

University

University in the UK is very rigorous in its academic content for three years at a cost of about £10,000 a year plus living expenses. The outcomes really need to be respected sometimes years after graduation given the cost in time and money and also the supposed significance of the outcomes. There's so much training so much energy and expectation that to be left with nothing but quiet time in your productive years is grossly unfair.

I studied on the Open University for a year then at Aberystwyth for a year but I found the course too difficult, but a year later I went to Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education where I complete a science degree. That's five years of university education. I then spent two years studying for an MBA with Heriot Watt University passing the postgraduate diploma in business administration in 2001 and finally a PCET PGCE at Greenwich University 2002/03 where I specialised in ESOL. This makes a total of about eight years of university education studied in five institutions of higher learning.

I went to university to better myself, the first time it wasn't really recognised so I went back again and again it wasn't really respected so I pursued further study which wasn't respected at all and then again with more advanced study which again wasn't really worth much of anything.

As a teacher of further education in West London I was technically only one level below senior lecturer when I resigned at the age of 37 in 2005. Some facts and statistics about the general population may help to put this in perspective, in 2009 only 7% had any postgraduate education at all, I was postgraduate qualified in business and education. Apparently a quarter of the British public have difficulty reading a bus timetable according to the Telegraph newspaper and about 50% wouldn't get a grade G at GCSE in maths according to the BBC in 2002. So my opinion is this. Having graduated from university you should be respected and you should be able to afford things like cars and houses. Years later you should still be respected as is demonstrated by those who would join the Foreign and Commonwealth Office where it states that you need a 2:2 honours degree but that it doesn't matter how old you are or how long ago you graduated. This is the empirical standard that we should look to for guidance.

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