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Second-rate salary

Getting a 2.i will make you rich, but getting a First won't make you much richer



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NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Working for a First does not pay off – but make sure you don't get a 2.i if you're after a well-paid job, suggests new research.

The study revealed a total income gap of £300,000 across a lifetime between graduates with a higher second (2.i) degree and those with a lower second (2.ii).

The findings, composed by classified ads search engine Adzuna, showed a disparity of £8,000 in average annual income between employees who graduated with a 2.ii and those with a 2.i class mark.

Employers are still using degree results to filter large piles of CVs, which, as the research shows, can mean a lifetime of lower earnings.

Employers' demands for degree subjects and grades from more than 1 million job postings were analyzed. The results were compiled in a study posted on the search engine's blog,

with the telling title "All degrees are not created equal".

While the average salary for a graduate with a 2.i rather than a 2.ii jumped from £30,500 to £38,100 per year, having a First proved to make little difference, as it gained only a

£38,753

Average annual income for a First

£26,535

Average annual income for a Third

£12,646

Annual salary on the minimum wage

slightly higher average salary than a 2.i, at £38,800 per year.

Should you gain a Third class honours, meanwhile, you can expect to receive an annual income of about £26,500.

Gordon Chesterman, Director of the Careers Service, said: "Employers love students with a First, so long as they didn't spend three years at Cambridge glued into a book the whole time, and missed acquiring a crop of other skills.

"What a student voluntarily chooses to do in their spare time says a lot about the applicant, often more than the degree they've studied."

One student, who graduated with a 2.2 in Maths, said: "After only a few weeks of applications I had a job I love. My company seemed to accept me based only slightly on my grade. It appeared that work experience and a wide range of things on my CV had stood out more.

"If I had known this at the time I might have relaxed, enjoyed the

course more and probably got a 2.i."

Another finding of the study, however, showed that the choice of subject matters when it comes to comparing annual salaries.

While a civil engineer can earn, on average, up to £47,000 per year, closely followed by economists at £41,800 and lawyers at £41,300, anthropologists can expect as little as £21,300 per year, and sociology graduates £22,100 per year.

Chesterman could comfort Cambridge students: "The median salary for Cambridge students six months after graduating last year was £24,000 compared to £22,000 nationally."

He added: "Salary is important, but many Cambridge students are chasing careers that do not pay well in the first year or two.

"Thankfully we still have many students who want to find the cure for cancer, write a best-selling book, or serve the wider society working for the Civil Service or an international development organization."

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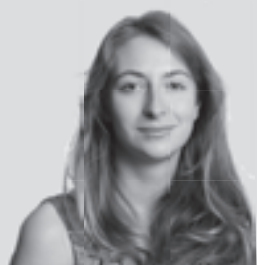
Exam results no longer reflect academic ability, claims A.C. Grayling



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"The chemistry between the actors and director kept it alive - just"

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Uphill from here: Varsity talks to Ski and Snowboard Club President, Pete Calvert

