



## TRAVEL MAKES YOU MORE EMPLOYABLE

- *More than 80% of employers say that 'travelling' makes job candidates more employable*
- *Two thirds (66%) of people say the skills they learnt travelling help them in their current role – including boosting confidence (38%) and increasing people skills (37%)*
- *Figures come as the head of UCAS said graduates should explore options before a career and recruitment experts say employers are now looking for more than just academic qualifications*

Many people worry that taking time-out to travel the world may impact on their career – but new research reveals that it might actually make you more employable.

That's according to a new international study from global hostel booking site [Hostelworld](#), which questioned travellers and employers in nine countries.<sup>1</sup> It reveals that almost two thirds of UK adults (64%) believe that travelling makes you more employable; a figure that rises to 82% among employers.

The findings come as figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency reveal that a record number of students (73%) graduated with at least a 2:1 degree last year<sup>2</sup>, with graduate recruitment experts<sup>3</sup> commenting that this means employers are finding it difficult to differentiate between candidates. In addition, the outgoing head of UCAS, Mary Curnock Cook, has warned against an 'obsession' with careers and suggested that graduates should explore their options before embarking on a career.

According to the Hostelworld study, almost two thirds (62%) of people who have travelled say that their experiences helped them understand what they wanted to do with their life and more than half (51%) said it helped them figure out what they wanted to do professionally. Many of these benefited from specific experiences, with 61% saying that they did work abroad that boosted their CV, and others even met people who went on to help secure their current job (46%).

Yet it's the skills the people pick up while travelling that really helps to boost their job prospects. Among the top reasons people believe that travel aids employability are that it boosts confidence (38%), increases people skills (37%), and it helps you adapt to unknown situations (35%). Other top benefits include increasing your communications skills (31%), providing a more global view (20%) and teaching people how to budget (19%).



Interestingly, the research also suggests that those who have travelled tend to be more entrepreneurial. Among those who are currently employed, people who have been travelling are more likely to be self-employed than those who haven't (35% compared to 14%). In fact, a number of famous entrepreneurs have talked about the value of travel.

According to the study, almost a third of UK adults (31%) are considering going travelling, rising to 58% of people aged between 18 and 24.<sup>4</sup> Among those who haven't travelled, for reasons including the fact that they went straight into work (37%) and thinking that they couldn't afford it (50%), around a third (29%) of UK adults regret it, rising to a 35% of those aged under 34.

**Feargal Mooney, Chief Executive Officer at Hostelworld,** said:

*"We know that for some people employment can be a barrier to travel – whether it be young adults wanting to get on the career ladder, or those further down the line with mortgages to pay – but our research shows that this doesn't have to be the case, and that not only can travel make you more employable, but the skills it provides you with pay dividends later on in your career."*

*"Travelling is one of the most rewarding experiences a person can have, and those who ignore the desire to see the world often regret it. Employment and finances don't have to stand in the way – we're seeing an increasing number of people packing far-flung adventures into just two weeks, or often just a weekend, and affordable accommodation has never been better. Whatever stage of life you're in, there's really no excuse not to get out there and meet the world."*

*"Thousands of young adults will be graduating this summer and thinking about their next steps in life – but with growing competition in the jobs market, candidates are finding it harder and harder to stand out. Travelling not only allows people the space and time to think about what they want to do with their lives and ignite their passions, but also provides you with invaluable skills including increased confidence that will help you to stand out from the crowd."*

**Jeff Vjungco, Vice President of Talent at Adobe,** added:

*"The talent and employment landscape is changing faster than it ever has before, and tomorrow's jobs will be different from today's. Employees who understand how to be agile and adapt to different corporate cultures will be in high demand. Travel is absolutely one of the best ways that young people can gain in-demand skills such as context switching."*



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### **About Hostelworld**

Hostelworld Group is the leading global hostel-booking platform with Hostelworld, Hostelbookers and Hostels.com in its portfolio operating in 19 different languages. Connecting young travellers with hostels around the world, Hostelworld has over 8 million reviews across 33,000 properties in more than 170 countries.

Hostelworld's customers aren't your average tourists; they crave experiences not souvenirs and want to be in the heart of the action. They want to Meet The World, and it's the social nature of hostels that facilitates their travel adventures.

The Hostelworld Group went public in November 2015, listing on the main London and Dublin stock exchanges. Headquartered in Dublin, Hostelworld has offices around the world in London, Shanghai, Sydney and Seoul, and was recently recognised as a Best Workplace for 2016 by the Great Place To Work Institute.

### **About the research**

PCP Market Research was commissioned by Hostelworld to conduct an online survey of 1,000 people from each of eight different countries: UK, France, Spain, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Brazil and South Korea. The research took place between 13 and 26 April 2017.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: PCP study. Respondents were asked if they make decisions on hiring people in their current employment, and whether they believe having been travelling makes candidates more employable, as well as the reasons why. The countries included in the study were the UK, USA, France, Spain, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Brazil, and South Korea.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) figures released in January 2017 (<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/news/12-01-2017/sfr242-student-enrolments-and-qualifications>). 73% of students graduated with at least a 2:1 degree last year, compared to compared to 66% in 2011/2012

<sup>3</sup> Source: Martin Birchall of High Fliers Research provided these comments upon the release of the 2017 HESA figures outlined in footnote two, including the [Huffington Post](#) and the [Guardian](#).

<sup>4</sup> Source: PCP study for Hostelworld. 'Travelling' was defined as a period of at least one month.