

The background of the entire poster is a light blue gradient. Scattered throughout are numerous small, dark silhouettes of people in various poses: walking, running, and cycling. These silhouettes are positioned at different heights and angles, creating a sense of movement and activity across the scene.

# NEXT STEPS

LEARNING FROM YOUR GENERATION

TURNING

30

WHAT NEXT FOR THE  
**MILLENNIAL**  
GENERATION?

UPDATE 2019

THE NEXT  
CHAPTER

[NEXTSTEPSSTUDY.ORG.UK](http://NEXTSTEPSSTUDY.ORG.UK)

# TURNING 30

Turning 30 is a big milestone and marks a shift to the next stage of adulthood. Over the next decade, many of you will experience major changes in your lives, like buying a house, moving in with a partner, having children or making that next career move. For others, your 'next steps' will see your lives move in different directions.

## FORGING A DIFFERENT PATH

Your generation has already proven that you are less likely to follow a set path than your parents' or grandparents' generations. Millennials' journeys through adult life are more diverse and complex – you move back and forth between education and work more frequently, between jobs and careers, and between living independently and moving back in with your parents.

## TIMES ARE CHANGING

Year on year, your generation shows remarkable resilience and adaptability in the face of major world events and changes on a global scale.

Many of you entered the labour market at a challenging time, when the economic recession affected job prospects and youth employment in particular.

Often dubbed 'Generation Rent', many of you have struggled to save for a deposit and to find affordable, good-quality housing in your areas.

You are also building your lives in an era of unprecedented political turbulence, the rise of the gig economy and expansion of technology.

The next phase of your lives will be shaped by the UK's transition out of the European Union, the ever-changing nature of work, and rising role of artificial intelligence, and the increasing 'digitisation' of our daily routines.

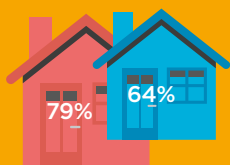
These changes will bring both opportunities and challenges for your generation.



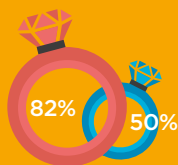
# WHAT WERE THE GENERATIONS BEFORE YOU DOING IN THEIR THIRTIES?

Next Steps is the third in a series of studies we run, following different generations of Britons. So what were the Baby Boomers and Generation X doing when they were in their early thirties?

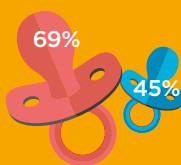
We looked at what our study members born in 1958 (the end of the Baby Boom) were doing when they were 33 years old in 1991, and what our study members born in 1970 (Generation X) were up to in 2000 when they were 30.



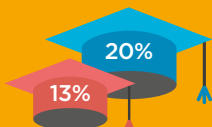
Owned a home



Had married



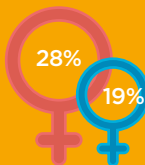
Had children



Had a university degree



Women who were in employment



Women who stayed at home

 Baby Boomers

 Generation X

## THE STORY OF YOUR LIVES CONTINUES...

By following your adult lives, we will be able to observe how your generation navigates the future, what puts people at risk and what helps them thrive, and why certain inequalities persist. What we learn will shape policy and society, so future generations can learn from your experiences.

Whatever your thirties bring, the coming years will be an important chapter in your lives. We look forward to continuing the journey with you.

Find out more at:  
[NEXTSTEPSTUDY.ORG.UK](http://NEXTSTEPSTUDY.ORG.UK)

# YOUNG ENGLISH MUSLIMS CHASE THEIR DREAMS



Young Muslim women of your generation were more likely to aspire to higher education – and to end up going to university – than either Muslim men or their white Christian peers.

The research based on Next Steps suggests young Muslim women in your school year were highly motivated, and made great strides in reducing the gender gap in educational achievement.

## WHAT WE ASKED YOU



When you were taking your GCSEs, we asked both you and your parents how likely it was that you would go to university. We also asked you what you thought were the most important reasons to get a degree.

As you got older, we kept track of whether you applied to university, and whether you took up your place.

## A SEA CHANGE FOR YOUNG MUSLIM WOMEN?

In recent decades, women in the UK have gone from being relatively under-represented in higher education to being more likely to attend university than men. However, a gender gap has persisted in the Muslim community – until now.

At age 16, Muslim girls of your generation were more likely than many of their peers to aspire to university – and their parents had equally high hopes for them. By age 20, they were the most likely group to have realised their ambitions and be studying for a degree, followed closely by white Christian young women. Both Muslim and Christian young men were less likely than their female counterparts to continue on to higher education.

Young Muslims of your generation were just as likely as their white Christian peers to attend a prestigious Russell Group university. While young Christian men were much more likely than Christian women to attend an elite institution, young Muslim men and women's chances were more or less equal.

