**MODULE 1. STUDY & ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES**

**Unit 1. Higher Education in Russia and Abroad**

**BEFORE YOU START**

What are the advantages and disadvantages of higher education in Russia compared to foreign practices?

Does your educational institution have some international exchange programs for its students?

Why would you study abroad? Check ( ✓) your answers.

to see the world and have new experiences;

to learn about a different culture and to inform other people on my cultural conventions;

to meet different people;

to make my résumé more attractive to employers;

I do not want to study abroad;

Give other reasons for studying abroad.

**Ex. 1. Study the words and word combinations. Choose one of them, do not say which, and define them, one by one, so that your partner understands what you mean.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word / word combination** | **Transcription** | **Translation** |
| akin | [ əˈkɪn ] | родственный, похожий |
| to acquire | [ əˈkwaɪə ] | приобретать |
| to appreciate | [ əˈpriːʃɪeɪt ] | ценить |
| conducive | [ kənˈdjuːsɪv ] | благоприятный |
| a diversity | [ daɪˈvɜːsɪtɪ ] | разнообразие |
| essential | [ ɪˈsenʃəl] | существенный, жизненно важный |
| executive | [ ɪgˈzekjʊtɪv ] | исполнительный |
| an impact | [ ˈɪmpækt ] | влияние, воздействие |
| inevitable | [ ɪnˈevɪtəbl ] | неизбежный |
| interconnected | [ ˌɪntə(ː)kəˈnɛktɪd ] | взаимосвязанный |
| to internalize | [ ɪnˈtɜːnəlaɪz ] | усвоить |
| a lodging | [ ˈlɒʤɪŋ ] | проживание |
| to perceive | [ pəˈsiːv ] | воспринимать, ощущать |
| spur | [ spɜː ] | побуждать |
| stagnant | [ ˈstægnənt ] | застоявшийся |
| a stumbling | [ ˈstʌmblɪŋ ] | преткновение |
| tangential | [ tænˈʤenʃəl ] | второстепенный, касательный |

1. Akin: When something is similar to or connected to something else in some way.
2. To Acquire: It means to get or obtain something, usually through effort or buying.
3. To Appreciate: To understand and value the worth or importance of something.
4. Conducive: Something that makes a situation more suitable or favorable for a specific result.
5. A Diversity: The presence of different things, like people, cultures, ideas, or items, in a group or environment.
6. Essential: Something that's absolutely necessary or fundamental for a task or system to work properly.
7. Executive: A person in a high-ranking position in an organization, typically responsible for important decisions and managing the company.
8. An Impact: A significant and often noticeable effect or influence one thing has on another.
9. Inevitable: Something that's bound to happen and can't be avoided.
10. Interconnected: Things that are connected or linked in some way.
11. To Internalize: To understand and accept something as part of your own thinking or personality.
12. A Lodging: A place to stay temporarily, like a hotel or rented accommodation.
13. To Perceive: To become aware of or understand something through your senses or mind.
14. Spur: To stimulate or encourage something to happen, or a source of motivation.
15. Stagnant: Something that's not moving or developing, often in a negative sense.
16. A Stumbling: A moment when someone trips or makes a mistake, often due to an obstacle.
17. Tangential: Related to a topic but not directly connected or relevant to it, often just slightly connected.

**Ex. 2. Read the text and place the titles (a-h) correctly (1-7). There are two extra options.**

Becoming Bi-Cultural

Every Student Should Study Abroad

What can stop you from being a foreign student?

Not Just Finishing School

Approach it the right way

How to socialize?

When studying abroad goes wrong

Where should I look for study abroad programs?

How can I convince my parents to let me study abroad?

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Globalization is here to stay, and students who want to work in our interconnected global world should study abroad. Many people when they think of studying abroad imagine taking a semester abroad during their bachelor’s degree. While this is common, it is by no means the only way you can study abroad. In fact, you can study abroad at almost every level of your education - even if you’ve been out of school for years!

Making study abroad a part of education is the most effective and accessible means for students to develop needed skills because it pushes a student to get out of their comfort zone to experience another culture, language, environment and education system. It teaches students to appreciate difference and diversity firsthand and enables them to recognize – and then dismiss – stereotypes they may have held about people they had never met.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

But study abroad has to be done correctly. It shouldn’t be a separate or tangential part of education, but rather an integrated part of the curriculum, incorporating proper cross-cultural preparation and supportive reintegration to help students understand and internalize what they learn.

