

Question 2: Is University Right For Me?

In the previous *My Main Reasons For Going To University Questionnaire* the best two reasons for going to university are “I: I want to learn new things, broaden my horizons and satisfy my curiosity.” and “t: I want to be in an intellectual atmosphere with hundreds of subjects to choose from, among students who are interested in the same things as I am.” Many of the others are important, exciting and even necessary but they are still less important reasons for going to university.

As the time approaches for students to make decisions about post-secondary options the excitement is often tempered by:

- doubts
- fears
- insecurities
- questions about choosing the right program and the best possible school.

Examine the following student discussions about “Why are you going to university?” If you see yourself in one of these discussions, perhaps it is time to re-examine your motives for going to university before you make an unsound and needlessly expensive decision.

Anisa and Jill Discuss Their Reasons For Going To University

Anisa: *My main reason for going to university is money. I want to be ready for a high paying job when I graduate. Haven't you seen the poster with the three car garage with exotic cars, advertising three good reasons to go to university? That's for me!*



Jill: *I have seen it and I think it's clever advertising but misleading. There are no guarantees that you'll get a high paying job just because you go to university.*



Anisa: *I know that but my chances are a whole lot better than they would be if I went to college or went straight to work.*

Jill: *Well that depends. Statistically, overall that is true. But I don't think I want to make my personal decisions based on a general statistic. It depends on what program you are in, whether or not you are taking a co-op program and getting experience, what the labour market is like when you graduate, whether you intend to do any transfers or post-graduate work and all that stuff.*



Anisa: *Yeah, I know that but employers are always more impressed when you have a university degree.*

Jill: *I thought you wanted to be a dental hygienist. That's what you've talked about for years. Working in a dental office and meeting lots of people and being able to have the best smile in town. Remember? You also talked about being an ambulance or critical care worker.*

Anisa: *Yeah, but I knew that those jobs would give me good money. Now I figure that if I go into Business at university I will make even more money.*



Jill: *That's cool but did you ever think that you should love what you are doing? And also, you hate studying and you're not a reader. You are great with “hands on” things. You will die sitting through two hour lectures and doing major essays.*

Anisa: *Yes, you are right about that. I really have been brainwashed by all my relatives to go*


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to university and get a job that makes me financially independent. Is it possible to apply to both university and college at the same time, I wonder?

Jill: Yes, it is. I know someone who is doing that.

Anisa: Great. Thanks for being so up-front with me. It really helps to have a friend like you. You know me too well. I would probably have ended up dropping out!

Kevin and Mo Discuss Reasons For Going To University



Kevin: I picked “f: I need to get away from home” and “n: I am eager to finally have freedom and independence” as my main reasons for going to university. What I really want to do is go to Australia and work for “Adventure Trips.” This is an amazing company! I am just not ready for university. I feel that with all my personal problems in high school I just need some space and time away to sort out my priorities right now.

Mo: Then why are you applying to university? There is lots of time. It’s not a race.

Kevin: Yeah, but my father feels that if I don’t go now, I will never go. He is pushing me hard.

Mo: You know that it’s not true, don’t you? That you will never go. You are brilliant. Nobody can take that away from you. You have a social conscience. You love to learn new things. Do you believe that you will change your mind about going to university after you travel a bit?



Kevin: No, not at all. But my father has said that he will withdraw funds if I don’t go this coming year.

Mo: Your dad is a good guy. He’s like a father to me too. I think he’s just afraid right now. He can’t get into your head so you have to talk to him and assure him that it will be all right.



Kevin: But what if I can’t?

Mo: I think that you have to go to university for the right reasons and if you’re not feelin’ it right now you should wait. If you are not into it, you’ll be wasting his money and your time.

Kevin: What if he’s right? What if I won’t want to go to university the next year?

Mo: Then, it will be because it is not right for you then either. You have always made good decisions. What makes you think you won’t in the future?

Kevin: Yeah, you’re right. I really need to talk to him and take ownership of my life.

Viv and Dylan Discuss Reasons For Going To University

Viv: I picked “d: All my friends are going.” and “r: “I want to party hearty” as my top reasons for going to university. All my friends really are going and we are all applying to the same universities. We’ve made a pact that we’ll go together and have a blast. Friends to the end!



Dylan: I know that I’m not really in your posse. I’m just your geek friend who helps you to study, but your plan sounds a bit lame. Why would