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U.K. cancels visas of 2,500 students

1st September, 2012

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1209/120901-student_visas.html

Contents

The Article	2
Warm-ups	3
Before Reading / Listening	4
While Reading / Listening	5
Listening Gap Fill	6
After Reading / Listening	7
Student Survey	8
Discussion	9
Language Work	10
Writing	11
Homework	12
Answers	13

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THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1209/120901-student_visas.html

The British government has cancelled more than 2,500 visas of foreign students studying at the London Metropolitan University (LMU). The students are now desperately trying to find an alternative to being deported. Britain has given the students 60 days to find other courses or leave the country. The mass expulsion has created a scandal within Britain's academic community. Britain's immigration officials said LMU was not following visa rules regarding non-European Union students and so has removed its right to teach those outside the EU. Critics of the move believe it is part of the government's attempt to reduce migration into Britain by cutting down on overseas student numbers.

Britain's media is reporting the government's move will damage the country's reputation as a provider of world-class higher education. They also say it will cause as much as \$1.5 billion in damage to the British economy. The average student spends close to \$50,000 each during their three-year stay in Britain. People also note the decision is bad timing, as London is the host of the Olympics and Paralympics. The students themselves are furious. They enrolled in LMU in good faith, believing Britain to be a trustworthy and reliable country in which to study. Student Camila Alvarez, 25, from Brazil, said: "This is humiliating for us. We are here legally and have gone through a strict procedure to get into Britain."

WARM-UPS

1. STUDYING OVERSEAS: Walk around the class and talk to other students about studying overseas. Change partners often. Share your findings with your first partner.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

British government / foreign students / deported / scandal / academic community / media / higher education / the average student / Olympics / furious / trustworthy

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. BRITAIN: What's good or bad about it? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

	What do you know about it / them?	Good or bad (Why?)
Universities		
Food		
Sport		
Sites		
Politics		
History		

4. STUDYING: Students A **strongly** believe students should be able to study in any country they want; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. STUDY IN BRITAIN: Rank these courses - put the best at the top. Share your rankings with your partner(s). Change partners often and share your rankings.

- The Beatles
- The history of football
- The British Royal family
- The history of the English language
- British cooking
- Shakespeare
- British fashion
- London

6. VISA: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'visa'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1209/120901-student_visas.html

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. Britain has stopped 2,500 of its citizens from studying overseas. | T / F |
| b. Some students in Britain have 60 days to change their visa status. | T / F |
| c. A London university can no longer accept non-EU students. | T / F |
| d. Critics say the government wants to recruit more overseas students. | T / F |
| e. Britain's decision may lose the country more than a billion dollars. | T / F |
| f. The average overseas student spends \$50,000 a year in Britain. | T / F |
| g. The students with cancelled visas understand the situation. | T / F |
| h. The students went through the correct procedures to get their visas. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. cancelled | a. reducing |
| 2. desperately | b. dependable |
| 3. mass | c. urgently |
| 4. regarding | d. name |
| 5. cutting down on | e. very angry |
| 6. reputation | f. scrapped |
| 7. cause | g. course of action |
| 8. furious | h. relating to |
| 9. reliable | i. large-scale |
| 10. procedure | j. lead to |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. desperately trying to find an | a. European Union students |
| 2. mass | b. class higher education |
| 3. Britain's academic | c. alternative |
| 4. visa rules regarding non- | d. expulsion |
| 5. the government's attempt to reduce | e. reliable country |
| 6. a provider of world- | f. community |
| 7. The students | g. procedure |
| 8. They enrolled in LMU in | h. migration |
| 9. a trustworthy and | i. themselves are furious |
| 10. ...gone through a strict | j. good faith |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1209/120901-student_visas.html

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The British government has (1) _____ more than 2,500 visas of foreign students studying at the London Metropolitan University (LMU). The students are now (2) _____ trying to find an alternative to being (3) _____. Britain has given the students 60 days to find other courses or leave the country. The (4) _____ expulsion has created a (5) _____ within Britain's academic community. Britain's immigration officials said LMU was not following visa rules (6) _____ non-European Union students and so has removed its right to teach those outside the EU. Critics of the (7) _____ believe it is part of the government's attempt to reduce migration into Britain by (8) _____ down on overseas student numbers.

