

Original Text

Advanced University Education

For some people, it is difficult to make a decision regarding pursuing a master **1** or a PhD degree. Even though education is good for the citizen, other factors have to be considered. A master or a PhD has direct and indirect cost. Therefore, the individual **2** has to evaluate the benefits and the cost of such a decision. An advanced degree would take several years to complete, in average **3** three to seven years. For this period the student will be out of the workforce and employment. For this period of time the individual will lose income and chance for promotion and seniority that he or she **4** would gained **5** if he or she were working. **6**

However, education may be a good investment if it is planned very well. If the individual has a good vision regarding the job opportunities and the demand on the individuals with such qualifications than **7** it may be worth it to pursue such education. Therefore, the individual has to select a field of study that would provide him or her with unique skills that will advance his or her career. For example, there is no market demand for a master's degree in math, yet there is high demands **8** on **9** a master degree in nursing.

Furthermore, the individual needs to be cautious regarding the term of "over qualification". **10** It is not uncommon that an employer may refuse to recruit an individual with higher qualifications for a job. There are several reasons for that. First, the individual may not like the job and leaves **11** shortly once a better job suited his or her qualifications is found. Second, there is a real or perceived tension **12** between the supervisor and the employee when the new individual has more qualification than his boss. Third, there could be a workplace dynamic that the employer may not be interested to explore with addition of an over qualified individual to the workforce. Fourth, the decision to recruit usually is left for the direct supervisor who may be intimidated by the applicant's qualification or may be concerned about his or her **13** job in the future.

Finally there is a dissociation between the academic world and the workforce world. Where the academic world focus on details of academic nature the workplace world needs practical knowledge and skills. Unfortunately universities do not teach these skills. For the lack of such skills and experience the graduate students may be at disadvantages in the job market. Some graduate students try to solve this problem by working part-time which helps financially and keeps the students in the workplace market which also gives them the experience and the skills they need for the new jobs. **14**

In conclusion advanced university degrees are desirable; however, there are several advantages and disadvantages that would affect **the individual's decision 15** to pursue such goal. The disadvantages are the cost, lack of workplace experience, **difficult to find job 16** in some fields and the stigmata of over qualification. The advantages for obtaining such degrees are endless learning opportunities.

Comments and Corrections

- The numbered **icons** in the original text correspond to the numbered comments below.
 - I've indicated grammatical errors in your text by colouring them **red**.
1. The complete term is 'master's degree', but the abbreviation 'master's' is often used. Some writers omit the apostrophe and just write 'masters'. I'd recommend using the complete term 'master's degree'.
 2. Strictly speaking, 'individual' is an adjective, and should be used only to modify a noun, as in 'individual person'. But it is increasingly used as a noun to refer to people. Since you are not referring to any particular person, you might consider using the passive form:

The benefits and cost of such a decision have to be evaluated.

3. Wrong preposition:

... **on average** three to seven years.

4. Many academics insist on the use of so-called 'gender neutral' language, and consistently write the clumsy phrase 'he or she', or even 'she' alone, to advertise their politically correct credentials. But there are two much older (and less irritating) solutions:
 - a. When possible, use a plural noun instead of a singular one. Then you can use the plural pronoun 'they', which has no separate masculine and feminine forms:

... **individuals** will lose income that **they** would have gained ...

- b. Use the pronoun 'they' even though its referent is a singular noun:

... **the individual** will lose income that **they** would have gained ...

No doubt some will claim that this is ungrammatical. But the pronouns 'they' and 'their' have been used in this way at least since the time of Shakespeare (e.g. *The Comedy of Errors*, Act IV, Scene 3, lines 1-2).

5. ... would **have** gained ...
6. Since this sentence has the same subject and temporal adverbial as the previous one, it could be simplified like this:

They will also lose income, chance for promotion, and seniority.

7. ... **then** it may be worth it ...

8. In sentences like this, 'there' is not the subject term. Rather, the subject is the noun phrase that follows the verb phrase. So it is this noun phrase that determines the number of the verb:

There **are** high demands ...

There **is** a high demand ...

9. Wrong preposition:

There is a high demand **for** a master's degree in nursing.

10. It's not the *term* they need to be cautious about, but rather the situation of being over-qualified.

Furthermore, the individual needs to be cautious about being over-qualified.

11. The base form of the verb should be used here, because it is also governed by the auxiliary verb 'may':

The individual **may** not like the job and [**may**] **leave** shortly ...

12. Since it isn't certain there will be tension, I'd recommend writing something like this instead:

... there **may be** a real or perceived tension ...

... there **could be** a real or perceived tension ...

If it were certain this would happen, then you would use the future tense:

... there **will be** a real or perceived tension ...

13. Pronoun ambiguity error. It's not clear whether 'he or she' refers to the supervisor or to the applicant.

14. Using two sentences here would be much clearer:

Some graduate students try to solve this problem by working part-time, which helps financially and keeps the students in the workplace market. It also gives them the experience and the skills they need for the new jobs.

15. ... the **individual's** decision ...

16. ... **difficulty in finding** a job ...