

FUTURE PROFESSIONALS

JULY

A summer school designed to empower young people to explore emerging career opportunities and prepare for future professions.

2025



CITY
ST GEORGE'S
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Report written by:

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A special thanks to the funders of Future Professionals:



**The Worshipful Company of
Tax Advisers**



The Tallow Chandlers' Company



Greig City Academy Students at Graduation



Leigh Academy Halley Students at Graduation

Participating Schools in 2025

Mulberry UTC

2



The Halley
Academy

20



Greig City
Academy

20



Key Demographic Data

42 students Participated in Future Professionals this year, of which 28 provided full demographic data. Participation in the programme was targeted to groups of students identified at being most in need of additional support. All students provided at least partial data.

95% of participating students identified as belonging to an Ethnic Minority

75% of participating students live in an area with above average levels of Child Poverty (Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index)

83% of participating students providing full demographic data are eligible for Free School meals

21% of participating students providing full demographic data are Care Experienced, have refugee status or are seeking asylum in the UK

How did we collect data?

Data	Information
Surveys	We shared a survey with the students both before and after the Future Professionals Programme to assess changes in their attitudes, skills, and overall perceptions.
Interviews	Our Student Ambassadors spoke with students to gather feedback on their experiences throughout the week.
Daily Reflection	Each day, students were asked to reflect on what went well and what could be improved. They wrote their thoughts on sticky notes and placed them on the wall.



After the great success of the inaugural Future Professionals Summer School last year, City St George's, University of London are so pleased to have been able to run the programme again in 2025, continuing the mission of our founders from the City of London and its Liveries to widen access to professional education.

The University's staff and student ambassadors again collaborated with our dedicated Widening Participation team to offer insights into Higher Education and careers options for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. The statistics and comments in the report show the incredibly positive impact the programme has had on the students who participated, and our aim is to continue to build on this as we develop the programme for the future.

The support of our Livery partners is integral to the delivery, and we very much hope to have the opportunity to work with more partners to support a greater number of students. Please contact us if you would like to get involved to help our young people of today become the young professionals of the future.

Ms Kanan Barot
Assistant Vice President, Civic Planning
and Development
City St George's, University of London

Executive Summary

Overview

City St George's, University of London, in partnership with the Tallow Chandlers and Tax Advisors successfully ran a single cohort of the Future Professionals Summer School for young people aged 13-15 in 2025. This report highlights how participants gained unique insights and hands-on experiences across a range of professions, including Health, Law, Business, Science and Technology, Politics, and the Creative Industries. Working across Clerkenwell and Tooting Campuses to draw on the expertise of our faculty, leading practitioners, and student ambassadors, the Programme enabled students to explore potential careers and develop skills crucial for thriving in the professions of the future.

Goals and Objectives

Inspired & Empowered



Students are more empowered to access degree subjects and careers of the future, thereby increasing diversity and representation in these spaces.

Informed & Aware



Students make informed post-16 choices that align with their personal interests and career aspirations.

Skills & Knowledge



Introducing and equipping students with the skills and knowledge they need for success in education and future careers.

Connected & Confident



Students are able to confidently assess their experience, and communicate the impact of the Future Professionals programme to their schools and peers.

Graduate Attributes

City St George's Graduate Attributes are our way of articulating the skills students develop during their studies with us. This year, the Graduate Attributes were incorporated into Future Professionals, giving us a shared language across the University to support our focus on skills and career readiness

Always Learning

Self aware, flexible and adaptable to a changing world. Engaged in active learning

Connected Professional

Understand the skills required for your sector and ready to enter the workforce

Engaged in the World

Interculturally aware, responsible and inclusive citizen of the world

Creating Impact

Self-starter seeking to initiate, solve complex problems and build value

Technical and Digital

Analytically skilled, digitally and technically competent

Improving the Programme for 2025

Building on feedback from students and teachers who participated in the Future Professionals programme in 2024, the 2025 Programme was improved to support:



More interactive learning - workshops, participation sessions and hands-on experience/ All subject specific sessions involved a minimum of 20 minutes of interactive work.



Developed core skill sessions around Networking, Study Skills, Confidence building and Group Work. Daily skills focuses set with reflection sessions each morning.



