

Alumni Magazine

Issue 2. July 2025



Dissertation Spotlight: Highlighting standout research projects from 2025

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How my HND broadened my horizons

Handshake: Your one-stop-shop for all graduate support

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Welcome

From James Kennedy, CEO, GBS

At this time of year, we welcome many more people into the GBS Alumni Network, a group that is growing as more and more GBS students successfully graduate. I am very proud of all our new graduates.

GBS has a mission of changing lives through education. This magazine highlights some of the many ways that you, our graduates and alumni, transform your own lives and those of your families, communities and our society.

I wish you all the very best.

James



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GBS 15 Year Anniversary

Global Banking School is marking 15 years of delivering on its mission to transform lives through education. With over 35,000 students across London, Manchester, Birmingham and Leeds, GBS has played a key role in widening participation, addressing skills shortages and fostering social mobility throughout the UK.

GBS UK CEO, James Kennedy, highlighted the organisation's ongoing impact:

"Our approach to higher education extends opportunities to as many people as possible. By offering classes seven days a week, we enable students with other commitments to access high-quality education that suits their schedules."



"GBS has had a significant and positive impact on all the communities we serve across the UK. As our students learn and gain confidence, they bring skills and entrepreneurship that benefit themselves, their communities, and the UK economy."

To commemorate this milestone, celebration events were held across all GBS UK campuses, bringing together staff and students to recognise the achievements of this unique institution.



Dissertation Spotlight: Highlighting standout research projects from 2025

GBS' programme curriculums typically include an extensive research module in the final year. The dissertation represents the true culmination of many years of learning, reflecting both the growth and progression of the learner's educational career.

We are incredibly proud of the efforts of our graduates, and in celebration of their achievements our level leads have selected the below graduates to be included in our showcase.

Below are the testimonials of our graduates, each explaining their own dissertation and the experience they have had conducting a comprehensive research project.



Reaz Ahmed

MA International Business
Leeds Trinity University – Republic Campus

“The influence of leadership styles on employee motivation: A case study of DHL”

My dissertation examined the impact of transformational and situational leadership styles on employee motivation in DHL, a worldwide logistics company. I rigorously assessed the influence of these leadership styles on organisational performance, employee engagement, and job satisfaction. I used secondary qualitative techniques and thematic analysis to offer strategic insights and recommendations aimed at enhancing leadership effectiveness and cultivating a motivated workforce.

For me, my dissertation was a formidable yet profoundly gratifying intellectual pursuit. It enabled me to enhance my knowledge of leadership theories and their practical implementations in changing business contexts. The approach improved my research skills, critical thinking, and analytical ability. Engaging with the intricacies of qualitative data analysis and integrating pertinent literature yielded significant insights that will underpin my forthcoming career and academic endeavours.



Vinumol Remy

MA International Business
Leeds Trinity University – Republic Campus

“Cross-cultural management and its effect on international business performance: A case study of IKEA”

My research explored how cross-cultural management practices influence employee motivation and business performance in multinational corporations, using IKEA as a case study. The study examined how leadership styles, communication strategies, and motivational techniques are adapted across cultural contexts and how these adaptations impact employee satisfaction and organisational outcomes. Key theories such as Hofstede's cultural dimensions, Trompenaars' model and the GLOBE study were used to assess IKEA's global operations.

Completing this research was both challenging and rewarding. It allowed me to deeply engage with global business practices and critically analyse real-world corporate strategies. I developed strong research and analytical skills and it was fulfilling to see how theory and practice intersect in complex international settings. The process taught me perseverance, attention to detail, and the value of cross-cultural awareness in business.

**Tina Agho**

BSc (Hons) Health, Wellbeing and Social Care
Oxford Brooks University - Manchester Campus

"A systematic literature review on the effect of nutrition and exercise-based interventions on childhood obesity in the UK"

My dissertation was centred on the effectiveness of nutrition and exercise-based interventions on childhood obesity in the UK. It involved a detailed analysis of existing literature to evaluate the impact of combining healthy eating and physical activity on weight management in children. This review of UK-based studies assessed the outcomes of the various interventions and key factors that contributed to the success or failure of these interventions or programmes. Leveraging current research, this review provides a clear understanding of the evidence-based strategies used in addressing childhood obesity, which can be incorporated into future public health initiatives and policies in the UK. Overall, its focus is to bring to light the most effective and result-oriented approaches to promoting healthy lifestyles that will reduce the incidence of obesity among children.

