**University Studies**

Tertiary education establishments are acknowledged as a key players in promoting and facilitating progress. Their role is to contribute to human development and provide graduates with a safe and prosperous career path. Our modern world is full of various challenges and opportunities and post-secondary education gives you a chance to enhance your potential in dealing with them.

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

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. In the our country Bachelor’s degree requires 4 years of studying, Master’s degrees requires 2 years and Doctoral degrees are three years. All HEIs in Belarus are made up of faculties according to the specialities they provide. Whereas many universities in the UK are made up of “colleges” that are dedicated to a specific subject. By contrast, in the US, you apply to the larger university and for the first year or more, you take courses from a variety of fields and only declare a major at the end of the first year.

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 whereas the academic year in Britain’s universities consists of trimesters, which usually run from the beginning of October.

It is well acknowledged that the cost of education in the US and the UK is far from cheap, but in the United States is generally higher, but education in Belarus is also not cheap compared to our salaries. But students with high grades in Centralised Testing are admitted on a cost-free basis and granted a scholarship.

Now I am a student of BSUIR and I am proud of it. Today, the University has become a large national research and educational centre, scientific and training environment, state-of-the-art laboratory equipment, and extensive infrastructure. It is the leading IT university. Today the University framework includes 8 faculties, 32 departments, 49 specialities, the Institute of Information Technologies, the Research and Development (R&D) Department.

Sport also occupies a crucial part of University life. The University teams regularly win the leading positions of student sports and compete at a national level. Students are engaged in athletics, volleyball, basketball etc.

University life is not only about classes and exams. The Students’ Trade Union and the Student Council offer a plethora of extracurricular activities for students. The Student Club organises forums, contests, festivals, discos, and other social events for recreation.

But in order to keep the balance between Academic and Social Life, you need to follow some rules. On my opinion, the most important is love what you’re doing, when you choose a course at university, be sure that you really want it. Take good care of your health (health – is our wealth), be hardworking and gold-driven, try to manage your time well (it really helps to keep up with the workload) and listen and take down notes (your professors will appreciate it, as it shows you are interested to learn from them).