

Students Bear the Consequences of Harvard's New Reputation

Future and current Harvard students panic in response to the school's recent antisemitism controversy and plagiarism scandal.

Applicants have begun to look elsewhere for their college education in fear that the recent scandals of antisemitism and plagiarism at Harvard have tainted the school's reputation; They worry that Harvard's new stigma may remain permanent, hurting their futures.

[The Hamas attack](#) has resulted in students and faculty marching by the hundreds, chanting vile antisemitic slogans and threatening for the genocide Jews through Harvard's campus. Harvard University President Claudine Gay was criticized over her [testimony](#) on the rise of antisemitism on campus for giving a vague answer to whether these calls for the genocide of Jews violates the school's code of conduct.

Multiple CEOs have pledged to stop hiring from Harvard University, such as [Dave Portnoy](#), founder of Barstool Sports. "Not that this will make a huge difference but moving forward I will not hire any student who graduates from any of these schools until these Deans step down," Portnoy wrote. Many other prominent businessmen promised to do the same until Harvard releases a list of students who take part in these protests. Bill Ackman, the CEO of Pershing Square Capital Management is one of these people. He believes that students "should not be able to hide behind a corporate shield when issuing statements supporting the actions of terrorists" and is asking Harvard to release a list to ensure that he will not inadvertently hire any students taking part in these protests.



Harvard students and faculty protest and show their support for Palestine in Gaza by Erin Clark

Harvard continued to suffer blows to its reputation when Claudine Gay was [accused of plagiarism](#), forcing her to step down after six months as Harvard's President. Gay allegedly misused academic sources in eight out of her eleven journal publications. In the publications, she miscited or misquoted nearly fifty times.



Harvard President Claudine Gay resigns, setting the record for shortest tenure at Harvard by Kevin Dietsch.

With scandal after scandal, students have reconsidered whether or not Harvard is the right choice for them. College admissions consultant Christopher Rim elaborates that students not only [rejected their early admission](#) , but some also refused to apply to Harvard. “They are getting the worst PR ever right now,” he says, which is causing some students to worry about their reputation if they become associated with Harvard.

The prestigious Ivy League reported that they only received 7,921 early applications as compared to last year’s 9,553 applications. Meanwhile, other schools such as [Duke received a 28% increase compared to recent years.](#)

While future college students are conflicted on which school to go to, current Harvard students are struggling to cope with the University’s newfound reputation. As over a dozen prominent leaders openly declare their ban on hiring from Harvard, students are concerned about what their future employment will look like.

Many students think that these policies are too strong. [One Harvard student](#) argues that “a 19-year-old who feels something right now and decides to put their name on something should

have the rest of their lives decided at this moment. We've all done things that we would rather we hadn't."

While some students argue that these policies are only fair, they are still worried about what it could mean for their futures.

A [first year law student](#) encourages students to think through what voicing their opinions could mean for their future employment, especially in a buttoned-down field like law. "The general advice," he said, "is to keep your opinions to yourself for the most part."

A [second year law student](#) shares her concerns on the impact of these scandals, explaining that the ban is "a real employment consequence" on students when "we are all here with a lot of student loans, and we need to work."

Harvard has made swift recoveries from scandals in the past, but students cannot help but worry about their future if the university's new reputation is here to stay.