

Actors with University Degrees

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Graduate (Verb) /'grædʒu,eɪt/ to finish a course of study and get a diploma, degree, etc.
Example: My nephew will be graduating this coming summer.
2. Psychology (Noun) /saɪ'kɒ:lədʒi:/ the study of the mind and how it affects behavior
Example: Dr. Moran is an expert in the field of clinical psychology.
3. Play (Verb) /pleɪ/ to act as a character in a movie, TV show, etc.
Example: Johnny Depp played the role of Jack Sparrow in the movie Pirates of the Caribbean.
4. Clumsy (Adjective) /'klʌmzi/ awkward when moving or using one's hands
Example: He was very clumsy to spill coffee on his laptop.
5. Master's degree (Noun) /'mæstərz dɪɡri/ a university qualification gained after one or more years of study following a bachelor's degree
Example: Jennifer will be completing her master's degree this coming semester.
6. Eccentric (Adjective) /ɪk'sentɹɪk/ behaving in slightly strange or unusual ways
David Bowie was known for his eccentric style and theatrical performances.



"Don't give up your education" is something that our parents may have said to us when we told them about our dreams of winning an Oscar or becoming a TV star. Maybe we didn't quite get there, but what about the people who did? Well, there are quite a few actors who got to the top without giving up their studies. Here are some of those famous names.

Natalie Portman

Best known for movies like Garden State, Star Wars: The Phantom Menace and Jackie, Portman graduated from Harvard University in 2003 with a degree in psychology.

Portman, who won the best actress Oscar for her part in the 2010 film *Black Swan*, also co-wrote a paper about the brain that was published in 2002.

Rowan Atkinson

Most of us know Atkinson for his long career playing clumsy man-child Mr. Bean. But the man behind the character is much smarter.

The British actor studied electrical engineering at Newcastle University, before getting a master's degree in the subject from Oxford University, where *Love Actually* co-star Hugh Grant studied a few years later.

Lisa Kudrow

Kudrow's most famous character — Phoebe in *Friends* — may have been a bit eccentric.

But Kudrow herself actually got a degree in psychobiology, a subject that looks at the way the mind and the body work together. After graduating, she worked as a scientific researcher with her father for a few months before becoming an actress.

Ken Jeong

Jeong discovered his love for acting while he was studying to become a doctor. But although he did a bit of acting in university, he focused on finishing his medicine degree and began working as a doctor. Only later did he become a famous face in TV and movies, including the three *Hangover* films.

DISCUSSION

1. Do you find it surprising that these film stars are so highly educated?
2. Do you know anyone who has a job that has nothing to do with their studies?
3. How did you choose your career path? Are you happy with your choice?
4. If you were to start your education again, would you do anything differently?
5. Who's the most highly educated person you know? What do they do for work?