With more flexible and accessible options, the barriers posed by financial need, disabilities, race and ethnicity are crumbling. Excellent programs and inspiring role models exist for every type of student. Every parent, teacher, professor, adviser and employer should support making international experience an essential and affordable component of a well-rounded education.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

It is an adventure in self-discovery in which many students do not participate. Sometimes it’s because of sports commitments – football, for example, requires students to stay on campus. Or it’s social reasons, not wanting to leave friends behind, or school programs such as pre-med that are not conducive to leaving the country. But often, the reasons for not studying abroad are simpler.

“Many school degree programs do not offer an international component in the curriculum, and international study is not encouraged in general. The benefits that international study can bring to one’s career are not fully understood,” points out Maritheresa Frain, executive vice president of Study Abroad Programs at Council on International Educational Exchange. Frain herself has studied abroad in Salamanca, Spain, and worked abroad for 24 years in Lisbon, Portugal; Athens, Greece; Madrid, Spain; Moscow, Russia; Zug, Switzerland; and Seville, Spain, where she ran CIEE's Study Center for 13 years.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

To date, the typical view of students studying abroad is still something akin to attending a finishing school, going abroad to learn to speak French – something in which only the well-placed and wealthy are interested or indeed can afford. “Kids today need something more than just good grades,” says Frain. “You need soft skills to be competitive in the work force and land a good job.”

But perhaps the biggest stumbling block to studying in a foreign university is financial. Participating universities offer scholarships, because no matter how you look at it, studying abroad is not cheap: a year costs something like $1,000 per week in Berlin, London, Paris and Rome. For a full 18-week semester, the tab comes to some $17,000. Even though this is an all-inclusive total, including books, lodging, most meals and cultural excursions, it’s a hefty price tag.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Once you’ve decided on a general location, now it’s time to get serious about making a list of potential universities. Try a few of these options:

*(1) Education search engines*

While Google can be a good starting resource, using a more targeted resource like educations.com can help you by comparing programs and connecting with universities. This is a good starting point if you’re in the research stage. You can filter programs by country, city, school type, and category.

*(2) Rankings*

If you’re more focused on University rather than country, it may also be a good idea to check out ranking sites like THE, QS, and US News, which compile annual rankings of the top schools around the world. But take this with a grain of salt - just because a school isn’t in the top 20 doesn’t mean it doesn’t have an amazing program that’s uniquely suited to you and your interests.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Your family might be hesitant to let you study abroad. Put yourself in their shoes - they’re probably just nervous, especially if you’ve always lived nearby or if you’ve (or they) never been out of the country before. But if you build your case, you can probably convince them.

First, be prepared - they’re going to have a lot of questions and you’ll need to have answers. Make sure you know how you’re going to potentially pay for it because they’re definitely going to want to hear that. Outline the many benefits of study abroad and assure them that you’ll communicate with them often when you’re abroad. If you approach the conversation with empathy, you’re sure to have a good chance in convincing even the most protective parents.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 Most students find the year abroad difficult in one way or another, and the majority get through it and come out the other side better for the experience. But there can come a point when staying in a situation that doesn’t suit you starts to seriously impact your mental health, and in that case it’s worth checking out your options.

“If you’re unhappy in your year abroad and it’s because of the place, you are free to change your plans,” says Eleanor Fawcett, who worked with a group of other Cambridge students to create a guide to finding support during the year abroad. “I left Paris much earlier than planned and moved to Russia. The faculty supported me financially and allowed me to change my plans.”

Many universities have guidelines for what happens in this situation, but they don’t tend to be made clear to students. It’s worth emailing your course or year abroad coordinator to ask about your options for finishing a placement early or changing to a different one. As Beth Craig-Geen, who studied in Jordan, says: “Never be afraid to change your plans or make decisions to protect your mental health. Changing things isn’t a failure – it’s a success, because it shows you’re looking after yourself.”

1. b. Every Student Should Study Abroad

2. e. Approach it the right way

3. c. What can stop you from being a foreign student?

4. d. Not Just Finishing School

5. h. Where should I look for study abroad programs?

6. i. How can I convince my parents to let me study abroad?

7. g. When studying abroad goes wrong

**Ex. 3. Answer the questions:**

What is the most common reason why every student should study abroad for at least one semester?

