

talking points

Hate it when you can't talk back? Well, you can with *Young Post*. Have your say and share with students around Hong Kong

Is university worth it?

Do you really need a degree to get a good job?

Johnson Chan Chung-yan, 16, Christian Alliance S. C. Chan Memorial College

Many jobs require university qualifications, such as doctors, teachers and lawyers. In addition, university helps broaden our social circle. So, for example, if you're going into business, you could get off to a good start with help from your university friends.

But there are some fabulous jobs that don't require certificates. For example, some YouTubers earn a lot by posting hit videos. They usually record their daily lives to entertain their fans. For this kind of work, a creative mind is more important than a university degree.



Ansar Aneeta, 17, St Margaret's Girls' College, Hong Kong

Going to university is not just about the piece of paper you get at the end. You should not underestimate the experience of becoming self-reliant, meeting people from other parts of the world, and making friends from different walks of life. It is a life-changing experience and is undoubtedly worth it.



Nicole Or, 16, Diocesan Girls' School

Professionals like doctors, lawyers, and accountants need specialised knowledge, and they have to pass certain exams to obtain a licence. For these jobs, you definitely need to go to university.

But there are many good careers that don't require a university degree. For example, to be a real estate agent, good judgement, honesty, and enthusiasm are very important. For jobs that do not need high-level skills, a good attitude and work ethic are more important than academic results.

Emma Lam, 12, Tak Nga Secondary School

University could be the best time of your life. Whether it will help you get a job is pretty irrelevant, compared to the experience of learning from professors, and the fun you can have with your classmates.

If you want to become a professional, then university is worth it. But forget university if you want to study something just for the sake of it and have no idea what you want to do.

If you are undecided about your career, get a job which will offer you hands-on training. Otherwise, you could get a master's in English and end up working as a fitness instructor, because not all degrees guarantee you a top job. Actually, most jobs are rubbish and miserable, so I'll stay out of the workplace for as long as I can.



Andrew Wan, 13, Law Ting Pong Secondary School

If you want to work in a field which clearly requires a university degree, such as being a biologist or engineer, then university's worth it. Otherwise, it's not. You do not need a university degree if you want to be a hair stylist, beautician, or multimedia artist. But even for those jobs, it's good to have at least a diploma. In fact, attitude is more important than certificates in such careers, where people need to be hard-working, patient, and perseverant.

Our topics always get a lot of responses. Check out what other students had to say and join the conversation at yp.scmp.com. In our next Talking Points we'll discuss: If there's one thing you'd change about Hong Kong, what would it be?

We are now accepting answers from readers for this topic. To take part, email your answer with your name, age, and school, along with a nice, clear selfie (make sure it's not blurry), to yp@scmp.com by lunchtime on Monday, May 2. Don't forget to include "Talking Points" in the subject line.