

Taking A Gap Year Before Entering University

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Have you ever thought of taking a gap year before entering university? It is not uncommon to hear that students in Europe or North America work full time for one year before starting their university life. Recently, there have been some voices in the society suggesting the introduction of a gap year to Hong Kong Form 7 graduates. However, does this practice really suit our students?

Many people oppose this practice because they think that the graduates may lose interest in their studies after working for a year. It is true. The salary students get is a big temptation to them since they have never been given such a huge amount of money before. They may buy goods of famous brands or engage themselves in luxurious activities. Eventually, they will get addicted to them and be reluctant to adjust themselves to the plain university life.

Moreover, even if students are still eager to further their studies, they might still find it hard to adapt to campus life. Every student has experienced the difficulties of picking up schoolwork after a long vacation. Getting yourself back into the mood of study is already a difficult task after enjoying a two-month vacation, not to mention the difficulties you may face after leaving your textbooks untouched for one year.

In addition, as a Form 7 graduate, you may not hold qualifications that enable you to find a job which can provide you with the relevant experience you expect to gain. For example, a student may apply for a BBA course in the university but could only work as a receptionist in a small office. Then, how beneficial will their job be to him/her?

It seems that having a gap year is unnecessary. However, some advocates believe strongly that this practice can indeed benefit students a lot.

First of all, it helps to develop all-round students. Students can learn things that are not taught in schools, such as problem-solving skills. Students can also get access to the latest trend of business and broaden their knowledge much more quickly than immersing themselves in textbooks. The experience will widen their horizon and lead them to be well educated persons with various types of skills.

Secondly, it helps to light the burden of university tuition fees. Form 7 graduates can save up their salary to pay for their fees. It is the most practical benefit the graduates can get in the short run.

In a more farsighted view, the work experience will grant the graduates a greater chance of being employed by their former employers. This is because they have familiarized themselves with the nature of work and showed their talents during the year.

On the whole, as a form 7 graduate, I really believe that the benefits we will gain are more than the losses we may face. In this day and age, employers usually put work experience before education background. Taking a gap year can equip us with the proper skills and attitudes. So, would you like to take a gap year yourself? Maybe it is time for you to consider it seriously.

Teacher's Feedback : Both pros and cons of taking a gap year are analyzed thoroughly. Nice work! (Miss Tse Kit Wan)

Food For Thought : What is your opinion on taking a gap year before entering university? Do you agree with the writer?