# [***Belarus Science Official Seeks Compensation for Brain Drain; Japanese Students Caught in Cellphone Cheating Scam***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:47V8-M6H0-010P-J4WG-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

The president of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus has a message for the West, which has been only too happy to employ the country's dwindling cadre of professors and scientists: You owe us.

Mikhail Myasnikovich, the academy's president, proposes that Western organizations, as well as the countries in which they operate, in some way compensate Belarus for the brain drain that has continued steadily since independence in 1991.

"Right now it is too early to speak about results. We are still working out the details," Vladimir Podkopaev, head of the academy's division of international relations, said last month.

The proposal would help protect the country's vital interests, Mr. Myasnikovich said at an October press conference in Minsk, the capital.

He said compensation should be made not only to the Belarusian government, but also to all of the organizations -- including state universities and research institutes -- that the academics and scientists have left behind.

Educating somebody through the doctoral level can cost the government as much as $600,000, Mr. Myasnikovich said.

About 70 professors and scientists each year have left Belarus since 1996, the first year for which figures are available, according to the academy's Center for the Monitoring of Immigration of Scientific Personnel.

But Yury Khodyko, a physicist with the academy, said the government has no right to request compensation, because working conditions for scientists in the country are so poor. "Scientists are also people, and they have the right to choose a place for the realization of their abilities," he told the BelaPAN news agency.

Physicists and mathematicians in Belarus earn an average of $120 per month, government statistics show.

On the day before Mr. Myasnikovich's remarks, Nikolai Korbut, the finance minister, proposed a $5-million cut in the government's support of the sciences, to help provide money for back wages owed to state employees.

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A university in Tokyo has failed 26 students for cheating on their e-commerce final exams, by using the e-mail functions on their ***cellphones***.

Professors became suspicious when identical answers -- mistakes and all -- showed up on the test, which was taken by about 500 students in July, the Associated Press reported.

Takehiko Sugiyama, vice president of Hitotsubashi University, said officials believe that a student left the classroom during the exam and sent the answers to his classmates in an e-mail message via his ***cellphone***.

Later, 26 students admitted to cheating after they did poorly on a subsequent exam.

The university decided not to suspend the 26, but they were failed on the test, Mr. Sugiyama said.

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