

## University life

### 1 Work with a partner. Read the information and then answer the questions.

- 1 Approximately how many students are there in higher education in the world today?
- 2 Why do you think more students will choose to study abroad in the future?
- 3 Do you know how many students in your country attend higher education?
- 4 Is higher education free in your country, or do you pay to attend university?

## HIGHER EDUCATION

- The number of students around the globe in higher education is predicted to be more than double 262 million by 2025, with more than half of students coming from China and India alone.
- The number of students who choose to study abroad could increase to eight million by 2025, which is three times more than today.
- In countries like France and Brazil, tuition fees are very low or sometimes there are no tuition fees for students in higher education.
- The most expensive countries in which to attend university are Australia, Singapore and the US.



### 2a Read about university life for three students. Who is currently studying in another country?

## UNIVERSITY LIFE



### University of Bristol (UK)

- 16,497 students
- one of the UK's most popular and successful universities
- ranked in world's Top 40 universities by QS World University Rankings
- one of the UK's most targeted universities by top employers
- Bristol city life recently voted best in the UK in nationwide survey of 20,000 students

This year, I'm applying to Bristol to do a BA in Drama and English Literature because the university has an excellent English department. It's a three-year course and you must have good grades in at least three A levels to apply. I've already sent in my application form, and I should receive an invitation to attend an Open Day once it's been assessed. This is an opportunity to meet with staff and undergraduates, and to find out more about the course. But I won't know if I get a place until after my exams in the summer. If I do well, I'll hopefully be accepted. Fingers crossed!

– Kate, Liverpool (UK)



I'm an overseas student in my first year at NUS. I chose to study here because the university has such a good reputation. My degree is in Engineering and I had to pass my Vietnam National High School Graduation Examination in Maths, Physics and Chemistry to apply. But the admissions process isn't as simple as that! Luckily, my grades were very good so I could then sit the University Entrance Examination. This involved further exams in each of my high school subjects to assess my suitability for the course. It was also compulsory to sit an exam in English to test if my level was good enough. I passed everything with flying colours! And so here I am, proud to be a student at one of the world's leading universities.

– Vinh, Hanoi (Vietnam)



### National University of Singapore

- 38,000 students from over 100 countries
- leading global university in strategic location at heart of Asia
- consistently ranked number 1 in Asia and among leading universities in the world
- excellent choice of courses designed to prepare students for a lifetime of successful careers
- vibrant campus life with modern student residences and first-rate learning facilities



I'm a third-year student at the University of Cantabria in Santander reading Economics and Business Studies, but I'm spending this year on a study abroad programme at Princeton. My university has an exchange agreement with several universities worldwide, but I chose Princeton to experience a year in the US and because it's a really prestigious institution. To enrol, you must be nominated by your home university to participate in the exchange. If accepted, you have to provide lots of official documents, including proof of English language ability and a 500-word statement about why you think you're suitable to study at Princeton. You'd also better not forget to apply for your student visa, it's obligatory for spending time in the US!

– Lucas, Bilbao (Spain)



### Princetown University (US)

- 8,000 students, 12% of whom are international
- world-class academic institution renowned for its research centre
- ranked 11<sup>th</sup> in world by QS World University Rankings
- prepares students to follow meaningful lives and address challenges of the future
- once voted most beautiful campus in US; located just one hour from New York and Philadelphia

**2b Read the information again and choose the best answers to complete the sentences.**

- 1 British employers consistently target the University of Bristol
  - a for future employees.
  - b for its international students.
- 2 Part of the admissions process at Bristol requires
  - a sitting a University Entrance Exam.
  - b A levels in three subjects.
- 3 NUS is considered a global university because
  - a it has a high number of students.
  - b it has students from all over the world.
- 4 To study at NUS, you must pass your high school exams,
  - a sit an entrance exam and speak English.
  - b sit an entrance exam and provide a statement.
- 5 Princeton is a prestigious American university famous for
  - a its research centre.
  - b its study abroad programme.
- 6 Princeton accepts overseas exchange students who
  - a speak English and have the right suitability.
  - b speak English and want to experience life in the US.

**2c Which of the students might say these things? Read and write Kate, Vinh or Lucas.**

- 1 I'm a full-time student spending a year at another university. ....
- 2 If I don't pass my high school exams, I won't get my university place. ....
- 3 I wouldn't have got my university place if I hadn't passed the entrance exams. ....
- 4 I don't have to have a student visa because I'm not going to study abroad. ....
- 5 I'm a full-time international student. ....
- 6 You can't apply for the programme if you aren't chosen by your current university. ....
- 7 I really want to go to this university because it offers the course I want to do and loads of other students say it's a great city to live in. ....
- 8 It wasn't easy to get in, but sitting all those exams was worth it! ....

**Speaking**

**3a Work with a partner and discuss the questions.**

- 1 Do many students go to university in your country when they finish school? Why/Why not?
- 2 What are the entry requirements for university in your country?
- 3 If you are planning on going to university, which course interests you and where would you like to study?
- 4 Do you think it's important to go to university? Why?/Why not?

**PROJECT**

**3b You are going to work on a presentation about going to university. Choose a university that interests you in your country and one that you might consider going to in another country. Read the questions and prepare your project research.**

- 1 Work individually and do some research on the Internet to find out the following information about your chosen universities:
  - some interesting facts and figures about the university
  - the entry requirements for the university
  - which courses or departments the university is known for
  - the number of international students and opportunities to study abroad
  - the number of students who get good jobs after graduation
  - any other information you think is interesting.
- 2 Think about how best to present your information. It could be a video message or a PowerPoint presentation, for example.

**3c Compile your information into a presentation and prepare to talk about it or present it to the rest of the class. Your presentation should be around three minutes long.**