

MODULE 1. MY UNIVERSITY

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

A three-level system of tertiary education acts in Belarus. Training on the first degree level provides students with the expertise and Specialists Diploma and lasts 4 years. Typical [1st degree](#) qualifications awarded by BSUIR are Software Engineer, Systems Engineer, Information Technologies Engineer, Infocommunication Engineer, Specialist in Information Security, Marketing Specialist, and etc.

Training on the 2nd ([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. Graduates of BSUIR Master's degree programmes are granted the degrees of Master of Science in Engineering, Physics and Mathematics, Informatics and Computer Engineering or Economics.

Graduates of Higher Education Institutions also have the possibility to proceed to the 3rd (postgraduate education) level:

- postgraduate courses 'aspirantura' (civil courses), 'adjunktura' (military courses), 'assistentura' (medical probation period) are confirmed with a Researcher's Diploma, Belarusian Candidate of Science degree (Kandidat Nauk), as well as an internationally recognized [PhD degree](#);
- postdoctoral courses 'doktorantura' that leads to the degree of a full [Doctor of Science](#) (Doctor Nauk).

In general, degree programs in the US take about one year longer than programs in the UK. In the UK Bachelors degree requires three years of studying whereas in the US its four years. Masters degree are one and two years respectively and Doctoral degrees are three and from five to seven years.

2. University organisation in Belarus, the USA & the UK.

All higher education institutes in Belarus(emphasis is in fundamelly 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 USA & the UK.

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.Assignment and grades in Belarus,the USA & the UK.

look at 2

5.Cost of study in Belarus,the USA & the UK.

Cost of study in the USA is higher on average, while in the UK the cost of study is lower on average. Speaking about Belarus, the cost of study here is lower on average but if we speak about our university, the cost of study here is higher than in the country.

6.The missions of BSUIR and cores of training.

BSUIR missions are to train highly qualified specialists, to give a good basis in tech subjects, to develop logical thinking and creating competitive high-tech products in the spheres of computer science and electronics.

7.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.

8.The teaching staff of BSUIR

The teaching staff consists of academicians, professors, doctors, assistant professors and tutors.

9.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, German, Spanish and French). There are also optional courses available in the Language Training Centre.

Lectures,

10. 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.

11. BSUIR as a scientific organization

BSUIR today is a large scientific organisation with IT business incubator, Research & Development labs and with 8 scientific centers. 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.

12. 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 discos. For instance, faculty week, student summer and student autumn, tech weeks and many others.

13. 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.

14. 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.

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

We 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.

15. My daily routine as a student

On weekdays I usually get up at half past 8 am. My breakfast consists of a cup of tea with some sandwiches and cereal. I leave room at 20 minutes past 8 and get to the university with my neighbors. It takes us about 30 minutes. My classes usually start at 9 am. I have 3 or 4 classes a day: lectures, seminars, practical classes and lab works. They are usually over at 3 pm.

When I come home I have dinner, rest, spend time with my friends, surf the Internet. Sometimes I sleep. Then I start doing my homework. I go to bed at about 12 am. At weekends I usually get up at 12 pm and do the same things I do on weekdays except for going to university. Sometimes I go home and spend time with my parents.

16. The main characteristics of academic life and my workload

17. The main characteristics of student social life and my extracurricular activities

18. How to reach the balance between academic and social life at university

You should budget your time. It helps you to plan your days to find time for studying and relaxing.

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.

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

1. ***The role of higher education today*** is controversial (спорная)

On one side higher education establishments are acknowledged (признаны) as key players in promoting progress (прогрессе движения). Our world is full of various challenges and opportunities and HE gives you a chance to enhance (усилить) your potential in dealing with them.

On the other side, a phenomenon of availability of knowledge that puts any information of your fingertips diminishes (принижать) the values of classical HE.

2. ***The main advantages of HE***

First of all you develop different kinds of skills by studying at a university. At the university you can acquire new knowledge and also develop such skills as research skills, time management.

The second is you get independence. If a person decided to attend university away from home, skills, etc. he or she will experience life as an adult.

1. The fundamentality of university education. In Belarus you can acquire fundamental knowledge in all fields.
2. Opportunities to go in for sports. Belarussian universities have their own sport infrastructure and ready to offer students opportunity for practicing sports HE institutions.
3. Exciting student life. Students are always engaged in various activities. They participate in sports competitions, celebrate holidays and take part in student festivals (for example student summer, student autumn or faculty weeks).
4. The price of tertiary education in Belarus is lower than average in the world, but if we speak about our university it is higher than average in the republic.

The main disadvantages of HE

The first is you may not get any practical experience. At the university you will learn plenty of theory in the subject you are studying but you may not get the opportunity to get any practical experience.

The second is you will have an intensive workload. You will be responsible for your own workload and must ensure you're fully committed to your program.

6. ***Student social life at BSUIR***

University life is not about classes and exams. the student council offers a plethora of extracurricular activities for students.

3. To enter a university in the Belarus you must pass Centralized testing (typically 3 subjects) or you must be an Olympiad winner. If we're speaking about the UK, there you should have good A level results in 2 subjects and also have an interview. If we're speaking about the USA, there students can apply to some colleges using the Common application. Some students are waitlisted. But the main parts of admissions are:

1. *SAT (act scores)*
2. *grade point average (средний балл)*
3. *college application*
4. *essays*
5. *letters of recommendation*

The course of study is 3 term in the UK and 2 term in the Belarus and the USA. In the countries is three-level system of HE but some of them differs in time periods.

8. How to make the most of student life?

We can do it by taking a part in academic life and student social life. With academic life we can try to attend all our classes; keep up with the workload; take advantage of work experience programs. With student social life we can make a lot of good relationships with students and take a part in interesting projects with them.