

Lane Boy

Is a self made man a better man?

Aiyush Pachnanda talks to **Joshua Browne** about why Uni wasn't for him.

Leaving college or sixth form, many would believe the easiest step to take next is further education. The pressure to do “what everyone else is doing” along with the burden to make your parents proud is leaving young people disillusioned that attending University is a necessity to form a stable career. The benefit of going to University from college is an immediate solution to finding a job in today's society. The job search currently is an overwhelming struggle as many employers are asking for degrees leaving a student certain that obtaining this qualification is the only way to develop an occupation.

A lot of young people nowadays are seeking part time work in jobs that have little relevance to what they want their final career to be. They take the jobs primarily on the basis that it would give them experience in the working industry, something that numerous companies are also asking for. Statistics show that almost two thirds of teachers “rarely or never” offer pupils the option of learning a trade as an alternative to a higher education course.

Chloe Freeman, 19, believes that a lot of young people feel rushed into making the decision to go to University.

Aiyush Pachnanda



“The truth is that I, like many people my age, had no true idea what we wanted to be or do. That's why I never dedicated myself to years, and thousands of pounds worth of debt going to Uni, as I had no idea what I was to study. I believe you should study something if it leads you onto a direct path. If you know you want to be a doctor, you need that degree and you need that education. On the other end of the spectrum you have courses such as photography, which I do not think you need a degree in to get a job. What does that prove? Go out and take pictures. Spend those years building up your portfolio and experience things in the real world.”

Photography is a career choice that has always been argued as obtainable minus a University degree. Courses in the arts focus on the theory as well as the practical, something that has put students off pursuing it into education.

Practicing photography outside of the classroom can allow people to develop their ideas further without the restrictions of being tied to filling out an assortment of papers.

Aiyush Pachnanda is a London-based photographer who opted out of University straight from college. Instead, the teenager insisted on building up his experience “capturing moments” in and around the capital.

“I felt I was still learning about what I wanted to do. I didn't want my dream to be tarnished by the theory and paper side of photography. I wanted to wait and let my ideas develop and now I feel more confident about my photography that I know would've never happened if I went to University straight from college.”

The 18 year old, who is sporting a cap backwards partnered with thickly rimmed glasses, talks about the opportunities that have opened up for him through his hobby.

“I have worked with a couple of brands. I have worked with a luxury duvet company, which has links with Selfridges, John Lewis. Also, quite recently I have been asked to curate a gallery for London-based photographers. It has a marketplace that is based in Russia, and I'm going to be taken there to do some talks for them.”

Whilst many chances open, Aiyush admits to missing out on some purely on the basis he doesn't have a degree. “I wanted to work for Urban Outfitters. I was interested in doing fashion photography for them but you need a photography degree. I looked at the requirements and I have almost as much experience just from my own work, but just no degree.”

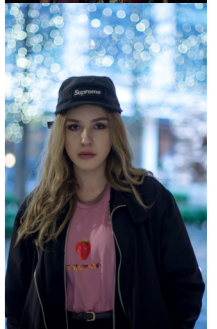
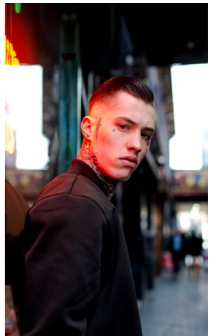
Natalie Taylor chose to improve her photography through further education. The university student took a foundation year prior to her Commercial Photography degree this year, to figure out whether photography was the correct industry for her to be taking herself into.

“Whilst on the foundation course I really found my preferred style of photography and this filled me with confidence that there was a place for me within the photographic world. The foundation course is a very beneficial step to take and I would suggest this to anybody who is hesitant in the slightest moving from A Level's to university age, as it allows you to not only learn photography in a technical way - that A Level doesn't seem to offer as strongly - but also to develop your work into a more niche style to then progress through to degree if this is the pathway you decide on.”

The likeable and polite dance teacher believes people studying within education have an advantage over those who do not. “If you want to become a photographer in later life then studying photography is an extremely good idea. Not only to refine creative and technical skills but to gain excellent time management qualities and to learn how to work to a strict deadline.”

In addition to studying, Taylor has also had the chance to travel and showcase some of her photography in one of the world's most iconic cities. “Recently I travelled to New York and saw a competition run by British Airways, asking for images to be submitted of New York for their High Life magazine. Out of a large number of entries, I managed to become one of the 8 people chosen to have my photograph places in their magazine, which really filled me with additional confidence.

Through being amongst other creatives and bouncing ideas off of them, learning from one another, I am definitely glad I have chosen the university route. Without coming to university I just would not have the creative confidence, or knowledge from visiting lecturers, to go into the creative industry and freelance my way into exciting new jobs as I currently already feel I do.”



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