

Getting a Degree - Now or Later

Rather than go straight to university from school, these interviewees chose to first gain some experience of the workplace.

Discussion topics could include:

- In what circumstances does it make sense to get a degree later on?
- What would be the disadvantages?
- What triggered these people to get a degree/plan to get a degree later?
- Who paid for their degree tuition fees?
- How important is a degree to their career?
- Did they need to gain other qualifications before they could start their degree?



Media Producer (left school with AS levels)

After time as a support worker in a school art and drama department, Helen decided she wanted to be a media producer and studied Media Practice at university. She now enjoys a successful freelance career.



Digital Marketing Specialist (left school with GCSEs)

Aman has always worked for global organisations and wanted to 'learn on the job'. His employers have recognised his abilities and sponsored him through two apprenticeships and a degree in Business Management.



Aseptic Manufacturer (left school with AS levels)

Lisa wanted to be a pharmacist but, after disappointing AS levels, she started as a junior in drug manufacturing. She has gained vocational qualifications and promotions. Her employer is sponsoring her to do a degree in management.



Sports Inclusion Officer (dropped out of uni)

Caryl dropped out of university and became a volunteer at the local rugby club. She is now qualified to coach children of all ability levels. She plans to return to university in a few years' time to train to teach IT or Maths.



Estates Officer (left school with GCSEs)

After school Matt felt he'd had enough of classroom-based study and became an apprentice mechanic. He now holds an office position and his employer is sponsoring him through a part-time degree in engineering.



Young Enterprise Director (left school with GCSEs)

Karl spent several years working in sales and IT. He now juggles several significant part-time roles (some unpaid) while he works for a degree in Business Enterprise. He has set up a networking group for his fellow students.