

CultureTalk Bosnia and Herzegovina Video Transcripts:  
<http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>  
**On Being a University Student**

**Bosnian transcript in Latin:**

Pa mislim da je teško biti student kod nas, zato što studij još uvijek nije koncipiran prema potrebama studenata. On je nekako koncipiran po nekim čudnim, nepoznatim, nedokučivim pravilima. Naime, čak pristup na razne prostore ovdje na fakultetu je ograničen. Meni od mog prvog dana, od mojih studentskih dana, smeta što se sve zaključava. Znači, trebale bi postojati prostorije gdje bar ovi stariji studenti imaju slobodan pristup, da mogu da koriste literaturu, da... Sve ovdje nekako ide po neakvim procedurama koje otežavaju studij. Da ne govorimo da čak recimo ni studentski servis, studentska služba, nije koncipirana tako da oni jednostavno prijavljuju svoje ispите, da jednostavno se upisuju, tu su uvijek neki dugi redovi gdje oni stoje satima.

Mislim da je strašno puno praznog hoda u njihovom studiju. Znači, oni borave na fakultetu tek da nešto preuzmu, a onda uče negdje drugdje, bilo da je to kod kuće, svojoj studentskoj sobi, itd. što je po mom mišljenju pogrešno. Oni bi trebali ujutru ovdje ući i izići u neko vrijeme, i onda zaboraviti da tamo negdje, gdje god, se odvija drugi dio života, i, ovaj, rade to što imaju na fakultetu.

**Bosnian transcript in Cyrillic:**

Па мислим да је тешко бити студент код нас, зато што студиј још увијек није конципиран према потребама студената. Он је некако конципиран по неким чудним, непознатим, недокучивим правилима. Наиме, чак приступ на разне просторе оvdje на факултету је ограничен. Мени од мог првог дана, од мојих студентских дана, смета што се све закључава. Значи, требале би постојати просторије гдје бар ови старији студенти имају слободан приступ, да могу да користе литературу, да... Све оvdje некако иде по неаквим процедурама које оteжавају студиј. Да не говоримо да чак рецимо ни студентски сервис, студентска служба, није конципирана тако да они једноставно пријављују своје испите, да једноставно се уписују, ту су увијек неки дуги редови гдје они стоје сатима.

Мислим да је страшно пуно празног хода у њиховом студију. Значи, они бораве на факултету тек да нешто преузму, а онда уче негдје другдје, било да је то код куће, својој студентској соби, итд. што је по мом мишљењу погрешно. Они би требали ујутру оvdje ући и изићи у неко вријеме, и онда заборавити да тамо негдје, гдје год, се одвија други дио живота, и, овај, раде то што имају на факултету.

## English translation:

Well, I think it's difficult being a student here [in Bosnia and Herzegovina] because higher education is still not based on the needs of students. It's based on some strange, unknown, intangible rules. For example, even the access to certain areas of the faculty<sup>1</sup> here is limited. Since my first day here<sup>2</sup> – since my student days, rather – I was bothered by the fact that everything is locked. So, there should be areas which at least the senior students should have free access to, so that they can use the literature... Everything here follows certain procedures which make studying more difficult. Not to mention that even the student services were not designed so that they can easily register for their exams or easily register for classes; there are these long lines in front, where they stand for hours on end.

I think that a large amount of time is wasted during their studies. For example, they spend just enough time at the faculty to pick something up, and then they go study somewhere else – whether at home, or their dorm room, etc. – which is wrong, in my opinion. They should come here in the morning and leave at some point, and in the meantime forget that somewhere out there, there is another part of their life, so that they can focus on their work related to their studies.

**About CultureTalk:** CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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<sup>1</sup> In Bosnia and Herzegovina, as in most Eastern European and Balkan countries, universities usually don't have a central campus, meaning that departments or groups of departments called faculties are usually located in different parts of the city. This leads to divisions among students and professors according to their particular faculty, as well as a sense of belonging and identification with a faculty rather than the university as a whole. Thus, the speaker refers to this specific faculty (the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics), although it should be noted that all faculties of the University of Sarajevo follow the same policies, so her remarks can be taken as a general observation of the situation at the University of Sarajevo.

<sup>2</sup> The speaker here refers to the Department of Physics at the University of Sarajevo's Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, where this footage was filmed.