

Some people believe that young people should work or travel for a year before entering university, whereas others think they should begin higher education immediately after school. Although taking a year away from formal education can provide valuable experience, I believe that the best choice depends on the individual.

A gap year can help young people develop practical skills and maturity. Working can teach them responsibility, time management and financial independence, while travelling can expose them to different cultures and ways of life. Such experiences may also help students understand their interests and choose a university course more confidently. For example, someone who works in a healthcare environment may discover whether they genuinely want to pursue medicine.

However, starting university immediately has clear advantages. Students can continue their academic routine while their study habits and knowledge are still fresh. They may also complete their degrees earlier and enter the workforce sooner. In addition, not every young person has the financial resources to travel or take a year away from education, so a gap year could create additional inequality.

In my opinion, students should be encouraged to consider a gap year but should not be required to take one. Those who have clear goals and can use the time productively may benefit greatly from working or travelling. However, students who are academically prepared and already know their career direction may gain more by starting university immediately.

In conclusion, a gap year can provide valuable personal and professional experience, but immediate university study can also be advantageous. Therefore, young people should choose according to their circumstances and future plans.