

Careers Advice & Guidance and University 2019

Statistical Factsheet

Findings from the Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitudes Survey 2019

This factsheet presents key findings from the Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitudes Survey (YPBAS), carried out between September 2019 and February 2020, in relation to careers advice and guidance to year 11 and 12 pupils in Northern Ireland and their university aspirations. These results are based on data which has been weighted by year group, gender and religion in order to reflect the composition of the Northern Ireland post-primary population.

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Key Points

- Just over two thirds (67%) of year 11 and 12 pupils reported they feel confident (54%) or very confident (13%) about making decisions about their career.
- The majority (96%) of year 11 and 12 pupils indicated information on the qualifications needed to progress their career plans is very important/ quite important to help them to achieve their career goals.
- The majority (84%) of year 11 and 12 pupils said they are not aware of the Government's/ Department for the Economy's all-age Careers Service.
- The majority (83%) of year 11 and 12 pupils said they do not know how to contact a Careers Adviser outside school.
- Just over two thirds (68%) of year 11 and 12 pupils agreed their family encourage them to go to university and two thirds (66%) agreed they want to go to university.

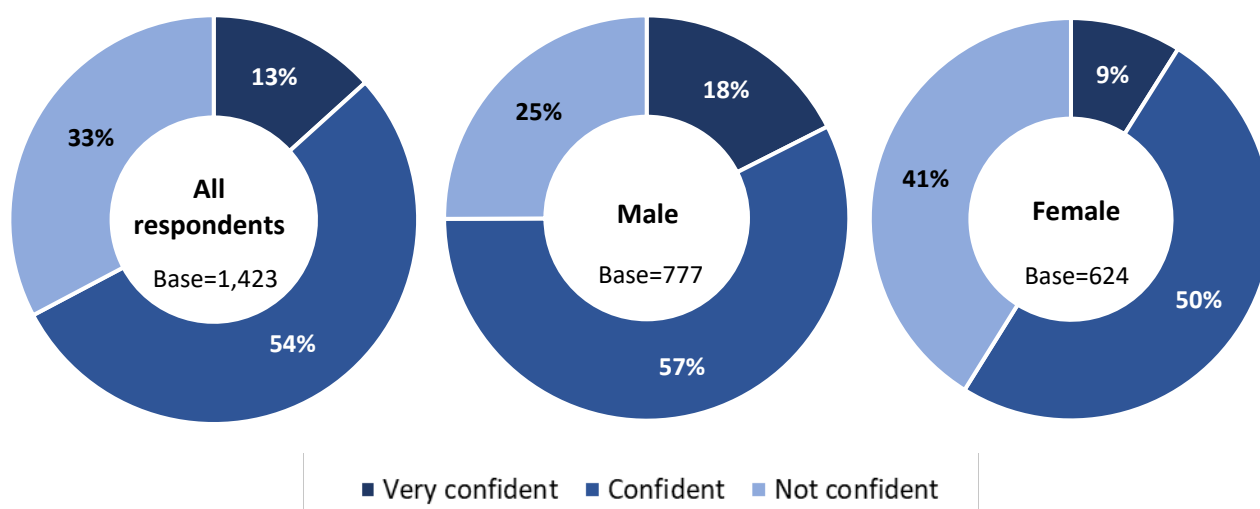
1. Careers Advice & Guidance

Year 11 and 12 pupils were asked four questions related to careers advice and guidance.

1.1 Confidence making career decisions

Just over two thirds (67%) of year 11 and 12 pupils reported they feel confident (54%) or very confident (13%) about making decisions about their career. Three quarters (75%) of males in year 11 and 12 said they feel confident or very confident about making career decisions compared to just under three fifths (59%) of females in year 11 and 12 (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: How confident do you feel about making decisions about your career? *



* Gender of pupil according to school records; the gender of 22 pupils was recorded as unknown.

Source: YPBAS 2019

1.2 Support to achieve career goals

Year 11 and 12 pupils were asked to indicate which areas of careers support would help them to achieve their career goals (see Figure 2).