I had an exceptional experience working on this dissertation. It was challenging and rewarding as I had to combine this with my job. What gave me zeal and reignited my focus at every given time was the subject matter centred around improving children's lifestyle and health. The feeling of carrying out a study that will provide insights into evidence-based approaches to tackling obesity in children propelled me to gather relevant data, critically analyse studies and come up with evidence-based conclusions. This study not only increased my knowledge and understanding of research and analytical skills, but also increased my passion for public health.

**Remigius Ogili**

BA (Hons) Global Business
University of Suffolk - Manchester Campus

"The impact of automated mobile robots in Unilever warehouse productivity and efficiency"

Warehouse automation has evolved significantly in recent years. Technological advancement and changing demands in the industries have paved the way for the innovation of robotics to maximise efficiency and productivity in warehouse settings. My research investigated the impact of automated mobile robots on Unilever operations, such as picking, packaging and overall process optimisation.

Completing my dissertation provided me with opportunities and challenges at the same time. It provided the opportunity for me to study various articles which helped me understand the dynamics of the subject and to balance my research findings. However, it was also time consuming considering the word count required for completion. The in-time feedback from my tutor has helped me to navigate through this phase effortlessly.

**Iulia-Elena Bucioaca**

Diploma in Education and Training
Pearson - Greenford Campus

"Evaluating the effectiveness of project-based learning in enhancing student motivation, engagement, and real-world problem-solving skills"

This study examines the efficacy of Project-Based Learning (PBL) in improving student motivation, engagement and real-world problem-solving abilities. This research seeks to ascertain the extent to which PBL influences students' cognitive and emotional engagement in the educational process through the analysis of existing literature and empirical data. The research also examines how PBL facilitates academic information application to practical, real-world contexts. Comprehending the impact of PBL can assist educators in implementing more effective pedagogical approaches that correspond with 21st-century competencies, thereby equipping students for academic and professional achievement in a progressively intricate global landscape.

Executing a research endeavour of this magnitude was simultaneously arduous and gratifying. It improved my capacity to manage my time efficiently, perform comprehensive analyses and integrate knowledge from various sources. I enhanced my critical thinking and academic writing abilities, while acquiring significant insights into the research process. Ultimately, it was a significant educational experience that enhanced my confidence and intellectual development.

Alumni of the Year 2025

Imran Younas – How my HND broadened my horizons

Back in 2022, Imran Younas felt stuck. With an educational background solely in business, he felt that his lack of formal healthcare education was holding him back from reaching his true potential in the medical devices industry.

Spending hours preparing for meetings, trying to comprehend terminology and overcoming countless barriers to progress was taking its toll. The exciting opportunities available to Imran required a healthcare background and a healthcare qualification, these hurdles seemed insurmountable.

It was time to make a change; Imran left the healthcare industry and joined Coca-Cola as area manager. He could use his business background, sharp mind and charm to excel in this role. However, the desire to be back in the healthcare industry did not stray far from Imran's mind.

"While my mother was unwell, I took care of her. I saw firsthand the healthcare support she received and found it inspiring. I am surrounded in my local community by healthcare

workers, including doctors, nurses and midwives. There are so many inspirational stories."

The path forward was clear; it was time to take a leap and return to study what he felt most passionate about. In January 2023, Imran joined the GBS Pearson HNC in Healthcare Practice for England (Healthcare Management) at Birmingham's Norfolk House Campus.

Instantly, Imran felt this new course boost his life experience. He found that the HNC modules gave his previous knowledge an edge that he felt he lacked before. Gaining a contextual understanding of other areas of the industry meant his extensive experience was enhanced and contextualised, and he felt his confidence soar. Now, those opportunities that had previously seemed impossible seemed within reach.

