

FUTURE PROFESSIONALS

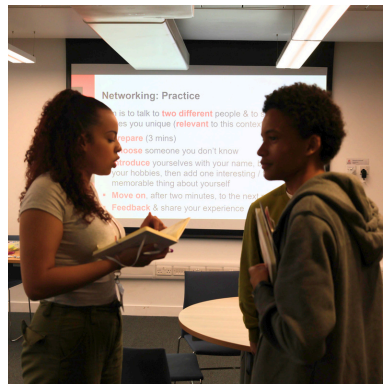
JULY

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

2024



CITY
ST GEORGE'S
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



Report written by:
Samir Hakim, Evaluation Officer



A special thanks to the funders of Future Professionals:



City of London Corporation



The Mercers' Company



**The Worshipful Company of
Tax Advisers**



**The Tallow Chandlers'
Company**



**The Worshipful
Company of
Turners**



**The Worshipful
Company of
Horners**



**The Worshipful
Company of
Carmen**



It is my great pleasure to introduce this impact report for the inaugural Lord Mayor & Liveries Future Professionals Summer School. City St George's, University of London was founded by the City of London and its Liveries more than 125 years ago to widen access to professional education. We remain true to the founding mission today through our Widening Participation team who are dedicated to delivering equity in access to Higher Education. The Lord Mayor of the City of London is the university's Rector, and we are extremely proud of both our origins and our "special relationship" with the City.

This year we partnered with the Corporation, the Lord Mayor and the Liveries to offer young people in schools supported by Liveries and the City of London Academy Trust a unique summer school experience and the chance to work with our inspiring faculty, award-winning professional experts and our brilliant student role models to explore the changing world of the professions. In this report you'll read about the impact of our collaboration on young lives.

We are excited to continue. Join us!

Dr Sionade Robinson FRGS, SFHEA
Vice President, Engagement, Enterprise
and Employability
City St George's, University of London

Executive Summary

Overview

City, St George's University of London, in partnership with the Lord Mayor, successfully ran a Future Professionals Summer School for underrepresented young people aged 13-15. 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. Students also received practical training in job application processes such as CV writing and career planning. Drawing on the expertise of City's faculty, leading practitioners, and student ambassadors, the programme enabled students to explore potential careers and develop skills crucial for thriving in future professions, providing opportunities that are often beyond the reach of many schools.

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

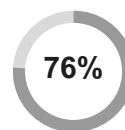


- Introducing and equipping students with the skills and knowledge they need for success in education and future careers.

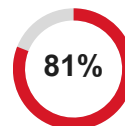
How did we collect data?

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.
Vision Boards	Students were asked to create Vision Boards showing their ideal future careers, using images, quotes, and other creative elements.

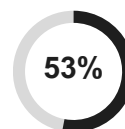
Key demographics



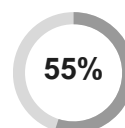
out of 107 students who attended Future Professionals, 76% shared their demographic data.



of students were from minority ethnic backgrounds.



of students identified as female.



would be first-generation university students if they choose to enter higher education.

Which schools did our students attend from?

Future Professionals invited 12 schools from across London to participate, offering their students the chance to engage in the event. In total, 107 students attended. Below is a list of the participating schools and the number of students from each:

City of London
Academy
Highgate Hill

7



City of London
Academy
Shoreditch Park

6



City of London
Academy
Islington

12



City of London
Academy
Highbury Grove

7



Hammersmith
Academy

7



Mulberry UTC

11



Whitefield
School

2



The Halley
Academy

20



Woolwich
Polytechnic
School for Boys

2



Greig City
Academy

20



St Aloysius'
College

8



City Academy
Hackney

5



Plan of the Week

The Future Professionals programme ran for three weeks across June and July 2024, with a new cohort each week. Here's a glimpse of the incredible experiences students gained:



Monday

- Students explored post-16 educational pathways, including BTECs, A Levels, Apprenticeships, and University options.
- Participated in a "Climate Jams" workshop focused on sustainability and sustainable careers.
- Engaged in a Q&A session with Ambassadors to discuss university pathways and future careers.
- Developed networking skills throughout the day's activities.



