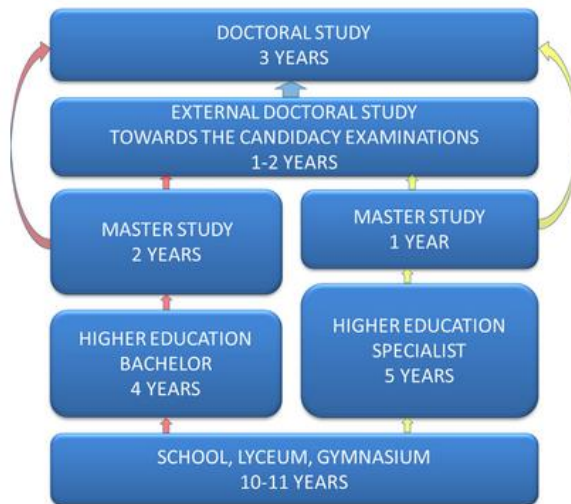


1. UNIVERSITY STUDIES

University Studies: Higher Education Today. My University. Student Life.

1. What is the structure of higher education in Belarus?
2. What training programmes does BSUIR offer?
3. What subjects do the students study?
4. What are the facilities offered by the university?
5. How would you describe students' life at BSUIR?

HIGHER EDUCATION



In the Republic of Belarus, fundamentality is the main feature of higher education. You can acquire deep knowledge in all fields, but the country is mostly known for its strong scientific schools in physics, mathematics, and natural science.

Perhaps the most important difference of the Belarusian higher education system is the levels and the amount of time it takes to finish your degree programme. A **three-level system of tertiary education** acts in Belarus. Training on the **first degree** level provides students with the expertise, qualification, and **Specialist's Diploma** ("Diplomirovannyj Specialist") and generally lasts four years (except for five years in medical and arts higher education institutions (HEIs)).

Training on the **second degree** level is fulfilled by two types of programmes: research and professionally oriented, confirmed by a **Master's Degree Diploma** ("Magistr"), and lasts from one to two years depending on the speciality.

Graduates of HEIs also have the possibility to proceed to the **third level (postgraduate education)**. Postgraduate three-year civil courses ("aspirantura"), military courses ("adjunktura"), medical probation period ("ordinatura") are confirmed with a Researcher's Diploma, Belarusian Candidate of Science degree ("Kandidat Nauk"), as well as an internationally recognised Ph.D. degree; postdoctoral course ("doktorantura") that leads to the degree of a full Doctor of Science ("Doctor Nauk").

In this connection, it is interesting to note that degree programmes in the US take about one year longer than programmes in the UK. So, in the UK Bachelor's degree requires three years of studying whereas in the US it's four years. Master's degrees are one and two years respectively and Doctoral degrees are three and from five to seven years.

An academic year in Belarus is divided into **two terms** starting on the 1st of September with shorter winter and longer summer holidays. Most universities in the US begin their studies in mid to late August and last for two semesters as well with a rather lengthy break beginning in mid-December. Whereas the academic year in Britain's universities consists of trimesters, which usually run from the beginning of October to the end of June or the beginning of July.

Higher education in Belarus is provided by **public (state)** and **private (non-state)** HEIs. In public ones, students with high grades in Centralised Testing (typically three subjects) are admitted on a **cost-free basis** and granted a scholarship, whereas, in private HEIs, all students pay **tuition fees**

which don't vary much from university to university and are generally more affordable comparing to similar institutions in the UK and the US.

BSUIR

The Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics was founded in 1964. Today the BSUIR is the leading Belarusian University in the field of computer science, radioelectronics and telecommunications. The University offers a great choice of engineering courses along with excellent study and research facilities. It trains engineers in 35 specialties in the field of radioengineering, computer science, microelectronics, telecommunications, automatic control, artificial intelligence, electronic instrument-making, medical electronics and economics. Different subjects are taught at the University depending on the faculty and the course. The first-year students study physics, higher mathematics, descriptive geometry, technical drawing, and social sciences. Later they acquire profound knowledge in electronics, cybernetics, computing machinery, etc. The course of study lasts four years. The academic year is divided into two terms. Lectures, seminars, laboratory and practical classes make up the majority of teaching time. Prospective students may choose between full-time, part-time and distance programmes taught in Russian or English. The University offers facilities for teaching, learning, research and recreation. A number of computer classes, well-equipped engineering laboratories are at the disposal of the students. There is a library with reading halls, electronic library, a videoconferencing center and lecture rooms equipped with up-to-date multimedia means.

STUDENT'S LIFE

University life is more than just lectures and exams. The Trade Union offers a wide range of entertainment and support for students. The Student Club organizes evening parties, discos, festivals and social events. The University teams regularly win the leading positions of student sports in athletics, basket-ball, and compete at a national level. If you enjoy singing or playing musical instruments you can take part in university concerts. You can also join the dance community of the university and participate in various festivals.