This newfound knowledge coupled with a desire to contribute to the community which had inspired him, led him to, led Imran to begin working with a local organisation called RUOE (Reach, Unite, Outreach,

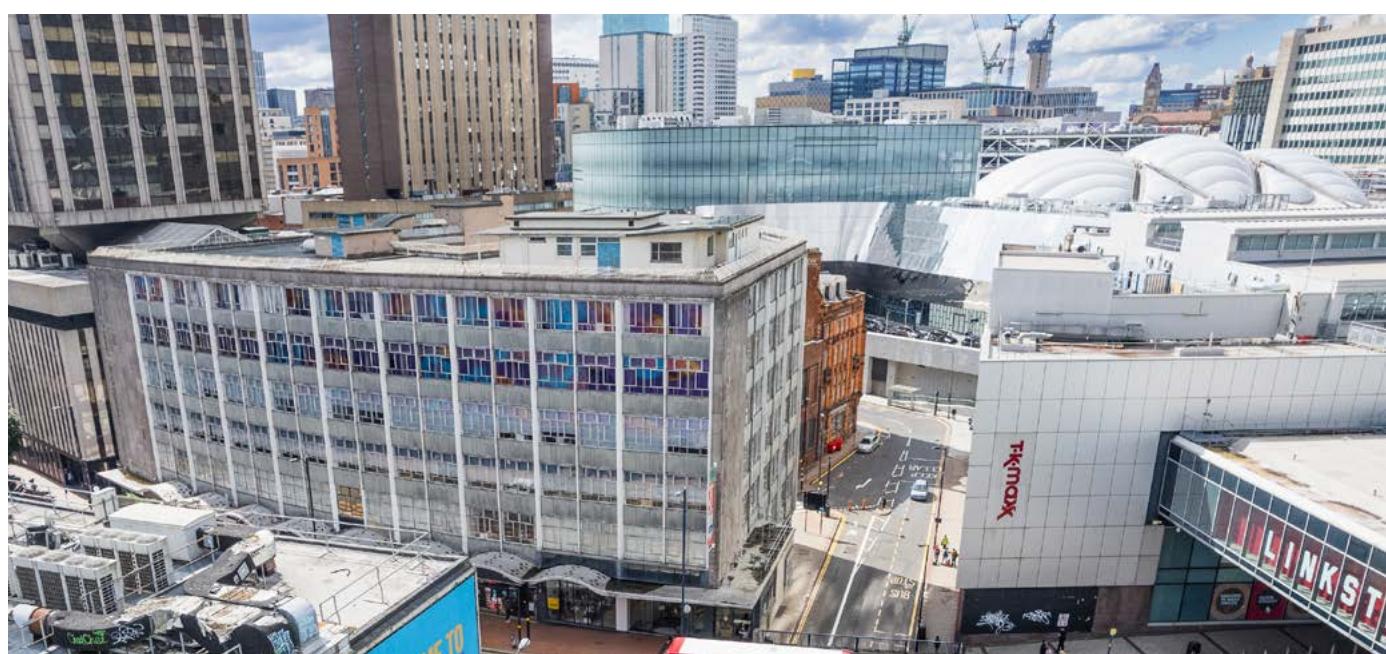
Alumni of the Year 2025
Imran Younas



Empowerment), which provides social skills development, confidence building and emotional wellbeing programmes for young people.

Having extensive experience in hospitals already, Imran wanted to broaden his experience. As part of the HNC programme, he completed a placement working with the elderly in a local care home. Reminded of the time he spent caring for his mother, he saw the importance of the skills he developed during his HNC and the impact of this on the community. Exploring the patient-facing side of the healthcare industry helped Imran to understand the needs of those in the community receiving care.

Imran returned to a role in the healthcare industry and is now thriving as a business development manager. He partners with six trusts across the Midlands, leading the way in supplying the NHS with innovative



surgical instruments. Now with his qualification, he can overcome the hurdles that once stopped him from his path. His contextual knowledge of the NHS, as well as the respect held for his formal qualification, and Imran's natural empathy and deep understanding of patient-centred care has meant his current role is full of success.

After completing the HNC and HND levels of the programme, Imran has now enrolled on the BSc (Hons) Health, Wellbeing and Social Care Level 6 to complete his degree qualification. While at GBS, he has taken advantage of the support available to assist his own personal development outside of his studies.

"I have always wished to expand my intellectual horizons. It is so important to evolve and grow, if it is alive, it means I am okay and progressing. We also need mentors and people to help us with our blind spots."

Imran has worked with Ed Pearson (GBS senior enterprise officer), Roma Sira (GBS careers consultant) and Mohammed Waeid Wasim (GBS senior placement officer) to overcome hurdles, to gain experience and to expand his horizons.

After completing his current Level 6 programme, Imran would like to explore a new avenue. His experience working with inspirational academics on the programme and the immense value education can bring to people's lives has inspired him to become a lecturer in order to share and impart his knowledge and experiences with others in the same position as he was in 2022.

