



WATCH & LEARN: NEWS & CURRENT AFFAIRS:
EDUCATION: HIGHER EDUCATION IN EUROPE
US STUDENTS HEAD TO GERMANY (3:05)
VIDEO Script & Vocabulary (v1141/page 1 of 2)

INTERMEDIATE (B1 - B2) AND ABOVE

- ◊ Read the script and note new vocabulary
- ◊ Write three sentences using new vocabulary
- ◊ Prepare for the discussion questions

Starting Off

While the cost of college education in the US has reached record highs, Germany has abandoned tuition fees altogether for German and international students alike.

- 1 Read the **Video Script** below. The words in **bold** are defined in the **Vocabulary** section. Look up any new words in a dictionary.
- 2 Go to the **Your Turn** section at the end of this document. Practice using new words and expressions from the video script to prepare for your next class.
- 3 Look at the **Discussion Questions** and prepare your responses for the next class.

Discussion Questions:

- ◊ Are you familiar with the tuition system for higher education (college & university programs) in the United States?
- ◊ What are some of the ways in which the European system of higher education generally differs from that of the US?
- ◊ What are some of the benefits of European universities attracting foreign students from around the world, many of whom may choose to stay in Europe for some time after they graduate?

Video Script:

Narrator: In a **suburb** of New Jersey, Anna Moss is getting her papers **in order**. After receiving a **bachelor's degree** in the US, she decided to do her master's in Germany and save a lot of money.



Anna Moss: Initially I was kind of **thrown off** because I saw that there wasn't any **tuition** for any of the universities and I thought maybe there's a **catch** cuz (because) I'm American and I always think that.

Narrator: Universities are free of charge in Germany for German citizens and for everyone else. Thousands of Americans have **heard the call** and have **enrolled overseas**.

University Professor: So what if I make it an infinite sum?

Narrator: Hunter Polis made the move last Fall at first because the 19-year-old from South Carolina had never even been outside the US.

Hunter, Freshman in Munich: I had heard things like I'd be able to drink, I'd have healthcare, I would get education which is great. My main motivation of course was saving money.

Narrator: There's about 30 or so students sitting inside listening **intently** to this **lecture** being held in English. That's important because if the university president has his wish, within five years every graduate program at this university will not just be offered in English, but English in *exclusively*.

Hunter's Mom (on video call): How's everything going?

Hunter: Uhhhhh...pretty good.

Narrator: **In the meantime**, Hunter's mother is **glad** she can finance his education and living expenses without having to take on any **loans**.

Hunter: Each month costs about six hundred euro to live here - my room, train tickets, school, gym, food, phone, healthcare.

Video Script continued on next page...

Vocabulary:

- **suburb** - an outlying district of a city, especially a residential one
- **get (something) in order** - organize
- **bachelor's degree** - (US) a four-year undergraduate degree.
- **throw off** - confuse someone
- **tuition** - a sum of money charged for teaching by a college or university
- **catch** - a hidden problem or disadvantage in an apparently ideal situation
- **hear the call** - become interested in doing something, such as a particular profession, as a result of learning details of it
- **enrolled** - officially register as a member of an institution or a student on a course
- **overseas** - in or to a foreign country, especially one across the sea
- **intently** - with earnest and eager attention
- **lecture** - an educational talk to an audience
- **in the meantime** - during the time before something happens or before a specified period ends
- **glad** - feeling pleasure or happiness
- **loans** - a thing that is borrowed, especially a sum of money that is expected to be paid back with interest

Vocabulary continued on next page...





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Video Script continued...

Narrator: But how long can it last? The president of Hunter's university says it's almost **inevitable** that foreigners will have to pay in the future.

President of Hunter's university in Munich: If we ignore the question of how to finance an outstanding university in the future, we will not continue having outstanding universities in Germany.

Narrator: But in the capital, Berlin, the top destination for US students, politicians **insist** that college education should be **a right** and not a privilege and experts say there's an economic benefit for Germany too. If 40% of graduates stay in the country for five years, Germany **recovers** its costs.

German politician: Keeping international students who have studied in the country is the ideal way of immigration because they have certificates which are needed, they don't have a language problem at the end of their stay and they know the culture. Kathryn is one of those already **paying back into** the system. After finishing her master's degree last year she's still in Berlin living in a **hip** neighborhood and working for a German **startup** association.

Kathryn: I still could have gone but, I don't know, there's some sort of comfort here. There's so many young people all thinking and believing that Berlin is this sort of dream world where anything is possible after you graduate.

Narrator: For a country **worried** about an aging population, not charging young, foreign talent could prove to be a smart, long-term strategy.

Fran Strasser, BBC News Germany

Vocabulary continued...

- **inevitable** - certain to happen
- **insist** - state positively and assertively
- **a right** - a moral or legal entitlement to have or do something
- **recover** - regain or secure (money spent or lost or compensation)
- **pay back into** - return money or a service to a fund or general economy that had been borrowed or given
- **hip** - very fashionable
- **startup** - a newly established business
- **worry** - feel or cause to feel anxious or troubled about actual or potential problems

Your Turn! Using new vocabulary is the best way to learn and remember it.

1 Choose three words or expressions from the video that are new to you and write a sentence using each one in the box below.

2 Try to use them in a context that is familiar to you to help you retain them.

3 Please ask for feedback on your sentences in the next lesson.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____
