

Will a Diploma Get You a Job?

So You Want to Be a Journalist · By Simon Townsend · 1 min read

Your qualification guaranteeing

you a media job

Many of my students ask me if winning their diploma guarantees a media job.

You could ask that question of Harvard, Oxford, Stuttgart and Melbourne universities and every top university or college around the world, and the honest answer is: "No, of course not."

There are NO job guarantees that come with academic qualifications. This is especially so with qualifications from media, communications and journalism courses around the world.

The job market is highly competitive in media, and the universities are pumping out graduates at a fearsome rate . . . too many for the jobs available.

But I have happy news for you.

Your solution is in my famous FactSheet "Ten Rules (do you have it?)."

Rule 7: Start submitting immediately

Your journalism journey encourages you to think of yourself as a freelancer BEFORE being awarded your qualification. I push and push you to submit to publications before you win your qualification. Do not wait until the end of the course to start submitting. Overcome your natural fear of rejection and start submitting your best work to your target publications from now on.

You see?

- Starting your journalism journey is NOT the start of your freelance career
- Finishing your journalism journey is not the start
- Winning your qualification is not the start of your journalism career

Editors don't care two hoots about your academic qualifications if the other job candidate has qualifications AND some clippings to prove she/he is capable of writing publishable material.

Sadly, many people graduate from all the theory, and the academic tests and seminars and lectures and tutoring, and STILL don't know how to put together a publishable article.

Please!

I need you churning out articles for sale TODAY.

Once you're published, you're THEN on your way to a part-time or fulltime job.

And that should be BEFORE you win your diploma.

Good luck!

Reprinted from The Wonderful World of Journalism. Written in the spirit of Simon Townsend's journalism craft advice. Visit simontownsendjournalist.com for the full archive.