Imran says that studying with GBS has provided him with the opportunity to reflect. He says, *"Having these two days a week that are spent on campus gives me the opportunity to focus on building my knowledge, establishing relationships and how I can expand my studies into the future. My time on campus is a breath of fresh air. My two days a week there are my days."*

When asked what advice he would give to those who want to change direction in their lives, he says: *"Take a look at your environment, the people you surround yourself with; sometimes the life experience you have is so gratifying you don't even realise it. We are multi-dimensional."*



Mentoring success

“Going beyond my comfort zone”

Would you be interested in supporting a new generation of learners to reach their potential?

GBS' Professional Mentoring Programme connects students with a mentor, helping them fulfil their potential. If you have two or more years of career experience and can offer just one hour a month for a total of six months, we would love to hear from you.

Our Alumni Community is made up of talented, experienced and passionate individuals who have so much to give current students just starting out on their journeys.

Would you like to become involved? Please contact us at mentoring@globalbanking.ac.uk or apply via the QR code:

[Sign up to be a mentor here](#)



Current student Moussa Kean Kodjo studies BA (Hons) Global Business. His experience with a mentor over this past year has helped him discover his blind spots and jump over invisible hurdles.

“We can succeed without a mentor, but it requires many sacrifices and a long, complicated process. However, when someone works in collaboration with an experienced person, the work changes.”

I had an excellent experience with my mentor, who listened to my story and told me what I wanted to achieve. She guided me, helped me create a vision board, and encouraged me to read books to help me fulfill my goal. It is invaluable to have someone who has guided you to go beyond your comfort zone and procrastinate. I recommend careers and employability to my peers so that they can analyse and understand what they want to achieve in life.”



John Truong, a business lecturer in our University of Suffolk Faculty, describes the joy he felt following his mentee's success after their six months together.

“After six months of dedication, guidance, and determination, my mentee has successfully opened her own takeaway restaurant.”

This journey was both long and demanding, but it was worth every moment. With my support as her mentor and the valuable knowledge she gained from her GBS course, she confidently took this bold step into entrepreneurship. Seeing her dream come to life has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career.”

“This experience has truly reinforced the power of mentorship and the impact of education.”

Alumni Conversations

“There is no straight route to success”

Think back to the beginning of your final year. Your last modules are looming. You are not sure what will happen after your course ends, you might be feeling apprehensive about the future. We were honoured to be joined by two people, one in this exact boat, as well as one of our alumni who has jumped headfirst into life after graduating.

Alumnus Faizan Ahmed, now an assistant lecturer at GBS at the University of Suffolk, and Nazia Hussein, a final-year healthcare student at GBS, share their insights.

At GBS, student conversations often turn into moments of clarity and inspiration. In a candid discussion between current student Nazia and alumni-turned-lecturer Faizan, the value of reflection, planning and perseverance took centre stage.

Nazia, nearing the end of her degree, shared her uncertainty about the future. *“I want to do a Master’s at some point, but I am not sure on what,”* she admitted. Faizan’s response was direct and encouraging: *“You are not just going to sit back after your degree. Start exploring your options now.”* His advice? Make a plan, whether it is further study or entering the workforce, and set yourself clear goals with deadlines.

Faizan’s own academic journey is testament to this mindset. Initially unsure of his path, he transitioned from business management into real estate, driven by a personal interest in housing. His pivot eventually led him to become a business management lecturer, with expertise across disciplines: an advantage that broadens his future career options.

