

HOT TOPICS

Each month, we ask a selection of business leaders their views on an aspect of business. This month, we're asking whether having a degree on an applicant's CV has lost its shine with so many now going to university



Has having a degree on an applicant's CV lost significance now that so many people go to university?



This may be sacrilegious to say, but university is not always hard work, and for some it's three years of good fun. Some graduates come out of university expecting life to be the doddle that was their three year 'sabbatical'. They are simply not prepared for the workforce, and the first graduate scheme they enter is when they discover the facts of working life.

PETER BURGESS, MANAGING DIRECTOR, RETAIL HUMAN RESOURCES,

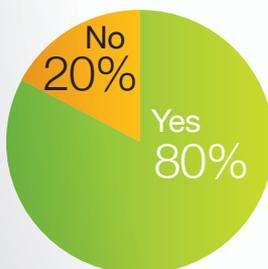
With degrees now so common, the subject, the university studied at, and the result of the degree, all combine to influence my judgement on a candidate. I probably shouldn't say it, but there is definitely a hierarchy amongst universities, and I would hold a 2:1 from a respected university in higher regard than a 1st from a random one. I do not, however, believe that the really academic universities (Oxbridge) churn out graduates who are necessarily better suited to many roles in working life. I look for rounded individuals that can offer a lot of experience outside their degree course.

JOE FRIEDLEIN, DIRECTOR, BROWSER MEDIA



THE NUMBERS GAME

Here's what the rest of you thought:



Too many people are going on to further academic study when they would be better suited to a vocational course or an apprenticeship. For me, a university degree is starting to lose its shine, but not because so many people are now going, it's more about the issues around relevance, quality and the competition.

University is, in part, about furthering and preparing students for the next phase in their life, yet there seems to be little connection with business or industry when students actually come to make the decision about further study.

STUART YOUNG, EXECUTIVE CREATIVE DIRECTOR, PURPOSE

Having a formal qualification is certainly an advantage, not least because it proves you can listen and assimilate information. However, a university degree alone does not guarantee a fast-track route to success. The business world has become increasingly competitive, and it's important that graduates realise their future success is also down to focus and persistence.

STEPHEN FEAR, PHONEBOX MILLIONAIRE, ENTREPRENEUR, AND AUTHOR



What do you think? Tell us your thoughts on Twitter @TalkBusinessMag