

Student today, (un)employed tomorrow - What does your future hold?

I was 20 years old when I started working. At the time, I was still going to college and getting a job was not something planned, but rather a spur of the moment thing. While I dreaded learning about law, I loved reading the current international news (any random information really) that will eventually help me win a debate. You see, I was a competitive debater (yes, this is a thing done by a very small group of people). Like other debaters, I had the time but I didn't have the money to compete on international tournaments. That is until the job fell on my lap. The specific title of the job was a debate program coordinator, a job which will require me to go on debate tournaments. A perfect fit!

However, if there's one advice I would give to someone entering the job market, it would be the following: don't ever do what I did. Yes, it was fun at the beginning, but at the end of the day a hobby is something you do because you love to do it but a job is something you commit to and something that comes with responsibilities. So, here I am five years later, I'm still working as a debate coordinator but I don't debate and finishing a masters degree in a field I've completely lost interest in.

But I digress. What does this have to do with the student job market?

Here comes the unpopular opinion. A lot of us go to university because it's expected and most of us choose our studies based on what jobs are available to the market at that time and we end up with the education and the qualification we don't want. Options for you getting a job in your field become very limited, and even if you do manage to get a job you will probably be underpaid and you won't really enjoy the job that you are doing. Now you are an adult, that needs money to sustain yourself and you get stuck doing a job you're not sure you like, for a pay that's not nearly enough to do the former just because nobody bothered to employ a capable guidance counselor in your school that can help you figure out what you want to do for the rest of your life.