



Smart Futures

Get paid to have a
great experience of
work

EY Foundation

What is Smart Futures?

- ▶ It is a ten-month programme which starts with paid work experience and employability skills training during school holidays.
- ▶ A mentor will support you throughout the programme to advise you on one of the biggest career choices you will make – the first step in your working life.
- ▶ You will be invited to a series of alumni events throughout your final year at school or college.
- ▶ You will learn about different industries and receive opportunities to practice your networking skills.
- ▶ You will gain a wide variety of transferable skills to give you a head start in your career.
- ▶ Smart Futures is formally recognised and approved by the Institute of Leadership and Management.¹

Who we work with

Smart Futures is supported by EY and a range of employer partners across the UK in the following industries:

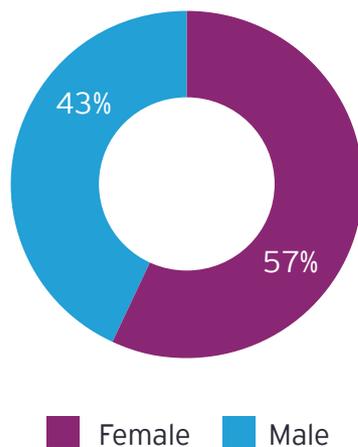
- 1 Government and public sector
- 2 Health and social care
- 3 Legal
- 4 Security
- 5 Digital and IT
- 6 Financial and professional services
- 7 Wealth management

¹ From 2021 onwards

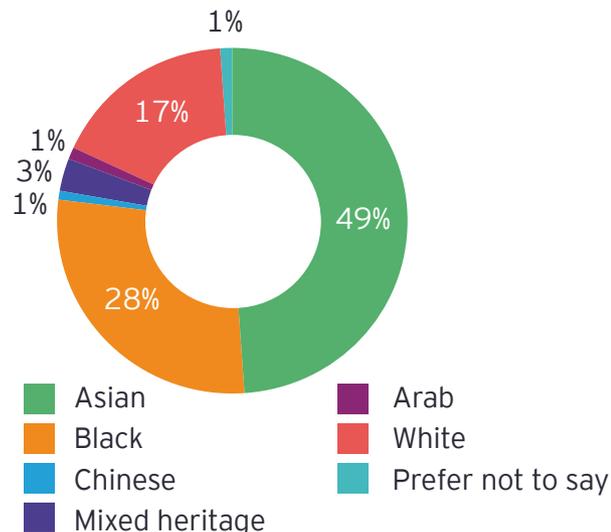
² Based on data collected between July 2019-June 2020

³ Out of 284 respondents

Gender split²



Ethnic backgrounds



99%

of our young people rated the Smart Futures programme as Good or Excellent.³

96%

of our young people said they were extremely, very or confident that the support they received will help them get a job after education.³

What does the Smart Futures programme involve?



The programme will give you some key skills that are essential in the work place:

- ▶ Building positive relationships
- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Effective networking
- ▶ Presentation skills
- ▶ Problem solving
- ▶ Team leading

We've taken it virtual!

We will run our Smart Futures programmes online this year, with the support of our employer partners and volunteers.

We are committed to listening to young people, which is why in March 2020, we launched our #voiceforyoungpeople project. From a survey sent to over 400 young people, we know that a fifth are worried about the impact of work experience being cancelled and the knock-on effect this will have on personal statements and job applications.

To continue to support young people, we:

- ▶ Are running a series of virtual panels for young people exploring wellbeing, successful interviews and sector insights.
- ▶ Are sharing career insights and top tips from a range of businesses on our various platforms.
- ▶ Have moved all programme delivery online in July 2020, with virtual employability skills training and business experience.

Some feedback from our online delivery:

[Click here to see other comments](#)

You can see some of our employer top tip takeaways on [YouTube](#).

86%

of Young People were satisfied/very satisfied with the opportunity to build their networking and communication skills with participants saying.

*Out of 70 respondents

What next?

Applications start online [here](#).

The application process is designed to provide you with insights into what it takes to successfully apply for a job working in a business. You will also find lots of hints and tips on how to navigate the application process.

If you have any queries about applying, you can email us with your questions smartfutures@eyfoundation.ey.com.



Eligibility Criteria

Please note, you must meet the following eligibility criteria to apply:

- ▶ Eligible for free school meals at any time in the last two years
or
- ▶ Eligible for College Bursary or Education Maintenance Allowance (where household income is less than £24,421)

Plus

Currently in Year 12 (England) or Fifth Year (Scotland).

- ▶ Attending a state school
- ▶ Studying any combination of A-level/International Baccalaureate/BTEC Level 3s/National 5/Highers
- ▶ Ambitious and motivated to join the world of work
- ▶ Looking for a great paid work experience this Summer or Easter that will help you secure a job after school, or a place at university

What our Young People think



“

I really enjoyed my time on the programme and feel like it gave me the confidence I was lacking in the workplace. I managed to secure an Apprenticeship with EY. I don't think I could have done it without the EY Foundation's help.

“

A lot of young people are unsure what to do, the advice and guidance that I received on the EY Foundation programme has been one of the most impactful things in my life. I was successful in getting a job with Taylor Wimpey and I'm not sure where I would be without the help I got.

Bradley Campbell, Smart Futures Alumni, London



The EY Foundation

About the EY Foundation

The EY Foundation is a UK registered charity that works directly with young people, employers and social entrepreneurs to create or support pathways to education, employment or enterprise. EY Foundation operates and is incorporated independently of EY and is governed by a separate trustee board.

The EY Foundation is a charitable company registered in England and Wales and Scotland with registered charity number 1157154 and SC045076. It is also a member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited.

The EY Foundation, 1 More London Place, London SE1 2AF

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