Co-planned Graduation Ceremony to give students ownership of programme and build in opportunities to talk to internal and external stakeholders.

Changes to session format and delivery methods improved student feedback on subject-specific sessions, with substantial improvements to levels of engagement reflected in daily reflection. All sessions recieved at minimum 60% positive feedback from participants.

80%

of students identified a “most useful” session that directly connected to study at school

92%

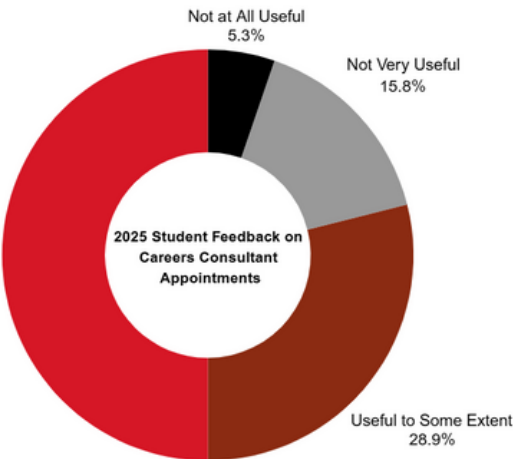
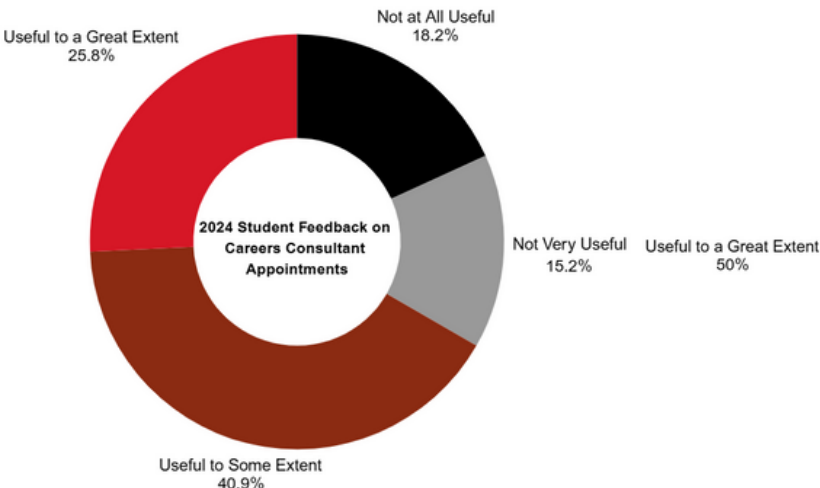
of students expressed interest in studying a subject they had encountered at Future Professionals

100%

of subject sessions received positive feedback

Integrating Careers Support

A key point of improvement for 2025 was integrating Careers one-to-one sessions into the wider Future Professionals Programme. This year we improved briefings for Careers Consultants, extended interview times, improved scheduling of core skills sessions and integrated Action Plans into daily reflection, resulting in a substantial increase in student perception of their Careers One-to-One sessions.



Plan of the Week

A single cohort participated in Future Professionals 2025. The programme was adjusted to focus on one graduate attribute each day, and reordered to provide more opportunities for interaction and discussion with Student Ambassadors.

Monday - Connected Professional

Introduction to Post-16 pathways A-levels, BTEC, Apprenticeships and other vocational courses

Communicating with Impact Networking core skills and guide to accessing work experience

"I enjoyed the networking session - it was hard getting up to talk to people from the other school but after a while I realised I could do it" Ceylin

Tuesday - Always Learning

Careers of the Future: Law Hands-on experience of writing and refining laws held in City St George's mock court

Careers of the Future: Business Negotiation skills, introduction to Business and negotiation exercise

"Business was super fun and exciting. Really good teamwork - we worked out the twist!" Ashley

Wednesday - Engaged in the World

NHS Careers Introduction to Health, Medicine and Medical Sciences careers

Healthcare Skills Circuit skills sessions covering Nursing, Midwifery, Diagnostic and Therapeutic Radiography

Pharmacology Dragons Den Interactive Clinical Pharmacology workshop, researching and presenting emerging drugs for NHS commissioning

"The diagnosis session was really interesting - I wish we did more!" Aleksandra

Thursday - Technical and Digital

Careers of the Future: Journalism - Hands-on experience of podcasting, print journalism and television production in City St George's Journalism suites. All-day session.