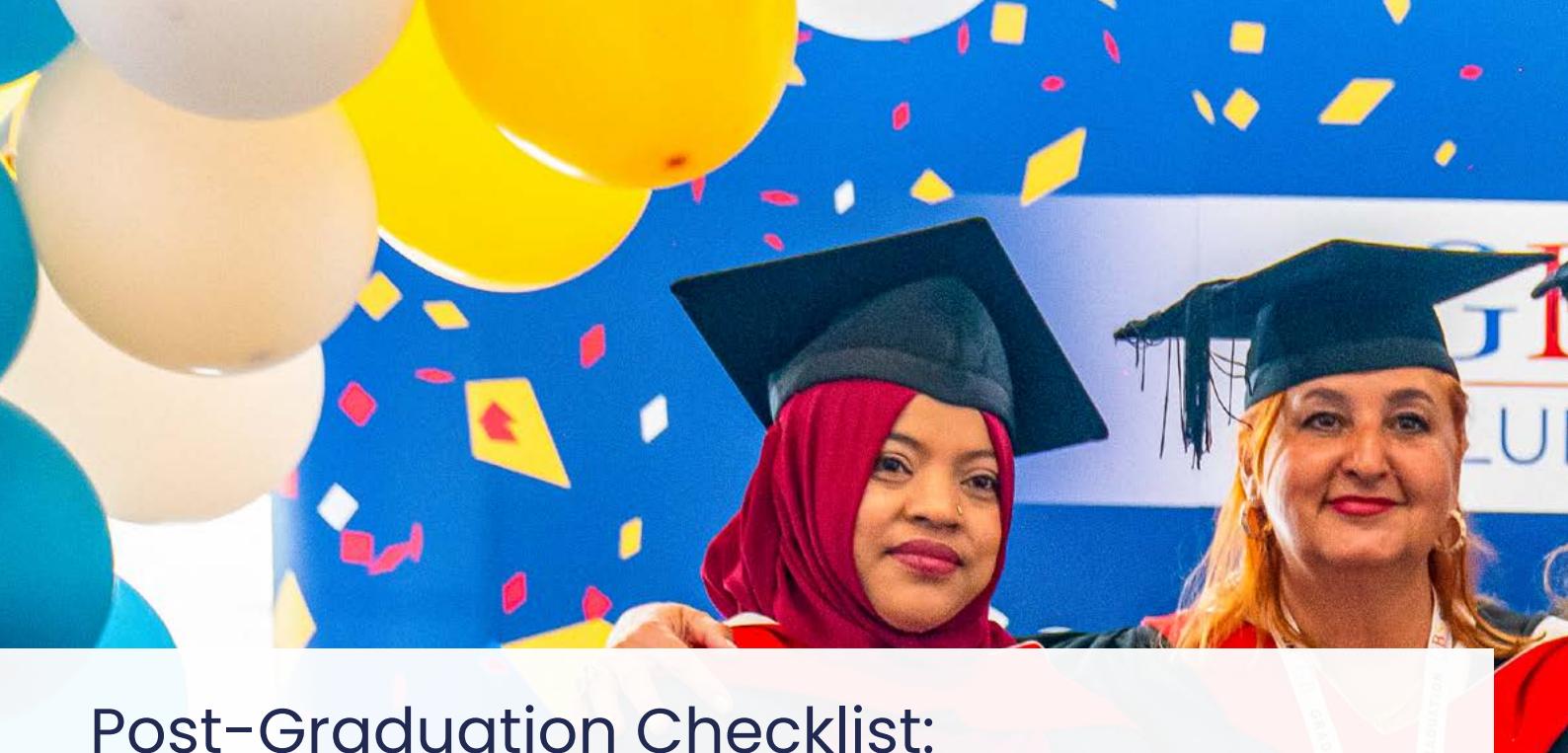
During his final year as a student, Faizan faced significant challenges. *“There was a point where I thought I might have to withdraw,”* he recalled. But through determination and mentorship, he pushed through. *“My tutor went above and beyond,”* he said. *“That support made all the difference.”*

After completing his Master’s, Faizan found himself reflecting deeply. He realised how transformative his time at GBS had been. *“Without GBS, I would not be where I am now,”* he said. That realisation inspired him to return as a lecturer: to give back and help others achieve success as he had.

For Nazia, the conversation was eye-opening. Coming from a background where university was not the norm, she attributes GBS with helping her overcome barriers and achieve her goals. Inspired by a module on cancer research, she is now considering a future in health research. *“This talk has really motivated me,”* she said. *“I’m going to start right now.”*

Faizan left her, and all upcoming graduates, with lasting advice: *“Everything is possible, but you have to make a start. Your GBS journey might be ending, but your learning journey never stops. Keep striving, keep improving, and never stop moving forward.”*





