

## On Being a Student in Serbia

### Serbian transcript:

Ана: Лепо је, значи, бити студент у Београду. Београд има највећи универзитет у Србији, и углавном студенти из свих делова и из унутрашњости Србије, па чак и из суседних држава, долазе да студирају у Београд. Београд има и приватне универзитете, али још увек је на цени државни универзитет. Ту су значи сви факултети: економски, правни, архитектонски, медицински, стоматолошки, математички, разни технички факултети, итд. Пре неколико година, систем студирања је промењен, реформа у ствари студија је започета како би се ускладило са Болоњским системом, међутим то је за сада безуспешно спроведено.

Раније се студирање сводило, значи, на предавање и вежбе, али је студентима остављен велики простор да организују сами своје време, значи да присуствују предавањима којим желе. Углавном се студирало дужи временски период од оног званичног, прописаног. Цео прелазак на Болоњски систем управо има поенту у томе да се скрати време студирања, да студирање буде... Значи, да се иде сваки дан на предавања, на вежбе, да се испити полагају редовно, и да буде мање-више као средња или основна школа, да се заврши у том року, рецимо од четири или пет година, у зависности од колико траје факултет, а да даље настављају, овај, на мастер студијама, даље усавршавање.

Александар: Где живе студенти у Београду?

Ана: Студенти живе... Па постоје студентски домови, за студенте из унутрашњости, али углавном студенти живе у приватном смештају. Некако им се више, овај...

Александар: Изнајмљују своје станове?

Ана: Изнајмљују станове, да.

Александар: Добро. А чиме се могу бавити осим факултетом? Шта постоји од осталих садржаја у Београду?

Ана: Па од осталих садржаја, за саме студенте не постоји ништа што је организовано. Мали број студената добије шансу нешто у оквиру самог факултета да ради, али као у иностранству, значи, не постоји неки програм да студенти могу нешто у, овај, хонорарно да раде, осим овако да се снађу са стране, да разносе неке летке, да продају нешто, оглашавају итд.

## English translation:

Ana: It's nice to be a student in Belgrade. Belgrade has the largest university in Serbia, and students from all parts of Serbia and even the neighboring states come to Belgrade to study. Belgrade is home to several private universities as well, but the state university is still held in high regard. It includes every imaginable faculty<sup>1</sup>: economy, law, architecture, medicine, dentistry, mathematics, different technical faculties, etc. Several years ago, the system of high education was changed. The reform was undertaken in order to adjust it with the Bologna system, but the implementation hasn't been successful so far.

Studying used to come down to lectures and discussion sessions, and students had a lot of space to organize their own time and to be present only at those classes they wanted to. People would generally take longer than usual to complete their studies. The point of the switch to the Bologna system is to cut down on years until graduation, so that studying is... I mean, so that students would go to lectures and discussions every day, to take exams regularly, and that it's more or less similar to primary school and high school, so that it can be completed within those four or five years - depending on the faculty - and then continue education at a graduate program.

Aleksandar: Where do students live in Belgrade?

Ana: Students live in... Well, there are student dorms, for students who come from other parts [of Serbia], but students mostly arrange for their own housing. Somehow it's more affordable to them...

Aleksandar: They rent their own apartments?

Ana: They rent apartments, yes.

Aleksandar: Okay. And what can they do aside from studying? What is made available to them in terms of extracurricular activities in Belgrade?

Ana: Well, in terms of other activities, nothing is really organized for students. A small number of students are given a chance to work at the university, there isn't a program like the ones abroad where students can get a part-time job, unless they manage to find something on the side, to pass out flyers, sell things, advertise etc.

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<sup>1</sup> In Serbia, as in most Eastern European and Balkan countries, universities usually don't have a central campus, meaning that departments are grouped together into faculties according to an area of study, as the speaker here shows.

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