

What are Universities for?

By The School of Life

In the video “What are Universities for?” by The School of Life, we can see a brief explanation of the initial purpose of the creation of universities and how it has evolved.

In the mid 19th century many universities were founded in a time period where religion was being questioned and declined. This rejection towards religion caused people to seek meaning and comfort in literature, philosophy, history and art. Culture was beginning to replace scripture. A few centuries later we questioned ourselves if universities have fulfilled this initial purpose. Nowadays students go in to a classroom with the fear of addressing questions such as, what is the meaning of life? What really matters? Who are we? And where is society headed? This video suggests that universities should prioritize “how to live” just as much as it does on “how to make a living” addressing subjects that trouble our daily lives in the real world like relationships, how to be less anxious, how to cope with the death. Universities should be structured to guide students to live a happy and healthy life while learning to make a living with their profession.

Universities have based their education on certain departments and throughout time has added other ones such as Natural Sciences, Business and Administration and Architecture. In a near future other departments will exist as well. Doing this has amplified the opportunities of studying what truly inspires an individual.

So, what are universities actually for? Are they for simply specializing the students in a certain concentration? Or is it to generate those ideas that will truly help us live and die well?