

Top 10 reasons for choosing to go to uni

1. To get ahead in the job market

While getting a degree won't necessarily allow you to walk into a job without a struggle, the higher the level of qualification you have, the better your job prospects. The unemployment rate is currently running at 7.9% (Sept 2012 latest stats) and around one million of those without jobs are 16-24 year olds are unemployed (that doesn't include people in education). However, although finding a job can take three months on average with an Honours or Foundation degree, over time, your job prospects improve. Only 15% of people who graduated over the last 6 years are unemployed, compared to 27% of people who left school 6 years ago without any higher education.

2. To follow a vocation

Some careers are only possible with a degree – the traditional roles of doctor, dentist, pharmacist, vicar, teacher, scientific researcher, architect, lawyer and, increasingly, nurse, require a period of intense study at university level (first degree and often beyond) and are only open to graduates with a related degree.

3. To have a career, not just a job

Some degrees are less specifically associated with particular careers, but having a degree allows you to get work at a higher level than if you just left school with A levels. Good examples include banking and retail management.

4. To have more money – eventually

Graduates can enter training programs at a higher level and may find they can move several steps ahead of those who have been working for three years fairly quickly. That acceleration continues and graduates progress to higher levels in companies and to correspondingly higher salaries than those without a degree.

5 To train your mind

One of the prime goals of a university education is to turn you into an independent thinker, to question and analyse information and make decisions. This process trains your mind and challenges your approach to many aspects of life and the benefits go much further than the size of your salary.

6. To develop new skills

As well as training your mind, you also train in other ways. You learn practical skills such as problem-solving, how to work effectively within a team, how to present information and speak in public, how to communicate better with others.

7. To be more independent but with support

University offers a transition between the cosy world of college and home and the much tougher world of independent living and working.

8. To gain in confidence

Studying at university will deepen your knowledge and skills but being at uni, enjoying the social life, dealing with the problems of living with other people and looking after yourself also brings its own benefits. You will find that you gain in confidence so much during your first year – and when you graduate, your self-esteem will soar.

9. To follow up on what interests you

School and college education is quite general – going to uni to study a subject that you love and are passionate about allows you to focus all your creative energies in one place very intensely for 3 years.

10. To have a blast!

Communal living, being away from home and having a great social life are all part of university education. This is a time in your life where you are free from parental influence but don't yet have the responsibilities of work, mortgage and your own family. Enjoy it while it lasts!