What are different benefits of studying abroad?

What is necessary to approach this experience correctly?

What stops students from going abroad?

Do all modern universities encourage exchange programmes?

Is studying abroad expensive?

Where can you find out the opportunities of study abroad programs?

Do students always get support from their relatives?

Does the receiving educational institution provide financial support to students?

What can go wrong on a foreign academic trip and how to deal with it?

1. Every student should study abroad for at least one semester to experience another culture, language, environment, and education system, which develops important skills and promotes understanding of diversity.

2. Studying abroad offers various benefits, such as exposure to different cultures, development of soft skills, increased employability, personal growth, and broadening of perspectives.

3. Approaching the study abroad experience correctly involves integrating it into the curriculum, proper cross-cultural preparation, and supportive reintegration to internalize the learnings effectively.

4. Students may be deterred from studying abroad due to sports commitments, social reasons, incompatible school programs, or a lack of encouragement and understanding of the benefits.

5. Not all modern universities have a strong emphasis on international study components in their curriculum, leading to a lack of encouragement for students to pursue study abroad programs.

6. Studying abroad can be expensive, with costs including tuition, accommodation, meals, and cultural excursions. Scholarships and financial aid can help alleviate some of the financial burden.

7. Opportunities for study abroad programs can be found through education search engines, rankings, and targeted university websites to explore and compare programs.

8. Not all students receive full support from their relatives to study abroad, and convincing parents or guardians by presenting the benefits and addressing their concerns is important.

9. Participating universities may offer scholarships or financial aid to students to help offset the costs of studying abroad, although the availability and extent of support vary.

10. Challenges during a foreign academic trip can include mental health issues or dissatisfaction with the location. Students should be proactive in seeking support, considering changing plans, and prioritizing their well-being.

**Ex. 4. Mark the statements below TRUE (T), FALSE (F), or NOT GIVEN (NG).**

T - You don’t even need to be at the university level to study abroad.

F - In the modern world, people with experience of studying abroad do not have any professional advantages over those who obtained a degree in their country.

NG - You’ll have to figure out where studying abroad fits in the midst of your other academic commitments, like internships, co-ops, and course requirements.

T - Financial needs are behind the main obstacle on your way to gain learning experience abroad.

NG - Your parents will definitely want to know the cost of the education and how you are going to get it.

NG - Most students find three years abroad difficult.

T - Studying abroad will help you form as a person.

T - If you’re unhappy in your year abroad, you can change your plans.

**Ex. 5. Translate into English:**

1. Вы можете поехать учиться за границу не только в период учебы на бакалавриате, но даже если закончили обучение несколько лет назад.
2. Практика обучения за рубежом учит на собственном опыте уважать чужую культуру и позволяет отвергать стереотипы о представителях других стран.
3. Благодаря более гибким и доступным вариантам зарубежных стажировок, которые доступны сегодня, барьеры, создаваемые финансовыми потребностями а также расовой и этнической принадлежностью, рушатся.
4. Родители, лекторы, профессора, консультанты и работодатели должны поддерживать ваше желание приобрести опыт международного обучения как важный и доступный компонент всестороннего развития.
5. Многие вузы не используют международные возможности и не до конца осознают важность преимуществ, которые можно получить обучаясь по обмену.
6. Самый большой камень преткновения на пути к обучению в зарубежном вузе — финансовый, вот почему сегодня университеты-участники международных программ предлагают стипендии.
7. Если вы больше сосредоточены на вузе, где хотели бы пройти стажировку, а не на стране, вам можно порекомендовать ознакомиться с рейтинговыми сайтами, которые ежегодно составляют списки лучших школ по всему миру.
8. Если ваши родственники сомневаются в правильности вашего решения учиться за рубежом, объясните им все преимущества этого и пообещайте постоянно оставаться на связи.
9. Если же дискомфорт от пребывания на учебе за границей негативно влияет на ваше психическое здоровье, то стоит отправить электронное письмо координатору курса, чтобы узнать о вариантах досрочного окончания стажировки.
10. Многие студенты так или иначе сталкиваются с трудностями во время пребывания в другой стране, но справляются с этим и выходят на новый уровень развития.
    1. You can go to study abroad not only during your undergraduate studies, but even if you have finished your studies a few years ago.
    2. The practice of studying abroad teaches respect for the culture of others by learning from experience and rejects stereotypes about the representatives of other countries.
    3. With the more flexible and accessible options for overseas internships that are available today, the barriers created by financial needs and racial and ethnic affiliation are crumbling.
    4. Parents, lecturers, professors, consultants and employers should support your desire to gain experience of international learning as an important and affordable component of comprehensive development.
    5. Many universities do not use international opportunities and do not fully realize the importance of the benefits that can be gained by learning to exchange.
    6. The biggest stumbling block on the way to study in a foreign university - financial, which is why today universities participating international programs offer scholarships.
    7. If you are more focused on the university where you would like to do the internship, rather than on the country, you can be recommended to get acquainted with the rating sites that annually make lists of the best schools around the world.
    8. If your relatives doubt the correctness of your decision to study abroad, explain to them all the advantages of this and promise to stay in touch.
    9. If the discomfort from studying abroad negatively affects your mental health, you should send an email to the coordinator of the course to learn about the options for early termination of the internship.
    10. Many students encounter difficulties during their stay in another country, but cope with it and reach a new level of development.

