University

A Thinking about the topic

You’re going to hear Alan (English) interviewing Maria (Russian) and Ning (Chinese) about universities in their countries. Before you listen, make a note of three or four topics you think Alan will ask about. Compare and discuss with a partner.

1 Watch the video. How many of your topics did you hear? Can you remember any other topics?

B Listening for the main ideas and detail

3 Watch Part 1 (00:00–01:45). Choose the correct options in these sentences. Compare with a partner.

1 Maria and Ning are / aren’t currently studying for a degree at university in the UK.
2 You have to / don’t have to pay to study at a university in England.

4 What can you remember? Decide if these statements are true (T) or false (F). Correct any false ones. Then watch Part 1 again to check. Discuss with a partner.

1 Maria has a degree from a Russian university.
2 All Chinese universities are expensive.
3 Some people who study at English universities take gap years to help them pay.
4 Student numbers are increasing in England.

5 What can you remember? Make some notes on what the speakers said about the following. Compare with a partner.

- a private school
- state university
- a student loan

C Listening for specific information

6 Watch Part 2 (01:46–03:52). Check any new vocabulary in your dictionary. Number these words and phrases in the order you hear them.

a research  b scholarship  c Bachelor’s degree  d grants  e postgraduate school  f homework

7 Watch Part 2 again and answer these questions.

1 What don’t you pay for in China?
2 Why doesn’t Maria pay for her university studies?
3 What does she say about judges?
4 What do Maria and Ning say about the last two weeks of term?

8 Watch Part 3 (03:53–05:44). How many times do you hear these words or phrases? Tick each one as you hear it.

accommodation  
(share/rent) a flat/apartment  
hall(s) of residence  
student house

9 Watch Part 3 again and complete this table about university accommodation in Russia, China and England.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Russia</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>England</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>free accommodation?</td>
<td>Yes, but only if you don’t pay for your education.</td>
<td>_________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>type of accommodation</td>
<td>_________</td>
<td>Apartment or _________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10 What can you remember? Answer these questions, then compare with a partner.

1 Why do Russian students prefer to rent a flat?
2 What’s the disadvantage of renting a flat?
3 Why do most Chinese students choose to stay in university accommodation?
4 Why are many students in England offered accommodation for the first year only?

D Extension and review

11 What impression do you think Alan has of Russian and Chinese universities? How do you know? Discuss with a partner.

12 In which of the three countries would you prefer to study? Why? Compare with a partner.

13 Which of these activities helped you understand the speakers best?

- thinking about the topic before listening
- listening for repetition of key words and phrases
- listening for tone of voice to identify attitude