
UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH
Employability: challenges and opportunities
10 Sept 2026
YOUR TIME.
YOUR PLACE.

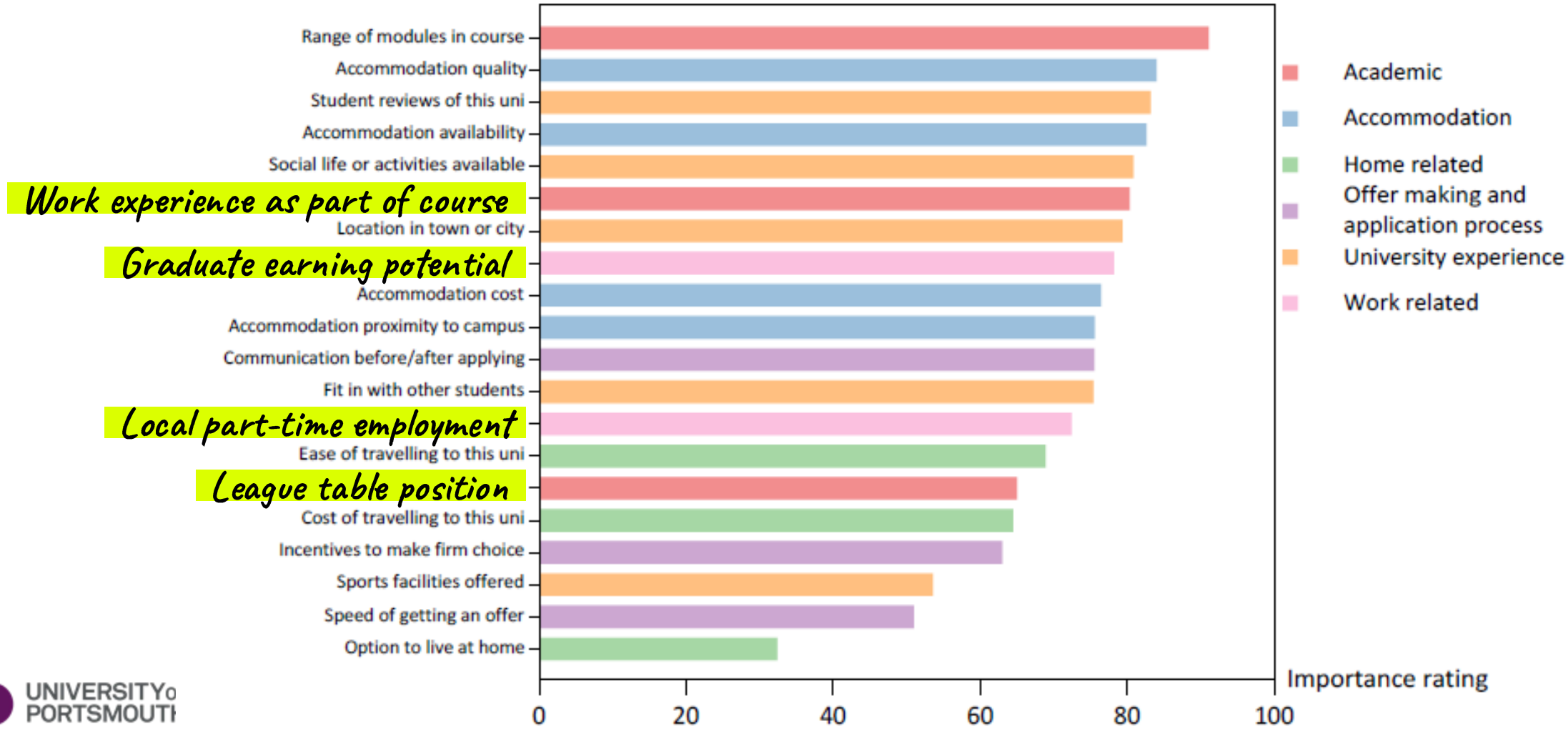
Policy Direction: The Post-16 White Paper

Students are mainly framed as future workers:

- Courses will need to be more closely aligned to labour-market needs/priority growth sectors, making study more clearly linked to jobs and economic outcomes.
- More work-relevant learning: Stronger employer links and levy-funded short courses will increase applied, vocational and skills-based learning.
- More flexible and shorter learning options: Expansion of short courses, modular learning and level 4–5 pathways will give students more ways to study without committing to a full degree at once.

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Why Do Students Choose Their University?



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Financial stress is a defining experience for today's students

Financial strains on our students

- UPP Foundation Inquiry, 2025: https://upp-foundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/UPPF-WP-Inquiry-Report-FINAL-020425.pdf

£8,405	The gap between available maintenance support and the minimum income standard for a student studying outside of London.[13]
18.7	The number of hours per week at minimum wage a student in England would need to work to cover this shortfall.[14]
9.4pp	The gap in continuation rates in 2021/22 between the most advantaged and most disadvantaged students.[15]
25%	The percentage of students stating that they never engaged in any extra curricular activities while at university.[16]
28%	Rise in the number of students not completing a university course between 2018/19 and 2022/23.[17]
26.6%	The number of students reporting taking on or increasing their hours of paid work to cover increased cost of living.[18]

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What Are Our Outcomes?



64.4%

GRADUATES IN PROFESSIONAL LEVEL OCCUPATIONS

15 months after graduating*



91%

GRADUATES IN WORK OR FURTHER STUDY

15 months after graduating*

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*Our performance relative to competitors and other universities.

Connected Curriculum

- Contemporary curriculum, based on academic, subject and research excellence, underpinned by relevant developments, innovations, digital technologies and professional practices in its subject areas

- Skills and employability, informed by local, national and global demands, to produce future-ready graduates

- Inclusivity and support, driven by our EDI commitments, to ensure all students are effectively and appropriately supported to succeed in their studies

- Authentic and altruistic, where teaching, learning and assessments methods allow students to achieve their best work and actively engage in their educational experience through feedback, co-production and reflection

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University Strategy 2030

Strategic Goals

- Boosting student employment and graduate distinctiveness
- Ensuring consistently high-quality, engaging experience and outcomes
- Engaging students with our community and global challenges
- Connecting our educational offer to future needs

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Guiding Plans

Employability Operational Plan

- Accessible Careers Service
- Embedded employability and enterprise education into all taught courses
- Compelling extracurricular offer
- Raised career aspirations and expectations of all students
- Strong business connections
- Intensive support to our graduates

Access and Participation Plan

- Improve outcomes for:
  - PGM Students
  - Disabled Students (multiple disabilities and social and communication impairments).
  - Students previously eligible for Free School Meals.