



## Full-time internships for students don't make sense

TAASEEN MOHAMMED ISLAM

Being a full-time university student is no joke. You have migraine-inducing 300 and 400-level courses to balance alongside elusive deadlines, uncooperative groupmates, and a terminally ill social life. Add tuitions, side hustles, and club commitments to this chaotic mess, and you have the typical overworked and under-rewarded university senior.

While salvation from 8 AM classes seem close, students need to pass one last hurdle before corporate life: a full-time internship. Even though internships are meant to prepare final year students for a work life, many companies tend to advertise them to students still taking courses. This rarely benefits young people and often ends up being a burden on their academic lives.

Taking internships during one's university degree is very common in many countries abroad, and most students facilitate these opportunities to gain experience and money while working on their degrees. However, most students in Bangladesh take a single internship at the very end of their degree programme. A big reason for this is the trimester system that the majority of private universities follow, which doesn't leave any scope for students to engage in internships during their degree without making a trade-off with their academics.

Full time internships need the same time commitments as a job, meaning many places require you to be at work five days a week. Additionally, internships last for 10 to 12 weeks, the same as an entire university semester, making it impossible to take a full course load alongside it. Posing a trade-off between the internship and your academics, you can either take the internship and forego an entire semester, or miss out on such experiences and continue with your degree.

Sadly, there's no win-win situation here, and you're missing out one way or the other.

More likely than not, the internship these students get will be unpaid. This is a big problem primarily because most students don't have the financial solvency to afford a whole semester of working for free. Even if internships do pay, they underpay tremendously, making them exploitative as you'll be doing a great deal of work for peanuts.

Sadly, not all internships are valuable learning experiences. There lies a big power difference between young students and the organisations, and many companies tend to exploit this. Many internship programmes will substitute assistants for interns and leave them to do menial tasks and grunt work that doesn't add any real-life expertise or value. This can make the whole experience feel unfulfilling and demotivating.

While I'm not arguing against full-time internships, the culture of advertising them towards naive second-year students and proceeding to overwork and underpay them doesn't sit right with me. Organisations shouldn't mislead inexperienced students into meaningless internship programmes and outsource clerical responsibilities to them.

*Turns out Taaseen Mohammed Islam can write semi-decently at the expense of being able to do basic math. Send him pointers at [taaseen.2001@gmail.com](mailto:taaseen.2001@gmail.com)*

# All social media needs "dislike" buttons

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*Dislike buttons should be available on social media, and dislikes on posts need to be visible to everyone. Here's why.*

Once upon a time social media was a space for people to connect and share photos of each other. Now, social media hosts news, educational content, entertainment, businesses and everything in between.

Take YouTube for example. We usually use it for entertainment, but before exams, we use it to clear concepts. The like to dislike ratio is the most useful metric for quickly finding what you need, especially when it comes to educational content, because it shows the level of satisfaction over a piece of content, which views and likes alone don't.

Comments are only useful if you read through a bunch of them. Furthermore, on most sites, creators can remove comments on their page, even if it's just constructive criticism or a blatant truth. This makes it harder for people to use public opinion to find what they need.

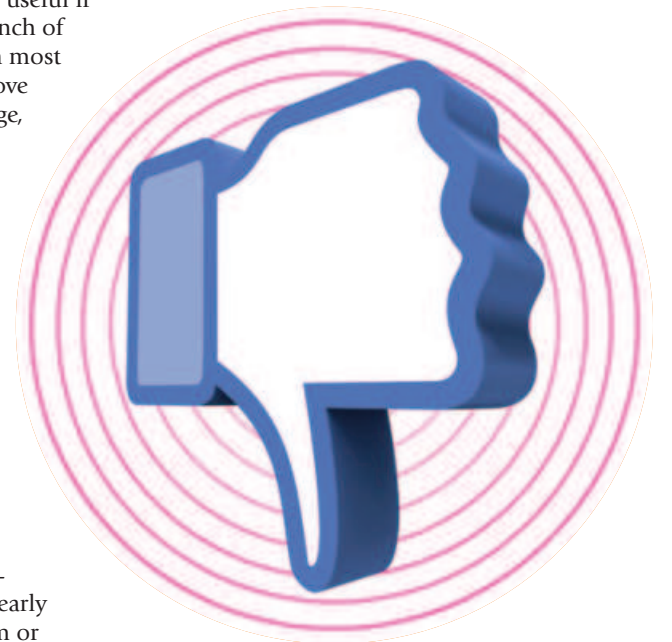
One of the many reasons why showing only likes is detrimental is that social media gives voice to some people who frankly don't deserve an audience. When a post supports things that are clearly problematic like racism or xenophobia, it is crucial for social media users to be able to show disapproval. Because if someone only sees the likes on these posts, and not the dislikes, they will either lose faith in humanity, or agree with the posts based on how well it's phrased (search flat earther comments for proof).

Not having dislikes is more likely to trap people in echo chambers, too. Twitter is exceptionally good at this. Since people don't see how many people disagree with what they think, they wrongly believe their opinions have no dissenters, and that they are right. Perhaps this explains to some extent the large volumes of absurd TikTok content, and the more polished YouTube content (at least before they hid the public dislike counts). Clickbait is a nuisance on internet

media these days, and like to dislike ratios help combat it. If you see a title that says "Beyoncé hits her biggest fan at concert" and the video is Beyoncé bumping into a large stand-fan while singing, you would want to dislike it. And you should have the right to, the creator wasted your time.

Also, what if an impatient viewer saw the title and didn't verify the information or even watch the full video to check? #CancelBeyonce would be trending on Twitter, that's what.

Very few agreed with YouTube's decision to hide the dislike counts because



"dislike counts spread hate". However, comments and content spreads hate much quicker than the number under a thumbs-down icon.

Social media does a lot of afford everyone their right to freedom of speech (with moderation to stop harm). They should also allow people to express their satisfaction or dissatisfaction with what they see.

On user-generated platforms, most content will be subpar. That's okay, but bad content must fall aside as quickly as possible, to make way for good content that adds value.

*Watching productivity videos gives Zaheem an illusion of being productive. Send help at [instagram.com/tasfiazuhair](https://www.instagram.com/tasfiazuhair)*