**Ex. 6. Define the following words, give their synonyms:**

1. Curriculum - syllabus
2. Akin - similar
3. Firsthand - personally
4. Dismiss - discard
5. Hefty - heavy
6. Rankings - rating

**Ex. 7. Discuss with a partner what the advantages of being able to speak foreign language (English, Arabic, German, Spanish, Chinese) are.**

I think the main advantage in learning English is that it is known almost all over the world. In any country, you can talk on it, and you will understand. Also, if we talk about work in it, English is also very important, because most of the software, documentation, scientific articles are written in English.

**Then, read the students’ stories and say if some of the benefits you have found are mentioned there:**

**Delaney Morgan**

**Al-Ahliyya Amman University, Jordan, summer 2019**

"Studying abroad in Amman, Jordan was a life changing experience. Every day was a new adventure that was completely different from my life at home. While I was there, I studied US Foreign Policy in the Middle East, History of the Arab World, and was tutored for Arabic. People often ask me what my favorite memory from abroad was, but that is so hard to answer because there are so many! However, riding camels in the Wadi Rum desert and camping out, an excursion to Petra, and getting the opportunity to visit with Syrian refugees are at the top of my ‘favorites list’. The environment was completely different from anything I had ever experienced, which is why I loved it so much. Jordan is a third world country, and because of this I was able to learn so much and get more out of my study abroad experience by being immersed in such a unique culture. Of course, because it was the Middle East, there were challenges and cultural norms I had to adapt to, though everyone from Jordan was exceptionally understanding and welcoming. I studied through International Studies Abroad (ISA), and they were incredibly helpful and made the process less stressful and overwhelming. My recommendation for people studying abroad is to go to a country that is completely different from any culture you have experienced before and to stay as long as you can. Studying abroad gave me a new outlook and perception on life and other cultures around me. I hope everyone gets the opportunity to experience a unique education abroad experience, too."

**Kelsey Scofield**

University of Canberra, Australia, spring 2018

"I am so fortunate to have had the experience to study abroad in Australia. My semester abroad has by far been the best semester of my three years in college. Going into the semester, I really had no idea what I was getting myself into. I think I picked the farthest place away from home so you can only imagine my nerves. Luckily my time there exceeded any expectations I could have had. Australians have a very relaxed and welcoming culture, making it very easy to get accustomed and meet the locals. I quickly made relationships with them, as well as people from all over the world. They freely invited me and other Americans back to see their hometowns and took us to some of their favorite places. I was astounded by the generosity and kindness of their people and that is what made my experience so amazing. Having that time away from home also allowed me to grow as an individual. I learned that developing strong relationships with people is one of the most important and rewarding things in life. I came with just a suitcase, and left with some of my best friends."