I loved the podcasting, and they loved my golden voice! Abdulahi

Friday - Creating Impact

Careers of the Future: Politics Negotiation and debate session in mock-UN Climate Summit format.

Graduation Student led graduation ceremony, with opportunities to speak and network with partners

"The USA owes us money - we stuck up for our rights and we'll save the environment." Jacob

How did our students feel before and after Future Professionals?

We surveyed students about their feelings before and after participating in the Future Professionals Programme. Students were asked to reflect on personal skills and knowledge of Post-16 pathways. Compared to 2024, the pre-event level of self-reported knowledge and confidence was lower across all questions.

84%

of students reported having some or great awareness of **the skills employers need** in the post-survey, up from 46% in the pre-survey.

88%

of students reported to have **thought about how careers or jobs might change in the future** increased in the post-survey, up from 60% in the pre-survey.

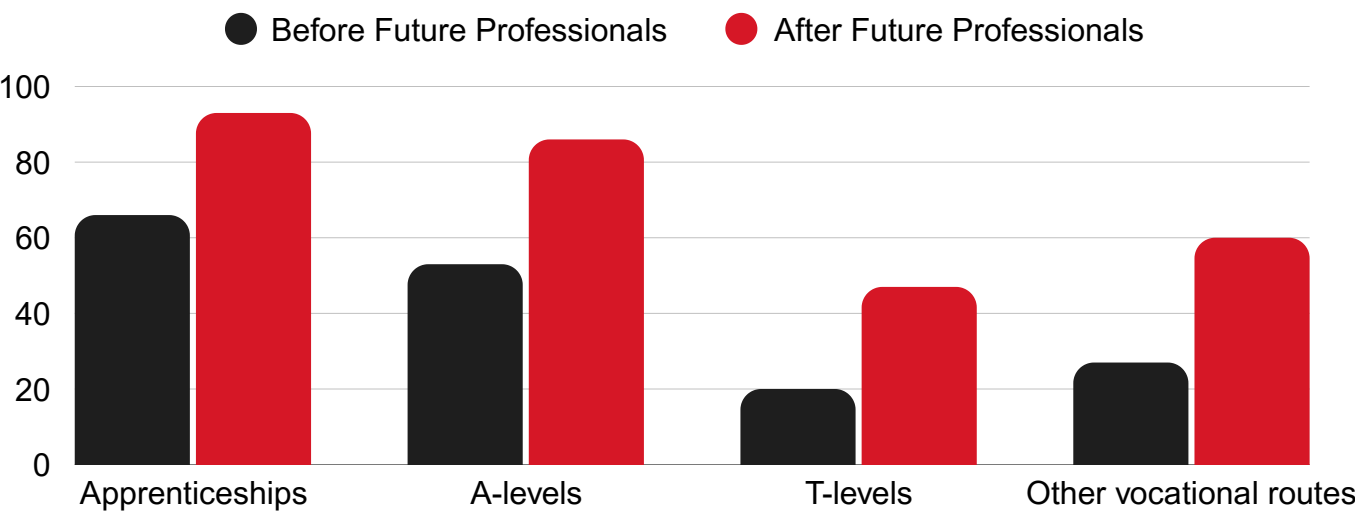
83%

of students reported feeling somewhat or greatly confident about **speaking to professionals in jobs they're interested in to gain work experience**, an increase from 67% in the pre-survey.

65%

of students reported an improved understanding of **all Post-16 Pathways** compared to the pre-survey.

Students reported having better awareness about all post-16 options after participating in Future Professionals week:



Student responses of understanding to “a great extent” or “to some extent” taken pre and post programme. Compared to 2024, the baseline level of knowledge of Post-16 options has fallen, while our impact on increasing knowledge has grown. One-to-One sessions increased focus on Post-16 pathways throughout the week.

How did our student feel before and after Future Professionals?