Post-Graduation Checklist: Preparing you for your next steps

- Activate your Handshake account**
Handshake is the way to access your alumni community, wherever you are. With job postings, exciting events and support available from the Careers team, you should not miss out on all the opportunities available for you. It is also completely free of charge. For a step-by-step guide on getting started, please see our Handshake article on page 12.
- Book a 1:1 appointment with our Employability Team to help you reach your goals**
Are you unsure of what to do with your degree? Would you like some advice before you take the next step? Speak to our careers and enterprise experts for all the top tips on preparing your CV, getting excellent interview results, and setting goals that will lead you to achieving your career goals. To schedule an appointment, please refer to our Handshake article (page 12).
- Build your LinkedIn profile that shows your new qualification**
Developing your network opens up a variety of opportunities, and recruiters look at it first when you submit your CV. Connect with previous colleagues and employers and apply to the over 14 million jobs posted on the platform.
- Join the GBS Alumni Community on LinkedIn**
The [GBS Alumni Community on LinkedIn](#) is a great place to start building your network. LinkedIn can help you discover exclusive opportunities and events, and it can also allow you to reconnect with your fellow graduates.
- Follow GBS Alumni on social media**
Stay connected to your alumni community on all of our platforms: Our [Facebook group](#) is the best place to connect with your old coursemates and to start a discussion with them. Our [Instagram page](#) offers a glimpse behind-the-scenes of your alumni community and what's new. Visit our [YouTube channel](#) to view highlights from our monthly online events.
- Attend an Online Workshop**
Take advantage of our free monthly workshops, designed specifically to assist you in finding your dream job. See our upcoming events list in this magazine for a list of fantastic things we have planned this year. See page 14 to find out more.
- Contact us if your details change**
You might lose access to Handshake if your email address or phone number has changed since you joined us. Let us know by sending an email to alumni@globalbanking.ac.uk.
- Notify student finance if your contact details change**
Ensure your Student Loan Company has your most current contact information to keep you informed about your student loan.
- Apply for your next course of study with GBS**
Would you like to top up your knowledge with further study? We add new and exciting courses every year to the GBS roster, so if you see one that catches your eye, contact the student recruitment team and apply for your next qualification.
- Make sure you receive your certificate and transcript**
Employers may ask for proof of your highest qualifications, so make sure you receive your degree certificate, and keep it safe. It is a significant achievement, and you deserve to display it with pride. Please contact us if you do not receive your certificate by sending an email to alumni@globalbanking.ac.uk
- Complete the Graduate Outcomes Survey when contacted**
Become a guiding star for future students, and help us make our courses even better by completing the Graduate Outcomes Survey, which you will be sent around 15 months after you finish your course.

Book a 1:1, follow us on social media, or attend an online workshop [here](#)



Handshake: Your one-stop-shop for all graduate support

During the last few months of your course, you may have been introduced to Handshake, the newly launched Careers Hub.

In case you have not heard, Handshake is the number one job-search platform for students and graduates. By joining, you will have access to thousands of opportunities, including full-time jobs, part-time jobs, and voluntary positions that you will not be able to find anywhere else.

Looking for a career path after completing your degree? Handshake's algorithm matches you with suitable roles based on your degree, as well as your current skills and experience so do make sure to build up your profile so you can be matched with the most relevant jobs. If you prefer to select your own opportunities, use relevant filters to identify those that are most suitable for you. You can even message employers directly, to find out more about a role that you are interested in. The Handshake app is easy to use, and you can access exciting jobs, upcoming events and more wherever you are.

Aside from this, you will also have access to a wealth of resources from the Careers & Employability department for life. This includes online and in-person 1:1s with our career experts, who will assist you with CV building, job search assistance and top tips for your next job interview. Are you considering starting your own business? We invite you to schedule an appointment with the Enterprise team, who have all real-world experience running their own successful businesses. All these resources are available to free for graduates on Handshake, and you can access them for life.