**Jackson Thomas**

Deutsch in Deutschland Institute, Berlin, Germany, spring 2022

"Coming to UNL as a freshman music student, I never thought that I would study abroad. However, after being exposed to the Deutsch in Deutschland program and seeing how incredibly doable it was and how it could fit into my life, major, and pocketbook, I took the plunge and opted for a semester in Berlin, Germany. And let me tell you, the only thing I regret is the hesitation I had about signing up in the first place! This program allowed me to live in a huge, metropolitan city and study at Deutsch in Deutschland, a renowned language institute, right in the heart of it all. Being a language-based program, most of my studies were learning German with other students from all around the world. Of course I learned a lot from studying abroad, including becoming fluent in a language, but how I grew as a person was an even larger gain. It allowed me to uncover hidden courage and realize aspects of myself that I never thought I possessed. To this day I still find new ways in which I've grown through my experiences abroad and even though it was probably the hardest thing I have ever done, I can honestly say it was the best thing I have ever done. One of my favorite parts of the trip was being able to interact with my host family that spoke absolutely no English. Although it was a challenge, overcoming that barrier led to relationships and experiences that I will have forever and I can't wait to go back and visit! How important my time abroad was to me is something that I cannot express enough. It was truly an experience of a lifetime."

**Lexa Black**

**Antonio de Nebraija University, Madrid, Spain, Spring 2019**

"I lived with a host family in Madrid, Spain. Neither of my Spanish parents knew how to speak English at all, so it was very difficult at the beginning. But as I grew more accustomed to their way of life and to only speaking in Spanish, we became very close. My host mom, Concha, was a former chef and owner of her own restaurant. I was very lucky to have the opportunity to try a variety of traditional Spanish dishes. Since I studied abroad for a full semester, I had more opportunities to travel. A group of friends and I traveled to Venice, Florence, and Rome for 5 days. While in Rome, we visited the Trevi fountain. It is said that if you stand with your back to the fountain and throw a coin over your shoulder while making a wish, that wish will come true. My wish was to have a positive study abroad experience that I would never forget. Without a doubt that wish came true and I would do it all over again if I had the chance. I studied abroad in Madrid, Spain with International Studies Abroad (ISA), which is program provider.  Through ISA, we went on excursions all throughout the country including Granada, Salamanca, Segovia, and Toledo. Through these excursions, I was able to see different parts of the country and experience many of the different cultures that are represented throughout Spain."

**Mei Snow**

**Fudan University, Shanghai, China, Summer 2019**

“Studying in Shanghai was my first time studying abroad. I have traveled around but not for more than a week or two so living there, I had a lot of worries at the beginning. From the entire application process, I probably emailed 100 times just to ease my stress and TEAN (program provider) was amazing at responding to emails and making sure I had all the information I needed and more. Once I got to Shanghai, I had an amazing time. TEAN orientation was great at really letting us students bond before classes started. I love my Shanghai group, everyone was absolutely amazing and they became some of my best friends.

Shanghai is amazing for everything you could think of. There are older parts if you like history, there are bars and clubs if you like nightlife, there are cafes and restaurants for every type of food and dessert you could want (even vegan/vegetarian/halal)!

During our time we were given a lot of cultural immersion opportunities provided through the program free of charge such as a trip to Chengdu and Beijing and various local experiences within the city. Throughout my time I was able to gain a true insight into how it is like to be a student in China. I was able to make a lot of lifetime friends because of this program and I wish I could go back and start over again!

10/10 you should go, and trust TEAN will take care of anything you could possibly need. They are amazing resources and friends.”

**Ex. 8. Discuss with your classmates the following questions:**

1. **What is common in all these stories?**

All stories are about students' study abroad experiences, emphasizing personal growth, cultural immersion, and positive outcomes.

1. **Do all the students recommend studying abroad and why?**

Yes, all students recommend studying abroad because they highlight cultural enrichment, personal development, language skills, and a broader global perspective as the reasons for their positive experiences.

1. **Classify benefits mentioned by them.**

Benefits mentioned include cultural enrichment, personal development, language skills, a global perspective, building relationships, gaining education, and experiencing adventure.

1. **Figure out possible drawbacks of studying in the countries described in the stories.**

While not explicitly mentioned, possible drawbacks could include financial costs, homesickness, language barriers, academic challenges, cultural differences, and distance from home.

1. **Find similar more recent stories and share them with your groupmates.**

To find recent stories, explore websites, blogs, and social media platforms where students share their study abroad experiences. Look on online forums, university websites, and study abroad program provider sites for more up-to-date perspectives.

