

## STUDY – The university of life

### TRANSCRIPT

I'm not even sure if **it's worth it for** a lot of people to go to university now. You spend so much money **and** then when you **graduate**, there's **no guarantee of a job** at the end of it. It's a great experience though...I'm really glad I went. To be honest, it wasn't easy for me to get into university. I didn't have great grades at school, **so** when I **applied for university**, I didn't have any offers **because** my **predicted grades** weren't very good. Luckily though, when I finished my exams, **my grades were better than expected**, **but** what I had to do was **go through a system** we call **'clearing'**. I just had to **pick up the phone** **and** ring all the different universities **and** see which courses were available.

It's very expensive though **and** a lot of students **go into debt** when they go to university. In the UK, you can **get a student loan**, **but** when you start working **and** when you **start earning** a certain amount of money, you've got to start **paying back that loan**, **so** you could find yourself **paying off your loan** for years to come **and** you **have that debt hanging over you** for years. In recent years, the **university fees have gone up** **and** there just aren't many jobs when you **graduate** now. If you come from a **low-income family**, you can **apply to get a grant** **and** that can help you to **pay for your university fees**.

A lot of students now **take a year off**, either before university **or** after they finish **and** students do different things, I mean, you can **go travelling** in your **year off** **or** you could work. The work experience is obviously really useful **and** this can help you to decide what you want to do at university, **but** also the experience of travelling around the world **or** maybe **volunteering** in a different country **or** studying in a different country, learning a different language, this is also great to help you at university **or** at least to help you decide what you want to do with your life.

I had a great time at university. It was a great experience. I still remember now all the parties during **Freshers' Week**. I had a great time, meeting different people, **but** after the first term **and** all the work started to **pile up**, I **had a very heavy workload** **and** I found it quite hard to **keep up with** all the work, **so** I got very **stressed out** **and** I didn't know if my course was what I wanted to do, **so** I thought about **dropping out**. I nearly did **drop out**, **but** **looking back** now I'm glad I **stuck with** my degree. I enjoyed it. It was very interesting, very useful **and** I made loads of great friends who are still my friends today; however, there's **no substitute for** real-life experience, which is what you get really when you start working.

## VOCABULARY

**it's worth it** – there is a good reason for doing it

**graduate** – leave university with a degree

**predicted grades** – the marks your teachers think you will get in your final exams

**better than expected** – better than people thought before

**go into debt** – spend money you don't have, owe money to someone else

**get a student loan** – borrow money at a low interest rate only for students

**start earning** – begin paid work

**pay back/off a loan** – give money to the person you borrowed from to lower the debt

**have a debt hanging over you** – have the same debt for years that you can't pay back and this makes you very worried

**university fees** – the money you have to pay to study at university

**low-income family** – a family that doesn't make much money

**apply for a grant** – see if you qualify for government money to help you study

**take a year off** – have a break from studying to do something else

**volunteer** – offer to work for no money to help other people

**Freshers' Week** – first week at university for first-year students

**pile up** – increase, turn into a large amount

**a heavy workload** – a large volume of work to do

**keep up with** – maintain the same level or speed as everyone else

**drop out** – leave your university course before completing it

**look back** – remembering something in the past

**stick with something** – continue until the end without giving up

**substitute** – replacement, something that can take its place

## GRAMMAR

### Conjunctions

use **conjunctions** to connect clauses in order to build sentences

*university fees have gone up **and** there aren't many jobs*  
(joining two words or clauses)

*my predicted grades were bad, **but** my final grades were much better*  
(contrasting two different points)

*I didn't have any offers, **because** my predicted grades were bad*  
(giving a reason)

*there was a lot of work, **so** I got stressed out*  
(giving a consequence)

*you could get a job **or** you could go travelling*  
(presenting alternatives)