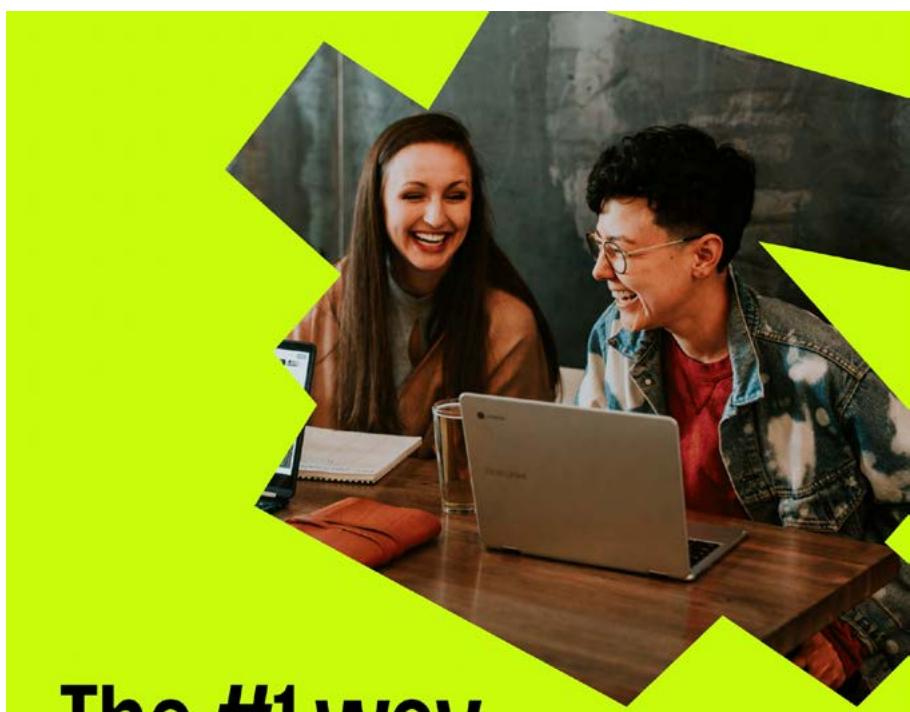
So how do you sign up for free? Here is how to get started:

1. Download the Handshake app on Apple or Android to your phone using the below QR code
2. Register on the GBS Alumni Handshake Platform as a new account
3. Select "Global Banking School"
4. Enter your personal email address
5. Select "Log in using your Handshake credentials"
6. Select a password of your choosing
7. Enjoy continued GBS support throughout your future journey
8. Having trouble getting set up? Drop us an email at alumni@globalbanking.ac.uk and we'll walk you through the steps.



Join your alumni platform today to gain skills, knowledge, and exclusive job opportunities. Take advantage of Handshake, and you will be 'shaking hands' with your next employer in no time.

app.joinhandshake.co.uk/login



The #1 way university students find jobs

Handshake

JOINHANDSHAKE.COM



Tell your story with the Graduate Outcomes Survey

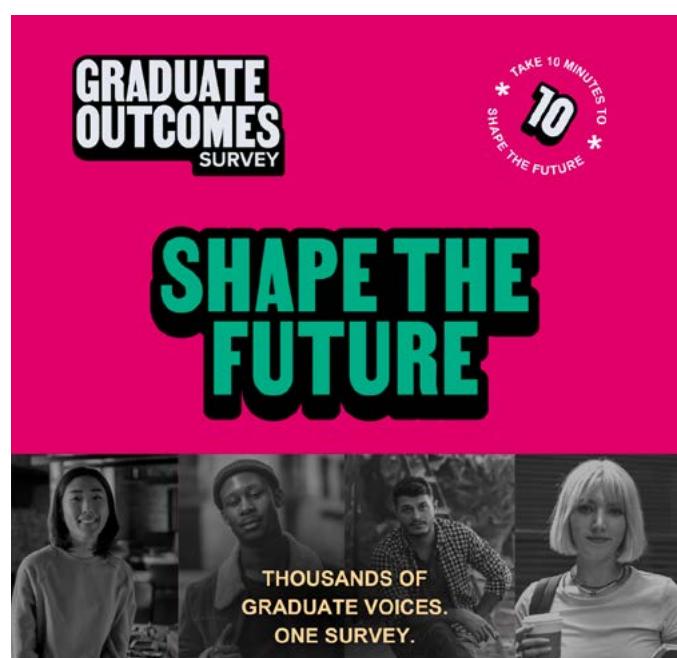
It is important to us, as the GBS Alumni Team, to know what our graduates are doing, and how your degree has impacted your future, and we are not the only ones interested. Every year, the Office for Students conducts the 'Graduate Outcomes Survey' to learn more about your employment status 15 months after graduation. This approach not only helps us identify areas for improvement as an institution, but also ensures that our graduates will be able to utilise the skills and knowledge they have acquired in their future careers.

Whilst the main survey is conducted externally by the Office for Students, we conduct our own survey around one year after you complete your course, in order to obtain a better understanding of where our graduates are in their careers, and to determine if there is anything we can do support you if you are not yet where you wish to be. We offer lifelong support through free online events, as well as 1:1 appointments with our careers experts to help you on the right track.

Although answering questions on the phone or through an online form does not sound exciting at the best of times, it is so important that you express yourself through these opportunities, so that we may be able to assist you in achieving your dreams as well as improve our courses for future students. On average, the survey takes five minutes to complete, and if there is a question that you do not wish to answer, you can simply indicate that. Even if you are still

gaining confidence or experience to reach your dream job, we can support you through our free online resources and expert guidance.