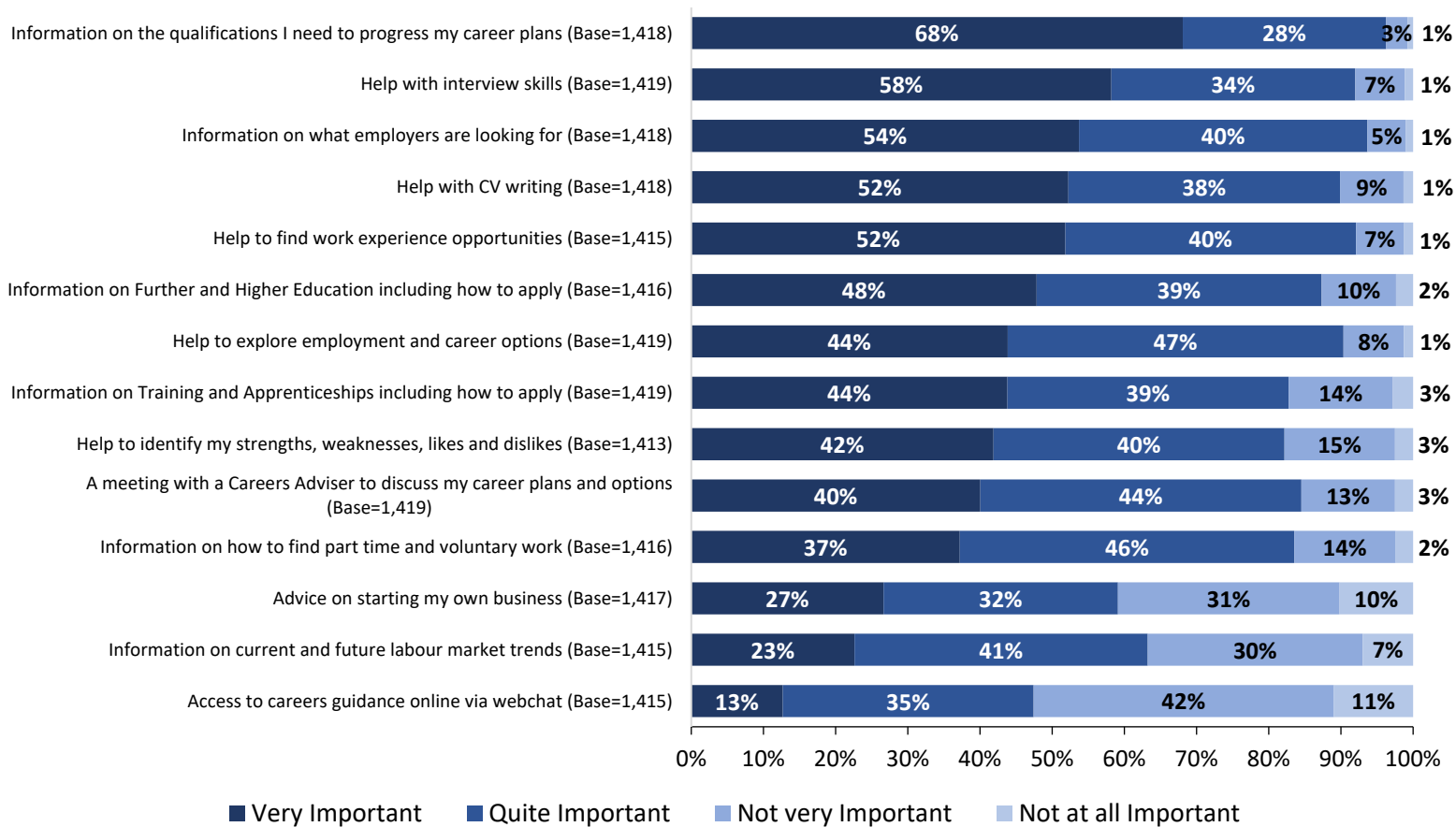
The majority (96%) of year 11 and 12 pupils indicated information on the qualifications needed to progress their career plans is very important/ quite important to help them to achieve their career goals. Other areas of high importance, where 'importance' refers to the sum of responses 'very important' and 'quite important', were:

- Information on what employers are looking for (94%)
- Help to find work experience opportunities (92%)
- Help with interview skills (92%)

Year 11 and 12 pupils considered the following areas of careers support to have least importance:

- Information on current and future labour market trends (63%)
- Advice on starting their own business (59%)
- Access to careers guidance online via webchat (47%)

Figure 2: Which of the following careers support would help you to achieve your career goals?



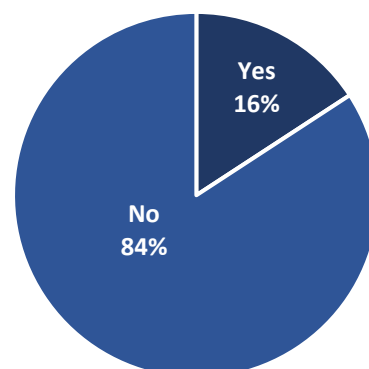
Source: YPBAS 2019

1.3 Awareness of the all-age Careers Service

The majority (84%) of year 11 and 12 pupils said they are not aware of the Government's/ Department for the Economy's all-age Careers Service.

A sixth (16%) of year 11 and 12 pupils indicated they are aware of it (see Figure 3).

Figure 3: Are you aware of the Government's/ Department for the Economy's all-age Careers Service?



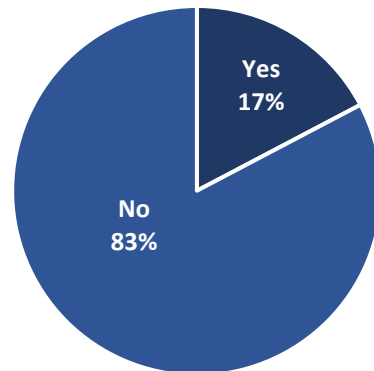
Base=1,424 Source: YPBAS 2019

1.4 Contacting a Careers Adviser outside school

The majority (83%) of year 11 and 12 pupils said they do not know how to contact a Careers Adviser outside school.

A sixth (17%) of year 11 and 12 pupils indicated they know how to contact a Careers Adviser outside school (see Figure 4).

