

CultureTalk Ahiska Turks Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Educational Opportunities in Russia and the U.S.

Russian transcript:

-Если говорить в рамках официальности...то якобы в России образование было для всех, на самом деле это было не так, на самом деле у нас не было прописки на протяжении 15 лет последних которые мы жили в России и очень многое молодёжь не могла продолжить своё образование после школы, после средней школы, потому что не было прописки, а также потому что, даже если и кто-то мог устроится в институт то это были огромные деньги. Я не говорю что в Америке образование бесплатно, но здесь сама экономика и всё по-другому построена, построена так что человек может учиться и платить за своё образование... Может, будет трудно, да очень тяжело первое время получить образование и работать и очень многие, даже сами американцы встали на ноги, я бы сказала, таким путём. Но...но здесь...можно, есть очень много возможностей, можно брать как бы...можно заключать контракты, можно брать в loan деньги, то есть можно учиться и потом уже по, по окончанию учёбы возвращать эти денги, то есть возможности для нашей молодёжи, больше на много возможностей получить образование здесь чем в России, я бы сказала.

English translation:

If we speak in official terms...then education was supposedly for everybody. In fact, it was not this way. In fact, we did not have *propiska*¹ for the last 15 years that we lived in Russia, and most of the youth could not continue their education after school, after the secondary education, because they did not have *propiska*, and also because, even if somebody was able to get into the university, it was a lot of money. I am not saying that education is free in the States, but here the economy itself and everything is built differently. It is built in a way that a person can study and pay for his own education... Maybe it will be hard, yes; it is very hard at the beginning to get an education and work, and many, even Americans themselves, I would say, were able to stand on their own two feet² in this way. But...but here ... [it is] possible ... there are very many opportunities ... it is possible to take a kind of...it is possible to make contracts, to take loans -- i.e., one can study and only later, after graduating, pay this money back, for example. I would say opportunities for our youth ... there are many more opportunities to get education here than in Russia.

¹*Propiska* – a state registration within a certain area, in some cases limiting one’s ability to move around and apply for a job.

² Idiomatic expression which means “to get on your feet” -- similar to the expression in English, “to stand on your own two feet.”

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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