Percentage of students who reported feeling somewhat, fairly confident or completely confident in the following categories:

Before Future Professionals

After Future Professionals



Creating plans for your future with clear goals

33% → 84%



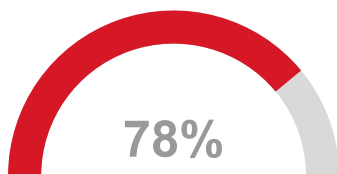
Accessing further Careers support

29% → 71%

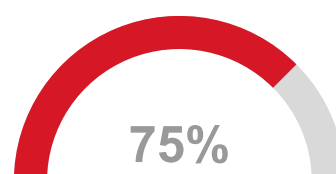


Talking about your strengths

36% → 78%



of participants reported feeling increased confidence in **all five careers skills**



of participants reported feeling somewhat, fairly, or completely confident in their ability **to create a strong CV**

More than 90% of participating students agreed that:

Future Professionals week inspired me to think more about my future education and career.

I am more aware of different degree subjects after attending Future Professionals week.

All participating students agreed that:

I have more belief in my ability to pursue a degree or career of my choice.

I am more aware of different career options after attending Future Professionals week.

What did our students say?

Our student ambassadors interviewed students to share their views on Future Professionals in short testimonials

“I felt **inspired** during the law session, because law can make you be so many different things and so it opens up so many careers. I took that to the pathways session and saw how my choices now can change what happens to me in the future.” *Alessia*

“My highlight was the podcasting and tv session, being a reporter was good. The Business negotiation session **got me thinking** “a no from someone can be a yes from someone else”. I want to start my own Business so this was very helpful.” *Marvin*

“Speaking in front of a crowd and meeting new people were **big challenges** and we had to do it a lot. I think I got better at it and learnt networking skills, presentations and how to deal with pressure.” *Mark*

“I found the **exact course I’m interested in** in the careers session. I wanted something to do with computer science and they helped me to find Computer Science with Cyber Security, I didn’t know about that before.” *Jacob*

Future Careers Pathways

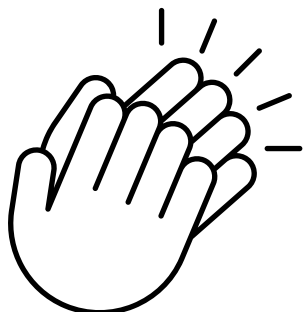
Participating students shared their ideas for future careers after participating in the subject sessions. Health and Medicine, followed by Business and Entrepreneurship, were overwhelmingly popular options



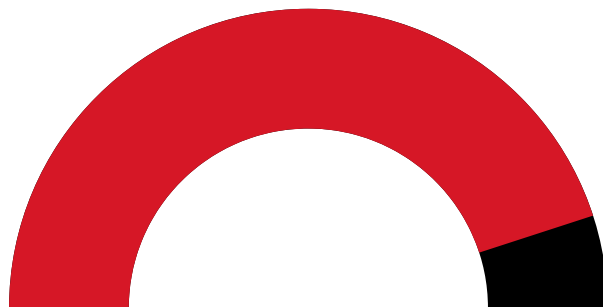
Size indicates frequency in end of week evaluation. Examples: Health (15), Nursing (10), Business (8)

Key takeaways

Future Professionals 2025 delivered a tighter, more focused programme for participating students, showing significant improvement in key skill metrics, student knowledge and self confidence when compared to 2024.



100% of Participating Students would recommend Future Professionals to friends looking for help with Careers skills



91% of participants reported being **satisfied or very satisfied** with their overall experience during the Future Professionals weeks.

We will continue to build on the format of Future Professionals. Key takeaways from student feedback this year are:



Exposure to more varied subjects including Foundation degrees, Applied Sciences and Humanities



Develop a work experience fair to support students securing opportunities for summer and beyond



Further mix cohorts with smaller groups from more schools, including more opportunities to meet new people

Conclusion

We are pleased that Future Professionals has continued with substantial improvements in feedback and evaluation this year. As we continue the programme we will look to provide more opportunities to support long-term impact, creating positive experiences of Higher Education and the world of work that will support participating students to face the careers of the future with confidence in their skills and abilities.



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