**Ex. 8 Read the text:**

**International students at US universities**

The US has the world’s highest population of international students. According to the Open Doors Report 2015 of the Institute of International Education, the number of foreign students in the country has increased over the years. The United States has historically been the top destination for international students owing to its quality higher education system, welcoming culture, and relatively open labor market. Today, the United States remains the country of choice for the largest number of international students, hosting about 1.1 million of the 4.6 million enrolled worldwide in 2017. The next two destinations, the United Kingdom and China, hosted 11 percent and 10 percent, respectively. However, the U.S. share of globally mobile students dropped from 28 percent in 2001 to 24 percent in 2017, while the overall number of international students more than doubled in the same period.

There are numerous reasons why international students come to study in the US. The country’s institutions offer thousands of academic programs. This flexibility and freedom for students to choose and arrange their timetable as they see fit makes studying the US ideal for any student. In addition to that, the US boasts the world’s best universities, with top-quality systems and programs. Over the years, the institutions of higher education in the US have topped several world rankings, including QS World University Rankings and Times Higher Education World University Rankings. You will also get a chance to learn, even work with the top minds in various industries. Furthermore, you will have the state-of-the-art facilities and research centers within your reach when you study in the US.

Students also choose to study in the US because of the vast financial aids available. Most universities would offer student grants, loans, and stipends to deserving students. This can be huge savings as these funds can help cover everyday expenses, such as food and transportation. Students can also spend their time doing part-time jobs on- and off-campus, some of which could also be related to your program.

Studying the US is a chance to expose yourself to various cultures. What better way to learn and experience the world than to immerse yourself, with your classmates, and discover the world together while studying in the US. Not only is this an opportunity to educate yourself about the things around you, but it is also a good way to network yourself and meet people from every walks of life.

Though there are more than 4,000 colleges and universities in the U.S. – depending on how those institutions are counted – 70% of international students tend to study at only about 200 schools, says Marie Royce, assistant secretary of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs in the Department of State. Those students are primarily concentrated in Texas, California and New York.

China and India are the top two places of origin for international students in the U.S. Their booming economies have created a new middle class that can afford American schools and, may value education more than the average American. Middle-class parents overseas are saving U.S. dollars to send their kids to school in the U.S., treating education—rather than, say, new boats or kitchens—as their big consumer expense: “They aren’t investing in their housing and their consumables because they invest in their next generation’s education.”

Students around the world like the “Made in the U.S.” stamp on their college diplomas, Goodman said, because America is “associated with quality and merit-based admissions.” A handful of colleges—Harvard and Stanford, for example—have long had well-established reputations globally, but now, middle-class parents in countries such as China and Korea are growing savvier as they explore higher-education options. They are learning about the full range of U.S. schools, from state universities to small liberal-arts colleges, some of which might be a better fit for their kids than the Ivy Leagues. “The world,” Goodman added, “has discovered America.”

U.S. immigration law stipulates four categories of visas for foreign students and exchange visitors:

* F-1 visa for full-time students at an academic institution (e.g. college, university, or high school) or in a language training program
* M-1 visa for full-time students at a vocational or other nonacademic institution
* F-3 or M-3 visa for nationals of Canada and Mexico who commute to the United States for full- or part-time study at academic (F-3) or vocational (M-3) institutions
* J-1 visa for participants in an educational or cultural exchange program. This visa category includes college and university students as well as physicians, summer work-travel visitors, visiting professors, research and short-term scholars, teachers, and au pairs.

F-1 students are authorized for up to 12 months of Optional Practical Training (OPT) upon graduation and become eligible for another year of OPT when seeking a further postsecondary degree at a higher level. Once the OPT period ends, graduates must find an employer willing to sponsor them for a work visa (for example, an H-1B visa). However, students with a qualifying science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) degree are eligible for an OPT extension of up to 24 additional months. At the end of the extension, STEM graduates must receive a work visa to continue working legally. Spouses and children of foreign students and exchange visitors can enter the country by obtaining an F-2, M-2, or J-2 visa (depending on the visa category of the student), though they are not eligible to study or work in the United States unless they obtain their own student or work visa.

