

CultureTalk Zimbabwe Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>
Comparing U.S. and Zimbabwean Universities

English translation:

I: Rutendo, can you tell us how many schools of higher education [universities] there are in Zimbabwe?

R: For me to say exactly how many there are I'd be lying. What I do know is there are more than 10 schools. They are not as many as those here in America—they are definitely less than 40. Maybe there are about 30 schools. Of those 30, there are those which are particularly popular, such as University of Zimbabwe, Midlands State University, National University of Science and Technology and Chinhoyi University. So there are about 5 and 6 universities which are really popular and very good in Zimbabwe.

I: So are all the universities the same? Are they all called universities or are there some where people don't receive degrees?

R: All the schools I mentioned are degree-awarding universities. The difference is some schools might not have all the different faculties that a student might want. So for example if you want to do Medicine, you have to go to a university such as University of Zimbabwe [which has 1 of the 2 medical schools in the country]. Then there are some universities which give Masters degrees and other higher levels [such as PhD's]. Then the majority just award undergraduate degrees.

I: Ropa, can you tell us how different it is to learn at a Zimbabwean University compared to learning here in the US?

P: There is a very big difference between a Zimbabwean university and a university here in the US. If I try and state all the differences it can take me all day.

I: You can tell us in brief.

P: The first difference that I notice is that professors in Zimbabwe are not as highly educated as the professors in this country. A Zimbabwean professor can have just a degree without a Master's or a PhD. But a professor in this country must have a PhD and a level of education which is higher than that which he/she is giving. Another thing in Zimbabwe, whether you go to a university or not no longer depends on your intelligence but on the money you have in your pockets—*i.e.*, are you able to pay for school fees and other expenses. In short these are the main differences.

I: How much does it cost to go a Zimbabwean university?

R: It's different from one school to another.

I: You can just tell us the most and least expensive.

P: University of Zimbabwe costs about \$400 per semester. Africa University, which is a very expensive one, costs about \$1500 per semester.

I: How about other smaller universities such as Chinhoyi or Bindura University, how much do these cost?

R: These were slightly less than the others, about \$300.

I: Ok, thank you.

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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