mass
move
desperately
regarding
cancelled
cutting
deported
scandal

Britain's media is reporting the government's move will damage the country's (9) _____ as a provider of world-class higher education. They also say it will (10) _____ as much as \$1.5 billion in damage to the British economy. The average student spends (11) _____ to \$50,000 each during their three-year stay in Britain. People also note the decision is bad (12) _____, as London is the host of the Olympics and Paralympics. The students themselves are (13) _____. They enrolled in LMU in good (14) _____, believing Britain to be a trustworthy and (15) _____ country in which to study. Student Camila Alvarez, 25, from Brazil, said: "This is humiliating for us. We are here legally and have gone through a (16) _____ procedure to get into Britain."

furios
strict
cause
faith
close
reputation
reliable
timing

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1209/120901-student_visas.html

The British government (1) _____ than 2,500 visas of foreign students studying at the London Metropolitan University (LMU). The students are (2) _____ to find an alternative to being deported. Britain has given the students 60 days to find other courses or leave the country. The (3) _____ created a scandal within Britain's academic community. Britain's immigration officials said LMU was (4) _____ rules regarding non-European Union students and so has (5) _____ teach those outside the EU. Critics of the move believe it is part of the government's (6) _____ migration into Britain by cutting down on overseas student numbers.

Britain's media is reporting the government's move will damage the country's reputation (7) _____ world-class higher education. They also say it will (8) _____ \$1.5 billion in damage to the British economy. The average student spends close to \$50,000 each during their three-year stay in Britain. People also note the (9) _____, as London is the host of the Olympics and Paralympics. The students (10) _____. They enrolled in LMU in good faith, believing Britain to be a trustworthy and reliable country (11) _____. Student Camila Alvarez, 25, from Brazil, said: "This is humiliating for us. We are here legally and have gone (12) _____ procedure to get into Britain."

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1209/120901-student_visas.html

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'foreign' and 'student'.

foreign	student

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• trying• 60• mass• following• right• cutting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• damage• cause• close• timing• furious• legally
--	---

STUDYING OVERSEAS SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1209/120901-student_visas.html

Write five GOOD questions about studying overseas in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

STUDYING OVERSEAS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'Britain'?
- c) Are you surprised about what you read?
- d) Is the 60 days fair?
- e) What do you think those in Britain's academic community are saying?
- f) Should the British government accept the LMU might have made mistakes and honor the visas the students were given?
- g) Should the students take legal action against the British government and or the LMU?
- h) How tight are immigration rules in your country?
- i) Should immigration rules be relaxed for overseas students with the money to study?
- j) Why does Britain want to reduce immigration?

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STUDYING OVERSEAS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Do you think this move has damaged Britain's reputation?
- c) What image does British universities have?
- d) Is the British government crazy to take an action that will lose them \$1.5 billion?
- e) Would you like to study at a British (or American, Australian, Irish...) university?
- f) How would you feel if you were one of the students?
- g) What action should the British government take against the LMU?
- h) What do you think the students will do from now?
- i) Should other students now think twice about studying in Britain?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Britain's immigration minister?

LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1209/120901-student_visas.html

The British government has (1) _____ more than 2,500 visas of foreign students studying at the London Metropolitan University (LMU). The students are now desperately trying to find an (2) _____ to being deported. Britain has given the students 60 days to find other courses or leave the country. The (3) _____ expulsion has created a scandal within Britain's (4) _____ community. Britain's immigration officials said LMU was not following visa rules (5) _____ non-European Union students and so has removed its right to teach those outside the EU. Critics of the move believe it is part of the government's attempt to reduce migration into Britain by cutting (6) _____ on overseas student numbers.

Britain's media is reporting the government's (7) _____ will damage the country's reputation as a (8) _____ of world-class higher education. They also say it will cause as much as \$1.5 billion in damage to the British economy. The average student spends close to \$50,000 each (9) _____ their three-year stay in Britain. People also note the decision is bad timing, as London is the host of the Olympics and Paralympics. The students themselves are (10) _____. They enrolled in LMU in good faith, believing Britain to be a trustworthy and reliable country in (11) _____ to study. Student Camila Alvarez, 25, from Brazil, said: "This is humiliating for us. We are here legally and have gone through a (12) _____ procedure to get into Britain."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. | (a) destroyed | (b) blitzed | (c) shut | (d) cancelled |
| 2. | (a) altercation | (b) alter | (c) alternative | (d) alternator |
| 3. | (a) pass | (b) mass | (c) lass | (d) sass |
| 4. | (a) academic | (b) pandemic | (c) epidemic | (d) endemic |
| 5. | (a) regard | (b) regarded | (c) regarding | (d) regards |
| 6. | (a) up | (b) over | (c) through | (d) down |
| 7. | (a) momentum | (b) move | (c) precision | (d) play |
| 8. | (a) provider | (b) conspirator | (c) host | (d) participant |
| 9. | (a) within | (b) during | (c) inside | (d) encompassing |
| 10. | (a) furiously | (b) fury | (c) furious | (d) furry |
| 11. | (a) which | (b) when | (c) where | (d) while |
| 12. | (a) imprint | (b) variation | (c) exact | (d) strict |

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about studying overseas. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. STUDYING OVERSEAS: Make a poster about studying overseas. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. CANCELED VISAS: Write a magazine article about the canceled visas. Include imaginary interviews with the students and a British immigration official.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. LETTER: Write a letter to the head of British immigration. Ask him/her three questions about the canceled visas. Give him/her three of your opinions on the situation. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

a. F b. T c. T d. F e. T f. F g. F h. T

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. cancelled | a. scrapped |
| 2. desperately | b. urgently |
| 3. mass | c. large-scale |
| 4. regarding | d. relating to |
| 5. cutting down on | e. reducing |
| 6. reputation | f. name |
| 7. cause | g. lead to |
| 8. furious | h. very angry |
| 9. reliable | i. dependable |
| 10. procedure | j. course of action |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. desperately trying to find an | a. alternative |
| 2. mass | b. expulsion |
| 3. Britain's academic | c. community |
| 4. visa rules regarding non- | d. European Union students |
| 5. the government's attempt to reduce | e. migration |
| 6. a provider of world- | f. class higher education |
| 7. The students | g. themselves are furious |
| 8. They enrolled in LMU in | h. good faith |
| 9. a trustworthy and | i. reliable country |
| 10. ...gone through a strict | j. procedure |

GAP FILL:

U.K. cancels visas of 2,500 students

The British government has (1) **cancelled** more than 2,500 visas of foreign students studying at the London Metropolitan University (LMU). The students are now (2) **desperately** trying to find an alternative to being (3) **deported**. Britain has given the students 60 days to find other courses or leave the country. The (4) **mass** expulsion has created a (5) **scandal** within Britain's academic community. Britain's immigration officials said LMU was not following visa rules (6) **regarding** non-European Union students and so has removed its right to teach those outside the EU. Critics of the (7) **move** believe it is part of the government's attempt to reduce migration into Britain by (8) **cutting** down on overseas student numbers.

Britain's media is reporting the government's move will damage the country's (9) **reputation** as a provider of world-class higher education. They also say it will (10) **cause** as much as \$1.5 billion in damage to the British economy. The average student spends (11) **close** to \$50,000 each during their three-year stay in Britain. People also note the decision is bad (12) **timing**, as London is the host of the Olympics and Paralympics. The students themselves are (13) **furious**. They enrolled in LMU in good (14) **faith**, believing Britain to be a trustworthy and (15) **reliable** country in which to study. Student Camila Alvarez, 25, from Brazil, said: "This is humiliating for us. We are here legally and have gone through a (16) **strict** procedure to get into Britain."

LANGUAGE WORK

1 - d 2 - c 3 - b 4 - a 5 - c 6 - d 7 - b 8 - a 9 - b 10 - c 11 - a 12 - d