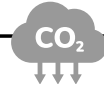
Tuesday

- Students focused on developing communication and networking skills, including practicing introductions, active listening, and following up on connections.
- Participated in a speed networking session with professionals from various industries, with each student speaking to 10 different professionals in total.
- Concluded the day with a "Careers in Law" session, featuring a mock trial led by law academics.



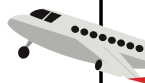
Wednesday

- Students explored careers in Business through a taster lecture on topics such as business models in fashion, AI in business, and investment financing.
- Participated in a Politics workshop, where they acted as countries or coalitions to debate climate change and negotiate on reducing emissions and replanting forests.
- Engaged in a round robin session with "Better Space" businesses, including a Q&A with professionals from various industries.



Thursday

- Students explored engineering careers by visiting a flight simulator and attending a lecture on Health Engineering.
- The first two cohorts participated in a Lego Sustainability task, designing university facilities with a focus on sustainability.
- In the third week, our final cohort learnt about cybersecurity through a lecture and group tasks.
- Attended Health Career sessions with practical activities on Speech Therapy, Radiography, Psychology, and Nursing.



Friday

- Students looked at careers in Journalism by recording a podcast introduction, filming a news segment, and analysing headlines in groups.
- Participated in a CV writing workshop, gaining practical tips and comparing examples.
- Concluded the day with a vision boarding session, where students planned their futures in a relaxed setting.
- The week ended with a graduation ceremony, where students invited friends and family to celebrate their achievements.



Future

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, with a 92% completion rate among participants.

97%

of students reported having some or great awareness of **the skills employers need** in the post-survey, up from **62%** in the pre-survey.

91%

of students reported to have **thought about how careers or jobs might change in the future** increased in the post-survey, up from **76%** in the pre-survey.


90%


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 **73%** in the pre-survey.


88%


of students reported feeling somewhat or greatly **supported and guided in making future decisions** in the post-survey, a notable increase from **69%** in the pre-survey.

Students had the chance to share their future ambitions, offering insights into their dreams and goals. Here are a couple quotes from them:

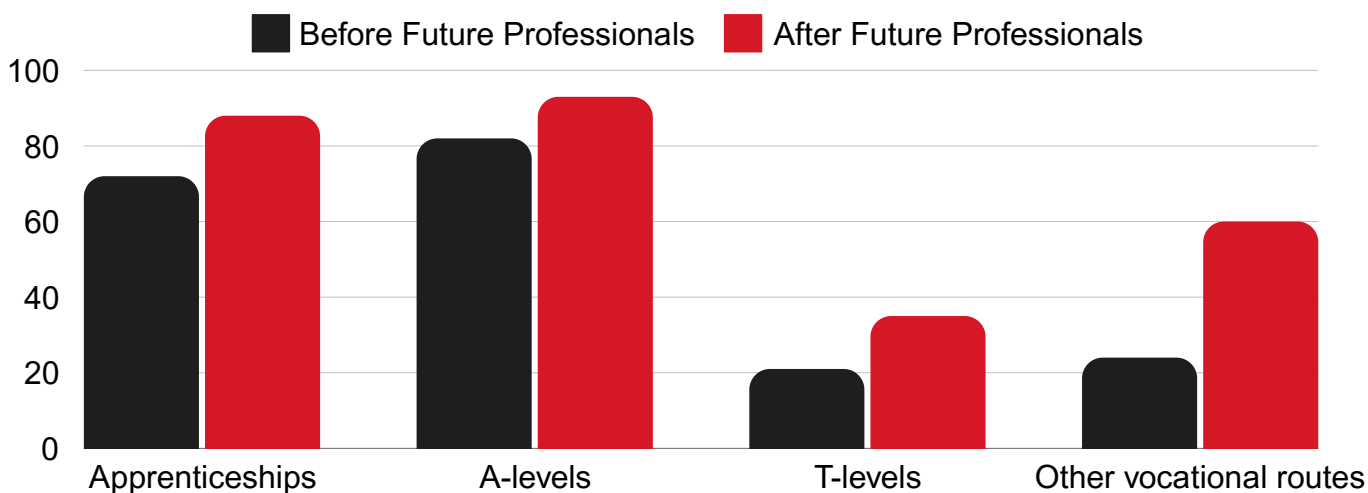
“  For the future I would like to go into law ”

