## **Higher Education Today**

### **1 Levels of HE and length of study in Belarus, the UK and the USA.**

A three-level system of tertiary education acts in Belarus. The first level of education, which lasts four years, provides students with Specialist’s Diploma. Training on the 2-rd (Master’s degree) level is fulfilled by two types of programmes: research and professionally oriented Master programmes, confirmed by Master's Degree Diploma (Magistr) and lasts from one to two years. On the third level, which lasts three years, you can get different degrees. (like Candidate of Science degree). In this connection, 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.

### **2 University organisation in Belarus, the UK and the USA.**

All higher education institutes in Belarus (emphasis is in fundamelity which means you get knowledge in all fields) are made up of faculties according to the specialities they provide. In Belarus, your grade will be based on final credits, labs and exams. In the UK many universities are made up of colleges that are dedicated to a specific subject, with only occasional assignments throughout the semester. In some cases, your entire grade may be based on one final exam. General emphasis of HE in the UK is more in depth which means you get a very thorough understanding of your chosen subject. In the US, universities have different schools or departments, which house a number of related majors. (because the general emphasis of HE in the US is breadth which means you get a range of knowledge from a variety of different subjects).

### **3 Course of study in Belarus, the UK and the USA.**

Academic life in Belarus is divided into 2 terms starting on the 1st September and lasts until the end of June with winter and summer holidays. Most universities in the US begin their studies in mid to late August and last for 2 semesters with a break beginning in mid-December. Academic year in Britain consists of trimesters, which run from the beginning of October to the end of June.

### **4 Assignments and grades in Belarus, the UK and the USA.**

In UK your entire grade may be based on one final exam. In the US, your grade will be based on your performance on a variety of assignments, with a final exam making up only a percentage of your total grade. Concerning the Belarusian system of high education, on some subjects, students are assessed according to their participation throughout the course whilst the success in other subjects depends on the final credit or exam mark.

### **5 Cost of study in Belarus, the UK and the USA.**

Universities in England may charge up to 9000 pounds per year for citizens of the UK. Fees for international students can be significantly higher. Public out-of-state institutions in US are much more affordable than private in-state ones that can cost up to 50,000 dollars per year. What concerns Belarus higher education consists of public and private HEIs. In public ones, students with high grades in Centralised Testing are studied on a cost-free basis and granted a scholarship, whereas, in private HEIs, all students pay tuition fees which are generally more affordable comparing to similar institutions in the UK and the US.

## **My University**

### **1 The mission of BSUIR and core areas of training.**

The mission of BSUIR is to train engineers and scientists capable for generating and implementing innovative ideas, creating competitive high-tech products in spheres of computer science and electronics.

### **2 The University framework.**

There are 8 faculties: the faculty of Computer-Aided design, the faculty of Information Technologies and Control, the faculty of RadioEngineering and Electronics, the faculty of Computer System and Networks, the Faculty of Telecommunication, the Faculty of engineering and economics, the Military faculty. There are 32 departments and 49 specialities. The course of study lasts 4 years. The university year is divided into 2 terms. The university offers a wide range of extracurricular and support for students.

### **3 The teaching stuff of BSUIR.**

The teaching stuff of BSUIR consists of academicians, Corresponding members of the Belarusian Academy of Sciences, foreign Academies of Sciences, professors, doctors, associate professors, senior lecturers, and assistants.

### **4 Subjects being studied and the University curriculum.**

First-year students study physics, higher mathematics, descriptive geometry, technical drawing and social sciences. Later they acquire profound knowledge in computer science, informatics, cybernetics etc. There are four foreign languages that are taught in our university (English, Germany, Spanish and French). There are also optional courses available in the Language Training Centre.

### **5 University facilities at the students’ disposal.**

We have excellent facilities for studying and research. For instance, a plethora of computer classes with all modern equipment such as wifi-access, projectors, and a number of modern engineering laboratories. Our lecture theaters are equipped with up-to-date multimedia means. We have a large library with 9 reading halls including 3 electronic ones with Internet access. And of course, we have 4 dormitories for students from other cities.

### **6 BSUIR as a scientific organization.**

BSUIR today is a large scientific organisation with IT business incubator, Research & Development labs and with 8 scientific scenters. The university staff and students take active part in various international exchange programmes, fulfill scientific research contracts and receive grants and work placements in the top IT companies.

### **7 The role of sport and extracurricular activities in the University life.**

Sport occupies a crucial part of university life. We have different sports sections, for instance basketball, volleyball, handball and swimming. The university teams regularly win the leading positions of student sport competitions. But our university life is not only about study and exams. Thanks to student council we have a plethora of extracurricular activities: contests, forums, festivals and disсos. For instance, faculty week, student summer and student autumn, tech weeks and many others.

## **Student Life**

### **1 Personal traits and skills needed for university success.**

1. Self-motivation. Self-motivated students have clear reasons for being in university. There should always be something to motivate you to keep doing your best in studies.

2. Time management skills. Good students manage their time well A common time management problem among university students is understanding the time tasks will take. Each student should allot enough time for their tasks and workload instead of getting behind the schedule.

3. Adaptable thinking. In our century, things are changing very fast. And we must be able to learn new things quickly and efficiently. We need to learn how to learn.

4. Communication skills. Being able to communicate your ideas, opinions, and feelings accurately is extremely important today. Effective communication can help improve relationships and make it stronger.

5. Good students ask questions. Good students aren't afraid to ask a question. Ignoring gaps in knowledge leads to falling behind the group with studies.

6. Good students work hard. Good students don't skip classes and try to put their all into studies to keep up with their workload.

### **2 Ways to be a better student.**

You should be punctual. Be organised, that is one way to allot time for every task.

You should set the right goals. Setting goals will give you a direction for your academic and social life and will help to focus on fulfilling subjects.

You should love what we are doing. Studying can be boring but when you love the subject you put much more effort into studies.

You should ask questions and never skip classes because it can create a gap in your knowledge and you can start falling behind the group with studies.

Take care of your health. Health is wealth. So, if you are healthy you can study well. You should sleep 7-8 hours every day and have minimal physical activities.

Make a to-do list. First you need to have some kind of timetable or plan, you need to think long term. You can write a to-do list, which will serve you as your reminder and help you to keep track of your progress.

You should plan your studying and take regular breaks. Listen and take down notes. You can highlight the important points. It helps you to keep up with workload, as you can review some of the material later.

### **3 My daily routine as a student.**

On weekdays, I usually get up at seven o'clock in the morning. My breakfast consists of a cup of coffee, a few sandwiches or scrambled eggs. I leave the house at eight and go to the university. It

takes me about 40 minutes. My classes usually start at 9 a.m. I have 3-4 classes a day: lectures, seminars, practical classes and laboratory work. They usually end at 15:20.

When I get home, I have lunch. After that, I start doing my homework. I go to bed around 2 a.m. On weekends, I usually get up at 10 o'clock in the afternoon and

do the same things as on weekdays, except for studying at the university.

### **4 The main characteristics of academic life and my workload.**

As for me, the main characteristics of academic life is a lot of work. If you want to keep up with workload, you always should do something.

### **5 The main characteristics of student social life and my extracurricular activities.**

In my free time, I usually either sleep or relax while reading a book on programming.

### **6 How to reach the balance between academic and social life at university.**

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