living Wage (£8.80 per hour/ £325 per week/ £1302 per month/ £15,628 per year)	155
	21%
Lunch and travel expenses	145
	20%
A small amount i.e. less than the National Minimum wage	111
	15%
More than the London Living wage	27
	4%

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Nothing	50
	7%

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Q6. Would you be able to undertake a full time internship for three months in London with no other income if you were paid...	Nothing	Lunch and travel expenses	A small amount i.e. less than the National Minimum wage	The National Minimum Wage (£6.31 per hour/ approx. £233 a week/ approx. £933 per month/£11,200 per year)	The London Living Wage (£8.80 per hour/ approx. £325 per week/ approx. £1302 per month/ £15,628 per year)	More than the London Living wage
Unweighted Base	697	697	697	697	697	697
Weighted Base	727	727	727	727	727	727
Yes	118	253	272	435	562	560
	16%	35%	37%	60%	77%	77%
No	529	382	354	194	95	93
	73%	53%	49%	27%	13%	13%
Don't know	80	92	101	98	70	73
	11%	13%	14%	13%	10%	10%