

OnlyFans vs OnlyDebt: A Tale of Two

Why are post-grad students resorting to OnlyFans and such platforms to finance their debts?

A question I fear we will be asking for a long while yet, considering the current economic state of the globe. With fears of recession materialising, inflation fluctuating and the ongoing struggle to reach employment, post-grad and even under-grad students are looking to OnlyFans and platforms as such, to relieve the pressure, so to speak. The pressure, that is, of looming debt haunting every student pre and post-grad, considering the actuality of successful employment for students is becoming further out of reach, according to a 2023 report by Intelligent. Upon discovery, 38% of employers actively avoid hiring recent graduates, instead favouring older existing employees and leaving those with any initial chance of employment, chanceless.

With platforms like OnlyFans, a subscription exclusive site where sex workers, civilians and even celebrities share sexual content, becoming all the more accessible, the opportunity for high monetary gain is increasing. The appeal, for students in particular, stems from the workplace being less desirable to them, and the workplace desiring students *less*. According to an approaching 30-year-old graduate who is now retiring from the platform, the “commute, insincerity of colleagues and the constant need to dilute yourself in the workspace” were driving factors in “redirecting” her career. The ex-student, who wishes to remain anonymous, achieved a Bachelors and Masters degree in Biomedical Science, although after almost a year in the industry she decided a “faceless OnlyFans platform” was preferable. “It was all too much... I didn’t feel like the pressure was for me, I couldn’t handle it”, she explained, “I realised I could do something simple like naked yoga or wave a dildo around the camera... people will pay anything, it’s great!”.

After paying off her student debts, car and mortgage, the ex-student decided to leave the limelight, and continue to invest in cryptocurrencies. “OnlyFans was a good springboard for me to get what I want and pay off the things I need”, she says, “with regular employment I’d still be in severe debt... it is a sad reality for students now”.

Straying away from the traditional workspace is becoming popular on a global scale, with it being generally unfulfilling, especially monetarily. Platforms like OnlyFans have essentially aided this sense of underachieving for graduates, even when reaching stable employment. Dr Olivia Snow, a “writer, professor and dominatrix” from New York City, is currently employed by the University of California for research as well as being a freelance writer, exploring “sex work, labour rights, tech and policy”. The PhD graduate, who goes by the pseudonym

‘Mistress Snow’, has openly spoken about her sex work, BDSM and content creation in order to make ends meet before starting a more *pleasing* second career. With only making around \$30,000 from her more mainstream line of work, an ‘adjunct’, Dr Snow decided on reverting to prior sex work in order to fund a lifestyle. This rising ‘second income’ trend begs the question: in a reality where even established careers are not enough, where will it end?

The end is yet unknown, with economic situations constantly fluctuating and platforms ever-growing, the opportunities to make money on said platforms are becoming endless. Is OnlyFans simply catering to a ‘lazy generation’ or are students really being left with no choice? The questions themselves are indeed, endless, although with the changing economic climate and workplace expectations maybe students really are stuck in an ultimatum: OnlyFans... or OnlyDebt?