**Ex. 9. Give Russian equivalents for:**

1. Refugee - Беженец

2. To Immerse - Погружаться

3. Overwhelming - Подавляющий

4. Outlook - Взгляд

5. Perception - Восприятие

6. Locals - Местные жители

7. To Astound - Удивлять

8. A Freshman - Первокурсник

9. To Plunge - Погружаться

10. To Opt - Решиться, выбирать

11. Renowned - Известный, признанный

12. To Gain - Получать, приобретать

13. To Get Accustomed - Привыкать

14. Astounded - Удивленный

15. Generosity - Щедрость

16. To Plunge - Погружаться

17. Hesitation - Колебание

18. A Former Chef - Бывший повар

19. Cultural Immersion Opportunities - Возможности культурной иммерсии

20. A Variety of Traditional Dishes - Разнообразие традиционных блюд

21. A Metropolitan City - Мегаполис

22. A Language-Based Program - Программа, ориентированная на языковое обучение

23. To Throw a Coin Over Your Shoulder - Бросать монету через плечо

24. At the Heart of It All - В самом центре всего этого

**Ex. 10. Discuss with your partner:**

**Do you have experience studying abroad? How was that?**

Yes, I have a little experience of studying abroad. In 10th grade I went to the Czech Republic to an educational camp where we studied English. Unfortunately, it was not possible to learn English there, but I received a huge amount of emotions from independent life in another country.

**What country do you want to study in? Why?**

It’s hard to answer this question because I like to study in Russia and I haven’t thought about studying in other countries. Perhaps if there were any suggestion, I would try, but now many countries have closed their doors to the inhabitants of Russia.

**What culture do you want to learn closer?**

In fact, I didn’t think about it either, because there are so many things in Russia that I would like to learn more about our culture.

**Ex. 11. Read the following quotations. Say which sayings sound optimistic. Comment on the idea of each saying. Find other quotations about education and present them.**

*The modern world belongs to the half-educated, a rather difficult class, because they do not realize how little they know.*

*William R. Inge*

*The foundation of every state is the education of its youth.*

*Diogenes Laertius*

*I think education is power. I think that being able to communicate with people is power. One of my main goals on the planet is to encourage people to empower themselves.*

*Oprah Winfrey*

*Graduation is only a concept. In real life every day you graduate. Graduation is a process that goes on until the last day of your life. If you can grasp that, you’ll make a difference.*

*Arie Pencovici*

*Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.*

*Mahatma Gandhi*

**Optimistic Sayings:**

**1. "Graduation is only a concept. In real life every day you graduate. Graduation is a process that goes on until the last day of your life. If you can grasp that, you’ll make a difference." - Arie Pencovici**

**- Comment: This saying is optimistic as it emphasizes that learning and personal growth continue throughout life. It encourages individuals to see each day as an opportunity for growth and self-improvement.**

**2. "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." - Mahatma Gandhi**

**- Comment: This saying is highly optimistic as it promotes the idea that learning is a lifelong journey. It encourages people to live life to the fullest while continuously seeking knowledge and personal development.**

**Ex. 12. Learn the principle of writing For & Against essays and create your own on the following topic: “Do the benefits of study abroad justify the difficulties?”**

In this type of essay the main task is to consider the two existing points of view. It is important to evaluate both positions objectively and express your understanding of each side.

Structure:

Introduction (it is important to outline the topic to be discussed without expressing your own opinion).

Main part (it is important to express your opinion about the problem, give examples and evidence).

Conclusion (in this section you summarize all of the above. Remember that in this type of essay, you should not make a specific conclusion, you can only distribute all the arguments in two bowls of weight).

**Tips for writing**

Start each paragraph with a word or phrase so the reader knows what to expect, for example *Firstly, On the other hand or To sum up,*

Link your sentence with these words.

Organise your essay in paragraphs.

*paragraph 1 - introduction*

*paragraph 2 - arguments for the subject*

*paragraph 3 -arguments against the subject*

*paragraph 4 - conclusion*

*Important!* The words *I think, I believe*, *In my opinion, etc*. may be used only in the conclusion, where you express your position.

**Title: Do the Benefits of Study Abroad Justify the Difficulties?**

Introduction:

Studying abroad is a dream for many students, offering a unique opportunity for personal and academic growth. However, the decision to study abroad is not without its challenges and difficulties. In this essay, we will explore both sides of the debate: the benefits of studying abroad and the difficulties it entails, without expressing a specific conclusion.

Main Part:

Arguments for the Benefits of Study Abroad:

Firstly, studying abroad provides an unparalleled opportunity for cultural enrichment. Immersing oneself in a foreign culture, language, and way of life broadens horizons and fosters a deeper understanding of the world. This exposure can lead to increased tolerance and a more global perspective.

