The BIG Question

Do you agree with UWI lowering its entry requirements as a result of no more GATE?

GATE fallout

• That's it right there. We lower it and what do you expect to pass over? You are going to have a bunch of low achievers. Lemme hush.

• It's useless going to university. My husband's niece and nephew after years of studying and degrees, are home for years with no jobs.

• You telling me. You study hard to stay home for years. It's like you wasted time when you could have opened a business or done something else instead. The workforce is just saturated.

• It's quite depressing. I spent so many years working for a degree and can't put my degree to work for me! Literally have a useless degree!

• It's all about money, not about education. This is why degrees have been devaluing. Undergrads don't get work in their field. GATE has been an epic failure because institutions have only exploited it for profits.

• Lowering the entry requirements seems to be a slippery slope. Wouldn't it have a ripple effect, especially on the quality re: output of graduates and perceived quality of a UWI degree? Maybe we don't require so many persons with these disciplines as they may not match our country's needs. Has this been taken into consideration?

• No wonder graduates can't get jobs, they probably don't even know how to write a resume or conduct themselves in an interview.

• What the ministry should do is investigate which fields are saturated and display those results for the public so that Form Three pupils can make an informed decision of what career options to work towards.

• What a shame! Better we make a gamble to go away and study where our degree will mean something.

• So the answer is to lower your standards?

Port of Spain

Jessica Stephen, 35, administrative assistant, Morvant
Yes. It will assist people who are unable to pay or who have a low income. It will give them a better advantage.

Alana Sahadeo, 25, student, Carapo
Yes. Some people want to study and they need an education. So it is best to help them as best as you can.

Mary Gittens, 42, cashier, Diego Martin
Yes. Most of the people are low income and poor. Wherever they can get a break, it is good to help them. There are people who genuinely want to study and they can't because they have no money. Stationery is expensive too.

Emerson Garraway, 29, contractor, Trincity
No. Keep the standards for admission to UWI high. Standards are important. Get the children motivated to study so they can become marketable on the global stage too.

Robert Gilchrist, 40, self-employed, Morvant
Yes. Some people want an education, but they simply can't afford it. The economy is bad. There are no jobs, so keep the youth in school till the situation improves.

San Fernando

Edward Logie, 59, maxi-taxi owner/ operator, Point Fortin
I support the decision by UWI and I don't believe it will water down the standard of education.

Allan Rampaul, 59, maxi-taxi owner/ operator, Penal
I don't support that move because the university has dropped the standard by lowering the entry requirement. I believe that will water down the standard of our education, which is currently high.

Suresh Maharaj, 54, chauffeur, Rousillac
It's a very good move by UWI because lowering the entry requirements means more people can access tertiary level education.

Paula Hope, 40, hairdresser, Siparia
That is a good move. More children will now have the opportunity to pursue a professional degree when that chance may not have existed for them before.

Yes. Some people want an education, but they simply can't afford it.