

China's 11.6m graduates face a jobs market with no jobs

Level 1: Elementary

1 Warmer

a. In pairs or groups, brainstorm jobs that require each level of education.

secondary school	undergraduate	postgraduate

2 Key words

a. Write the correct words from the wordpool to complete the sentences.

available

graduate

return

youth

1. When you finish a level of school (grade school, university, etc.), you _____.
2. When you go back to a place, you _____ to it.
3. A person's _____ is the time when they are young.
4. Something that can be used, taken, or found is _____.

advertisement

alone

international

look after

5. An _____ is an announcement that a job is available.
6. Something that includes many countries is _____.
7. If no one is with you, you are _____.
8. If you _____ someone or something, you make sure they have what they need to be happy and healthy.

China's 11.6m graduates face a jobs market with no jobs

Level 1: Elementary

b. Use some of the key words from the previous task to complete these sentences.

1. This weekend, there is a _____ club meeting for teenagers.
2. Does the doctor have any appointments _____ on Friday?
3. I didn't see the job _____ on their website.
4. The UN is an _____ organisation.
5. When you're home _____, make sure you lock the door.
6. What time will you _____ from your trip?

China's 11.6m graduates face a jobs market with no jobs

Level 1: Elementary

Amy Hawkins

31 May, 2023

- 1 After graduating from the University of Queensland in Australia, Ingrid Xie did not think she would be working at a greengrocer's. But that was where she was working in July 2023.
- 2 Xie studied English in China at Hainan Tropical Ocean University. Then she went to Australia for her master's because she thought that would help her find a better job.
- 3 She worked at a Korean supermarket in Brisbane for several months after graduating, but in February, she returned to her home city of Kunming, Yunnan, to find a job as an English teacher.
- 4 The number of youths without jobs in China went up in April, with 20.4% of 16- to 24-year-olds unable to find work. Xie is 26 and has not been able to find a job in China since graduating.
- 5 In China, the jobs available don't fit people's skills. Between 2018 and 2021, the number of graduates in sports and education went up more than 20%, according to Goldman Sachs.
- 6 The country is also having problems filling jobs in the right places. Xie has seen job advertisements to work in a village school for a year but doesn't want to work in the countryside.
- 7 Eric Fish is the author of a book about Chinese millennials, people who became adults in around the year 2000. He says that international degrees aren't as useful as before in getting a job in China.
- 8 The government knows about the problem. In April, it tried to help by giving money to companies that give jobs to graduates without jobs. The government also wants state-owned companies to give jobs to 1 million people in 2023. It wants them to create 12m jobs in cities in 2023, up from 11m in 2022.
- 9 China is not alone. In 2021, the number of youths without jobs in several European countries was more than 20%, and in the US, it was nearly 10%.
- 10 "You don't even know what you want to do when you're 25," says Xie. For now, she is spending time with her parents and looking after her cat, Shrimp. She says that she wants a job that allows her free time, but she hasn't found it yet.

© Guardian News and Media 2023
First published in *The Guardian*, 31/05/2023
Additional research by Chi Hui Lin

China's 11.6m graduates face a jobs market with no jobs

Level 1: Elementary

3 Comprehension check

a. Answer the questions using information from the article.

1. Which two countries did Ingrid Xie study in?
2. Where did Ingrid Xie work after graduating from the University of Queensland?
3. Why did she go to Australia for her master's?
4. What percentage of youths in China were unemployed in April 2023?
5. What is the age range for a 'youth' in this article?
6. Graduates in which two subjects went up more than 20%?
7. Who is Eric Fish?
8. What does Eric Fish think about international degrees in China?
9. What has the government done to help solve the problem?
10. What are the percentages of youths without jobs in other countries?

4 Key language

a. Complete each sentence with one of the phrases from the article.

be able to

going up

spend time with

look after

1. My sister is going to _____ my cat when I am on holiday.
2. Will you _____ join me at the party?
3. I need to call the doctor because my son's temperature is _____.
4. It's important to _____ the people you love.

b. Write personalised sentences using the phrasal verbs above.

China's 11.6m graduates face a jobs market with no jobs

Level 1: Elementary

5 Discussion

a. Discuss these statements.

- “Youths don't need *good* jobs – they should take *any* job.”
- “The government should help young people find good jobs.”
- “Studying in another country will help you find a better job.”

6 In your own words

a. Use an internet search engine to find more information about the jobs for young people available in your country or another country.

- What kinds of jobs are there?
- What level of education do you need?
- What percentage of 16- to 24-year-olds don't have jobs?
- Is this higher or lower than in China?

b. Report your findings to the class and share your opinion about the issue.