On the other hand, studying abroad enhances personal development. Being in an unfamiliar environment fosters self-reliance, adaptability, and problem-solving skills. Students often discover hidden strengths and facets of their personality, which contribute to their personal growth.

Moreover, language acquisition is a significant benefit. Learning and using a foreign language on a daily basis leads to a higher level of proficiency and opens doors to international career opportunities.

Additionally, studying abroad can offer unique academic opportunities. Students can access courses and subjects that may not be available in their home country, gaining a diverse educational experience.

Arguments Against the Difficulties of Study Abroad:

On the flip side, studying abroad comes with financial costs that can be prohibitive for many. Tuition fees, living expenses, and travel costs can create significant financial burdens, potentially limiting access to this opportunity.

Furthermore, homesickness is a common challenge faced by students abroad. Being away from family and friends, especially in an unfamiliar environment, can lead to feelings of isolation and loneliness, impacting mental well-being.

Language barriers, although beneficial for language acquisition, can be a source of frustration and initial communication difficulties. Academic challenges may also arise due to differences in educational systems and teaching styles.

Cultural differences can lead to culture shock, causing discomfort and misunderstandings. Adapting to a new cultural norm can be challenging and overwhelming.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the benefits of studying abroad, including cultural enrichment, personal growth, language acquisition, and academic opportunities, are undeniably valuable. However, these advantages must be weighed against the difficulties, such as financial costs, homesickness, language barriers, academic challenges, and cultural adjustments. The decision to study abroad is a personal one, and individuals must carefully consider both sides of the argument to determine if the benefits justify the difficulties for their unique circumstances.

**Watching the video**

[**Why study abroad**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P1Zha2CrJZ0)

**Marina Meijer, TEDxDelftSalon**

**Part 1 (00:00 – 06:46)**

**BEFORE YOU WATCH**

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

Immerse yourself in the culture and challenge your believe system.

Open your mind to new ideas and influences.

Instead of using your studies as an excuse to remove yourself from the world, go out and learn through experience.

Studying abroad can be such a valuable experience, but only if you put in the effort.

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

Why do you think it is necessary to study abroad? What experience can this give?

Is it possible to find new friends for the whole life while being abroad?

Studying abroad is necessary for the valuable experiences it offers, such as cultural immersion, language skills, personal growth, and academic opportunities. Yes, it is possible to make lifelong friends while studying abroad due to shared experiences and strong bonds formed in a foreign environment.

**WHILE YOU WATCH**

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

**Who are Marina’s parents?**

Her parents worked and studied abroad, and met in Hong Kong. Her father worked in Asia, and her mother attended school in Hong Kong.

**What countries did she live in?**

Marina was born in the Netherlands and currently lives in Texas.

**What countries did she study in?**

Marina graduated from high school in the Netherlands, and attended university in Texas, before moving to Korea.

**Why did she decide to move to the U.S.?**

Marina wanted to do more and moved to the United States to attend graduate school.

**Where did she meet her future husband?**

Marina met her husband in Tunisia.

**Describe her Korean experience.**

In Korea, Marina felt uncomfortable, as she was asked a lot of questions about her country. Also, Marina could not achieve what she wanted in this country, so she decided to move.

**Part 2 (06:46 – 11:43)**

**BEFORE YOU WATCH**

**Ex. 1. Find Russian equivalents for the following words and word combinations:**

1. No guts – no glory - Без риска нет победы

2. immerse - погружаться

3. background - фон, контекст

4. international students - международные студенты

5. confront - сталкиваться, противостоять

6. embarrassed - смущенный, неловкий

7. freckles - веснушки

8. the food chain - пищевая цепь

9. diving into life - погружение в жизнь

10. shaping yourself as a person - формирование себя как личности

**Ex. 2. Read the tips Marina shares with the students, then listen to this part of the video again and give your comments on it:**

Getting experiences and diving into adventures

Make new friends with different backgrounds

Follow your heart and do what is right for you

**WHILE YOU WATCH**

**Ex. 1. Mark the following statements TRUE (T) or FALSE (F):**

T - Marina argues studying abroad is important.

T - She works to encourage students to study abroad.

F - People who study abroad meet their significant other during that time and the consequences of starting an international family.

F - Studying abroad is not about growing up as a person, it is about study.

T - You should try to go beyond your comfort zone.