

UNIVERSITIES

■ 2 The Renaissance and the Puritan Age

Before watching

1 Video vocabulary. Match the word on the left with the definition on the right.

1. graduate (noun) ☐ a) this is a smaller part of the larger university structure
2. graduate (verb) ☐ b) this is where students study but also eat and have entertainment
3. degree ☐ c) this refers to someone who has a first level university qualification
4. college ☐ d) this is the qualification you have when you finish university
5. campus ☐ e) this means that you finish your university course and pass the final exams
6. PhD ☐ f) the specific area you choose to study, for example Maths, French
7. manuscript ☐ g) this refers to someone who has a Doctor of Philosophy qualification
8. module ☐ h) this is the activity where a university teacher helps a student with some work
9. supervise ☐ i) money given by the government to help students with the cost of their studies
10. funding ☐ j) an original piece of written work
11. subject ☐ k) a group of lessons that are part of a course

2 Vocabulary practice. Use some of the words from exercise 1 to complete the following text.

In the UK, around 60% of students go to university. They study for 3 years and at the end are awarded a (1) and most students (2) when they are 21. Most students live on (3) in their first year where they can find all kinds of services and facilities. If they decide to continue studying, most graduates will go on and do a Masters and then a PhD, where a university professor will (4) them as they write their thesis. Many PhD (5) are published and become academic books.

3 Briefly talk about universities with your partner. Discuss the following questions.

1. What are the most important / famous universities in Italy?
2. Are any universities specialized in or well known for a particular subject?
3. Do you know anything about universities in Britain and Ireland?

4 Try this simple quiz to check how much you know about UK universities in general. (Don't worry, if you're not sure about the answers, just guess!)

1. The University of Oxford is the UK's oldest university. On what university was it originally modelled?
 - ☐ a) University of Salerno
 - ☐ b) University of Heidelberg
 - ☐ c) University of Paris
 - ☐ d) University of Bologna
2. After Oxford and Cambridge, what was the next university founded in the UK?
 - ☐ a) University of St Andrews
 - ☐ b) University of Wales
 - ☐ c) University College, London
 - ☐ d) University of Glasgow
3. Which university was the first in the UK to admit women students?
 - ☐ a) University of Birmingham
 - ☐ b) University College London
 - ☐ c) University of Cambridge
 - ☐ d) University of Sheffield

4. When was the oldest college in Cambridge founded?
☐ a) 1184
☐ b) 1484
☐ c) 1284
☐ d) 1384
5. When someone graduates with a first degree from a British university, what letters can they use after their name?
☐ a) PhD
☐ b) Prof
☐ c) Doc
☐ d) BA or BSc

While watching

5 Listen to the first part of the video (from 00.00 to 01.10) and choose the correct answer to the following questions.

1. How old is the library in Trinity College Dublin?
☐ a) Over 100 years old
☐ b) Over 300 years old
☐ c) Over 500 years old
2. How many books and journals are there in the Trinity College library?
☐ a) six million
☐ b) seven million
☐ c) seventeen million
3. How many students are there in Trinity College?
☐ a) About 7,000
☐ b) About 17,000
☐ c) About 70,000
4. How many faculties does the university have?
☐ a) 3
☐ b) 4
☐ c) 5
5. Which two famous writers are mentioned as being Trinity College students?
☐ a) Samuel Beckett and Jonathan Swift
☐ b) Samuel Beckett and Charles Dickens
☐ c) Charles Dickens and Jonathan Swift
6. Where is the Trinity College campus located?
☐ a) In the countryside
☐ b) In the city centre
☐ c) In the suburbs

6 Now watch the next section from 01.10 to 01.43 and mark the statements true or false.

T F

1. Oxford University is bigger than Trinity College in terms of student numbers. ☐ ☐
2. There are 20 different colleges in Oxford. ☐ ☐
3. There is one large central campus in Oxford. ☐ ☐
4. Most students travel around by car. ☐ ☐

7 Watch the first speaker from 01.44 to 02.10 and tick the reasons why the student chose Oxford for his PhD.

- ☐ 1. He also did his Master's at Oxford.
☐ 2. His parents studied at Oxford.
☐ 3. He found the modules on his course interesting.
☐ 4. He had a very good professor.
☐ 5. He gets good funding for his PhD.
☐ 6. He really likes Oxford as a place.

8 Watch the clip from 02.11 to 02.29.

1. Circle the words in the box that the student uses to describe Oxford.

beautiful buildings • crowded • noisy •
 surreal • nice atmosphere • expensive

2. In this section he says that the 'buildings are like cardboard cut-outs and you have the feeling that if you lean on them they'll tip over'. Do you think he means that:
☐ a) the buildings are modern and solid?
☐ b) the buildings are very old and seem unstable?

9 Now watch the second speaker from 02.30 to 02.57 and complete the summary of what she says.

She's just finished a BA in (1) literature. She finds university really (2) because the environment is nice and supportive. Everybody is there because they really (3) the subject they're doing and you get to be around people who are clever, bright and (4) and can make you think of things in (5) that you haven't before.