Therefore, when you receive a phone call from us a year after completing your course asking what you are doing now that you have graduated, why not share what you have accomplished, or how we can help you get there.



2025 Upcoming events

Join our exclusive online workshops and get job ready

Your time as a GBS student might be over, but your career journey is only just beginning. We are here to help you navigate your next step through our monthly Online Workshop series. From CV building tips to best practices for your next job interview, our free workshops are the best way to prepare you for your future career.

The following are upcoming events:



Wednesday 23rd July
Presenting and Public Speaking: Build Your Confidence
Sign up for free at <https://forms.office.com/e/NCRGyJ7tYi>



Tuesday 19th August
Selling In Your Second Language (part 2)
Sign up for free at <https://forms.office.com/e/27dYV2HwYU>



Thursday 18th September
How To Network Your Way To Success
Sign up for free at <https://forms.office.com/e/0fwfvESGVg>



Wednesday 22nd October
Your 90-Day Plan To Your Next Role
Sign up for free at <https://forms.office.com/e/MFSnc3Jdpt>



Tuesday 18th November
Develop Your 1-Minute Elevator Pitch
Sign up for free at <https://forms.office.com/e/VrHapEW03>



Wednesday 10th December
How To Use AI To Land Your Dream Job
Sign up for free at <https://forms.office.com/e/K5SfsxZqWU>

These events are completely free to attend, and will only take up an hour of your time and you only need to scan the QR codes to register your interest.

Have you missed a previous workshop or would like to review one you have already attended? We make all of our workshops available on the GBS Alumni YouTube channel, so you can have access to the wealth of resources whenever you like.

These events are built for you, so if you have any ideas for a workshop that would help you chart your career path, we are always open to suggestions. Please feel free to email us at alumni@globalbanking.ac.uk, or send us a direct message on any of our social media platforms.





Your Alumni Community Support does not end here

Even though you are throwing your cap into the air and saying goodbye to your campus and your fellow students, you will always be part of the GBS family.

And that's where we come in! The GBS Alumni Community is a network with thousands of your fellow graduates. It has all the career support you received as a student, and more. From 1:1 careers guidance, to support in building your own business, online workshops and a platform to share your successes with thousands of others, there are so many ways your alumni community can help you. The following are a few of the resources available to you as an alumnus.



A community with thousands of graduates

With this year's graduation being more impressive than ever, the Alumni Community now has over 5000 members. As a result of this number you will have access to a wealth of knowledge and opportunities – build your professional network by interacting with your fellow graduates, and make the most of all the free resources available to you.

One of our main platforms is our weekly e-newsletter, keeping you up to date with all the latest job opportunities, events and more. We also have our own YouTube channel, with on-demand recordings of our monthly Masterclass events, exclusive LinkedIn and Facebook groups, as well as an Instagram profile (where you can see a behind-the-scenes look at everything coming up). Follow our platforms to stay up-to-date on the latest news and opportunities.



Events and job postings, exclusive to alumni

With work, family and personal responsibilities, we understand that everyone is busy, so we have decided to focus on online events rather than in-person ones. It is so much easier to attend a Teams call in the evening than commuting to your nearest campus. We detail all our upcoming events and past ones earlier in the magazine (see page 14), but just to give you a taste, we host a monthly Online Masterclass at 6pm, where we bring in one of our employability experts to discuss important topics relating to your future career. They are completely free to join, and we upload them monthly to our [YouTube channel](#) so you can get to refresh your memory at your convenience.

Another benefit is exclusive access to job postings. You can find the full list of opportunities from our contacts on Handshake. We also send out some of the top regional jobs in our monthly newsletter, so keep an eye out to see if there is one that is a good fit for you.



1:1 career and business support

"Well what about 1:1 support tailored just for me?" Don't worry, we have thought of that too. Lifelong support also means lifelong access to Careers & Enterprise appointments. They help you in a number of ways, including bolstering your CV, searching for a job, interview coaching, starting your own business and scaling up your operations. Like all of the services we provide for our alumni, this service is completely free. You can arrange an appointment with the team by contacting alumni@globalbanking.ac.uk or visiting your local campus if you wish.





**Strengthen your
network, be
connected to
your community.**



Visit globalbanking.ac.uk

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