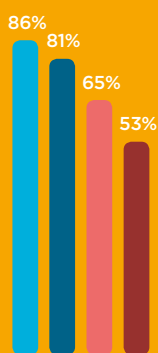


# IMPROVING YOUR EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS

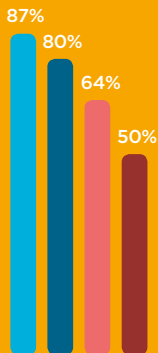
All groups felt that the most important reason for attending university was that it would lead to a better job. However, young Muslim women were the most employment-minded.

Around 3 in 5 Muslim women felt that the most important reason to attend university was because it improves employment prospects, compared to just under half of Muslim and white Christian men and around 2 in 5 white Christian women.

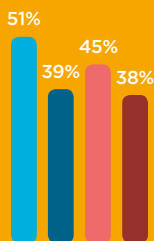
## WHO EXPECTS TO GO TO UNIVERSITY AND WHO ACTUALLY ENDS UP THERE?



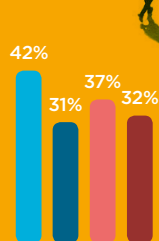
Felt likely to apply to university (age 16)



Parents expected child (age 16) to go to university



Applied to university (age 18)



Was studying at university (age 20)

■ Muslim women
 ■ Muslim men
 ■ Christian women
 ■ Christian men

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# IN BRIEF...

## FIRST IN THE FAMILY TO ATTEND UNIVERSITY

Two thirds of graduates in your generation were the 'first in the family' to go to university.

Study members who were the 'first in the family' tended to choose degree subjects like law, economics and management, courses offering a direct path to employment and the potential for higher earnings. They were less likely to opt for social sciences, arts and humanities subjects than their peers whose parents had been to university but were no more or less likely to pursue science, technology, engineering or maths degrees.

However 'first in the family' students were slightly more likely to drop out before finishing their degree than students of university-educated parents. This finding is important for widening

participation policies, which to date have focused mainly on getting under-represented groups into university rather than helping them to complete their studies. The researchers suggest mentoring or other support schemes could be offered to help these students achieve their qualifications.

Students whose parents were university-educated were more likely to attend an elite Russell Group university whereas 'first in the family' students were more likely to attend non-elite institutions. These differences remained even after taking into account other factors that may have affected study members' university chances, including ethnicity, gender, how well they had done at school, and their parents' social class and income.

50%

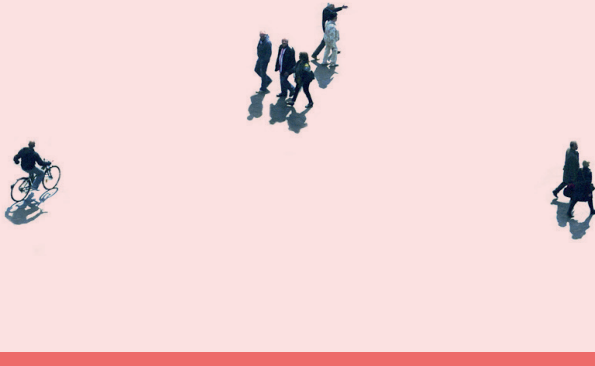
OF RUSSELL GROUP STUDENTS WERE 'FIRST IN THE FAMILY'

70%

WHO ATTENDED NON-ELITE UNIVERSITIES WERE 'FIRST IN THE FAMILY'

32%

OF OXBRIDGE STUDENTS WERE 'FIRST IN THE FAMILY'



## FUTURE OF PHYSICS? IT'S GAMER GIRLS

Research using Next Steps has found that girls who were 'gamers' at age 14 were three times more likely to go on to study physical science subjects at university, like physics and chemistry, compared to non-gamers.

In fact, all female Next Steps members who studied physical science subjects were gamers – they reported playing video games nine hours a week or more as teenagers. Those of you who played video games less often were over twice as likely to do a biological science degree, and three times more likely to study a social sciences subject.



## DOES ACADEMIC SELF-BELIEF DRIVE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT?

Findings from Next Steps have shown that young people of all academic abilities are more likely to perform better in their GCSE exams if they have confidence in their school work.

Young people who had the greatest belief in their academic ability were 18 per cent more likely to achieve five good GCSEs (grade C or above), compared to their peers with less confidence.

Among the most academically able pupils, those who believed in themselves did better than their equally-able but less confident peers – the difference was equivalent to achieving seven As rather than seven Bs. Self-belief also appeared to benefit the less-able pupils – those with greater self-belief had scores equivalent to four As rather than four Bs.



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