While most international students and exchange visitors return home, F-1 students may adjust their status to another visa category. These include family- and employer-sponsored categories, as well as the K-1 visa for fiancé(e)s of U.S. citizens. M-1s and J-1s may also adjust their status but must meet stricter requirements in most cases.

A resounding theme from colleges and government officials is that international students are welcomed in the U.S. Political rhetoric aside, colleges want students to know that studying in the U.S. hasn't changed. Even as some U.S. lawmakers decry OPT for allegedly taking jobs from U.S. graduates, officials stress that the program remains.

"It's a great time to come to the U.S. for education," says Kim Lovaas, director of international student services and associate director of international admission at the University of Washington. "Nothing has changed. There is a lot of rhetoric around international students in the U.S., but laws have not changed, visa requirements have not changed, schools have not changed. We're here and still very welcoming for international students."

**Ex. 9 Discuss with your partner the following questions:**

1. Why do students choose to study in the U.S.?
2. How many colleges and universities are in the U.S.?
3. Why do Chinese and Indian middle class can afford American schools?
4. What are the categories of visas for foreign students exist in the U.S.?
5. Knowing information about Russian, British and American higher education, which one do you prefer? Why?

**Ex. 10 Compare systems of higher education in the USA and in the UK by filling in the following table. Do an internet search if necessary.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **USA** | **UK** |
| length |  |  |
| cost |  |  |
| curriculum |  |  |
| knowledge |  |  |
| assessment |  |  |
| accommodation |  |  |

**Ex. 11 Write an opinion essay on the following topic: “Which do you think is the most important reason to attend college or university?”. The structure of the Opinion essay is described in Module 3.**

**Watching the video**

<https://www.ted.com/talks/shai_reshef_an_ultra_low_cost_college_degree/transcript#t-2189>

**An ultra-low-cost college degree**

**Shai Reshef, TED2014**

**Part 1 (00:00 – 03:58)**

**Before you watch**

**Ex. 1. Pay attention to the words and word combinations, find their definition if necessary:**

1. expanded
2. enhance
3. chase
4. poverty line
5. tuition
6. misery
7. imposed
8. unattainable
9. decent
10. deprived
11. demand

Keys:

1. расширенный
2. усилить
3. гнаться
4. черта бедности
5. обучение
6. страдания
7. наложенный
8. недостижимый
9. порядочный
10. лишенный
11. спрос

**Ex. 2. Discuss with your partner:**

1. Do you think it is possible to get higher education online?
2. What could be the price of such education?
3. Do you have such universities in your country? Give some examples.

**While you watch**

**Ex. 1. Watch the video again and fill in the missing words and word combinations:**

1. He has a better chance to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in a world turned upside down.
2. But Debbie doesn't have the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for higher education.
3. In large parts of the world, higher education is unattainable for an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. This is the story of countless women in Africa, for example, prevented from higher education because of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. They will take \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, they will pass it, but they still won't have access, because there are no places available.

**Part 2 (03:58 – 10:33)**

**Before you watch**

**Ex. 1. Find Russian equivalents for the following words and word combinations, check them while watching the video:**

1. доступный
2. срывать
3. изобретать велосипед
4. строительный раствор
5. вместимость
6. проректор
7. обучение с глазу на глаз
8. достаточно
9. широкополосный
10. устойчивый
11. поддержка
12. видение

**Ex. 2. Do you know what the underlined words mean? Look them up if necessary.**

1. The generosity of professors who are putting their material up free and accessible...
2. We use this sound pedagogical model to encourage our students from all over the world to interact and study together.
3. Moreover, for every nine-week course, they meet a new peer, a whole new set of students from all over the world.
4. Students take a quiz, hand in their homework, which are assessed by their peers under the supervision of the instructors.

**While you watch**

**Ex. 1. Answer following questions:**

1. What are the three most common reasons why people cannot access the universities?
2. What allows the People's University to keep tuition fees low?
3. What are the requirements for admission to this university?
4. What should students pay for when studying and how much does it cost?