Figure 4: Do you know how to contact a Careers Adviser outside school?

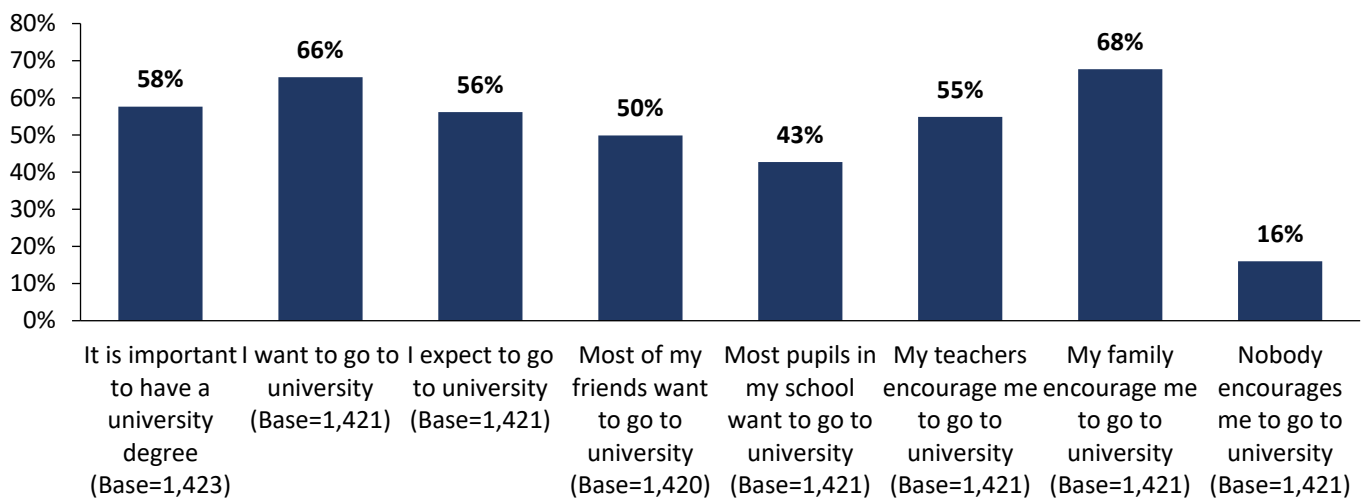


Base=1,426 Source: YPBAS 2019

2. University

Year 11 and 12 pupils were asked to indicate how strongly they agree or disagree with a range of statements related to university. Their agreement is reported as the sum of 'strongly agree' and 'agree' responses. Just over two thirds (68%) of year 11 and 12 pupils agreed their family encourage them to go to university and two thirds (66%) agreed they want to go to university. Under three fifths (58%) agreed it is important to have a university degree. Over half (56%) of year 11 and 12 pupils agreed they expect to go to university and 55% agreed their teachers encourage them to go to university. Half (50%) of year 11 and 12 pupils agreed most of their friends want to go to university and over two fifths (43%) agreed most pupils in their school want to go to university. A sixth (16%) of year 11 and 12 pupils agreed nobody encourages them to go to university (see Figure 5).

Figure 5: Percentage agreement (strongly agree plus agree) of pupils in year 11 and 12 regarding university



Source: YPBAS 2019

Guidance Notes:

- A consortium of government departments and public bodies commissioned the Central Survey Unit (CSU) of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) to design and conduct a survey on the behaviour and attitudes of young people in post-primary education in Northern Ireland. The Young Persons' Behaviour and Attitudes Survey (YPBAS) is a school based survey conducted among 11-16 year olds and covers a wide range of topics relevant to the lives of young people today.
- The fieldwork for the 2019 YPBAS was carried out between September 2019 and February 2020.
- Two versions of the YPBAS questionnaire were used to accommodate demand for topics in the 2019 survey, Versions A and B. The Careers Advice & Guidance and University questions were included in Version A. [YPBAS questionnaires](#) are available on the NISRA website.
- From a representative sample of post-primary schools in Northern Ireland, 39 schools participated in survey A. One class per year group was randomly selected to take part. However, due to exam pressures and controlled exams, two of these schools did not have time for their year 11 and 12 classes to take part in the survey. A total of 1,429 year 11 and 12 pupils took part in survey A.
- Findings in this factsheet have been weighted by year group, gender and religion in order to reflect the composition of the Northern Ireland post-primary population (aged 11 to 16).
- Percentages are based on weighted figures. Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number and as a consequence may not sum to 100.
- The base number of responses to each question is the unweighted count. The base may vary from one question to another due to some respondents not answering certain questions.
- Respondents that answered 'Don't know' or refused to answer have not been included in the base.
- Findings in this Department of Economy (DfE) factsheet may differ from findings published by other government departments due to differences in methodology.
- This statistical factsheet, associated data tables and questionnaire are available on the [DfE website](#).
- CSU publish a headline bulletin, tables of top-line results and a technical report covering all survey topics. These are available on the [NISRA website](#).
- Any enquiries regarding this document should be sent to Youth Training Statistics and Research Branch using the contact information provided on the first page.