“  To follow my dreams in the performing arts ”

“  To start my own business which is connected to engineering ”

“  I'll pursue a job in computing, maybe specifically AI ”

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



Speaking with professionals

72%



89%



Creating plans for your future with clear goals

68%



89%

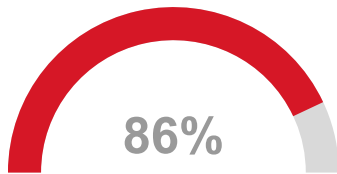


Talking about your strengths

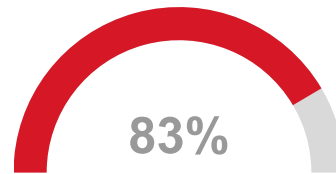
64%



86%



86% of participants reported feeling somewhat, fairly or completely confident in **their ability to create a strong CV** after Future Professionals.



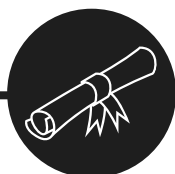
83% of participants reported feeling somewhat, fairly, or completely confident in their **ability to follow through with their career plan** after Future Professionals.

Percentage of students who agreed with the following statements:



88%

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



86%

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



85%

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



66%

I am likely to seek more career information and guidance from teachers or career advisers in the future.



73%

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

What did our students say?

Our student ambassadors interviewed students to share their views on Future Professionals.

“

This week has been really interesting, it's opened up doors I didn't know I had.

“

What I really enjoyed was the law school session because it clarified that I wanted to become a lawyer.

“

I enjoyed learning about the different types of sustainable jobs for the future.

“

Great activity of teaching us communication and networking and then practicing with professionals.

“

Careers interview was a cool experience, never been asked so in depth on what I want to do.

“

I liked talking to all the different people who work for different and unique businesses.

“

Networking gave me the opportunity to talk to new people and get different perspectives on what I could do in the future.

“

This week has inspired me with aerospace engineering.

“

I really liked the different lectures about the different subjects, and I think it worked great.



Case Study: Gabriella

Gabriella attended all sessions in the Future Professionals programme. She especially enjoyed the aeroplane simulator, psychology session, and the networking bingo.

Before joining the programme, Gabriella was already interested in Forensics and Psychology, and had been considering them as a future career. After getting a taster for these sessions, along with exploring other career options and subjects during the week, Gabriella said she is now also considering Engineering as a future choice.

Gabriella's key takeaway from the week was the skills she learnt in language therapy. She said she found communicating difficult in the past, but thought language therapy was a good way to help her communicate with others.

When asked to sum up her experience on the programme, Gabriella said: "I found the week enlightening and very productive."

Student from Week 3 Cohort

How do our students see the future?

On the final day of the Future Professionals Programme, we invited our students to create vision boards as a way to visually capture their perceptions of the future:

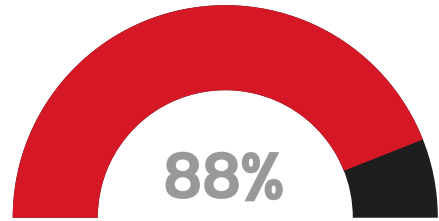


Vision Board Future Professionals



Key takeaways & conclusion

The findings from the Future Professionals Programme indicate that students greatly valued the opportunity, developing a broad range of skills for their future careers. This is further supported by positive feedback on their overall experience, with many expressing high levels of satisfaction and a strong willingness to recommend the programme to others.



On average, students rated their likelihood of recommending the Future Professionals Programme to a friend at 8 out of 10.

88% of participants reported being satisfied or very satisfied with their overall experience during the Future Professionals weeks.



In this photo, students pose with smiles, surrounded by friends and family, celebrating the completion of the Future Professionals Programme.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Future Professionals Programme has proven to be an effective initiative in equipping students with essential skills and knowledge for their future careers. The positive feedback and high levels of satisfaction from participants highlight the programme's success in fostering both professional growth and personal development. By offering valuable insights, practical experience, and industry-relevant training, the programme has served as a crucial stepping stone for students as they prepare for future opportunities.



CITY

ST GEORGE'S

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON