Theme 2

Unit 3 Studying Abroad

1 **Discuss these questions in groups.**

a Are you interested in studying abroad? Give your reasons?

b What are the advantages and disadvantages of studying abroad for young Omanis?

2 **Skim the text below. As you skim, look for the answer to this question – 'When you study abroad, why is it important to have a positive attitude? Then read the text in detail.**

Getting ready to study abroad

Studying abroad is not just about getting a **degree** from a foreign university. It's about adapting to a new culture, and **improving** your language skills. It's also about meeting new people, and learning about new places. It's a wonderful and exciting experience, but it can also be a little **scary**.



Omani students at graduation

Preparing yourself

If you're planning to study abroad, there are several things you can do to prepare yourself. The more you can find out before you go, the easier your life will be when you arrive in your new country. Here are some suggestions:

- Talk to other people who have studied in the same town or university
- Read the website of the university or college you are going to. Think about these questions:
  - Will other students be mostly local, or international?
  - What kind of **accommodation** do students live in?
  - What activities outside class does the university offer? (sports, clubs, societies)
  - Are there special support services for international students?
- Read about the town and area where you will live, not just the university. Think about these things:
  - Is it a big city or a small town?
  - Is it **inland**, on the coast, near other towns?
  - How can you get to it? (plane, train, bus)
  - What special attractions and features does it have?

Reducing homesickness

International students can feel homesick, especially at first. When you move abroad, it's natural to miss your family and friends. But there are things that you can do before you leave your home country to **reduce** homesickness:

- **Involve** your family and friends as much as possible in the planning of your trip. This will enable them to understand and support you better when you are away from home.
- Try and sort out any **issues** at home before you go, so you can focus more on your new life.
- Start doing things for yourself like washing and ironing clothes, and cooking. This will make you feel more confident about ` on your own.

Keep a positive attitude about your new life abroad. The way you think will **influence** how you behave. For example, if you don't think you will make new friends, you are less likely
35 to make friends, because you won't notice when people are being friendly towards you.

Source: International Students Survival Guide (Collins, 2014)

3 **Read the text again and find the words below. Guess the meaning of each one from the three choices given. Then check the meanings in your dictionary to see if you were right.**

1 **improving** (line 3)
(a) changing (b) making worse (c) making better

2 **scary** (line 6)
(a) difficult (b) frightening (c) interesting

3 **accommodation** (line 16)
(a) hotels and hostels (b) buildings (c) places to stay

4 **reduce** (line 27)
(a) make less (b) prevent (c) deal with

5 **issues** (line 30)
(a) experiences (b) discussions (c) problems

6 **coping** (line 32)
(a) behaving (b) living (c) managing

7 **influence** (line 33)
(a) show (b) affect (c) control

top tip

Grouping Words

Think about how words can be grouped together into subject areas. Words that are associated together are easier to remember.

4 **Work in groups. In your exercise book, write the word cities and draw a circle round it. Think of other words associated with cities. Make a diagram like the one in Activity 3 on page 21 of your Workbook and join the other words to cities.**

Show your diagram to a partner and expand it to include your partner's words. Then do the same for the three things below.

a school
b learning English
c studying abroad

In groups, think of other words and make lists or draw diagrams of words associated with them.

