**UNIVERSITY STUDIES**

*1. Higher Education*

Belarusian education is well-appreciated and valued in the world. The educational system of the country is quite developed and consists of pre-school, school and additional education.

School education starts at the age of 6 and lasts for about eleven years. This education is compulsory.

There are two official languages in Belarusian system of education: Russian and Belarusian.

There are over 50 Higher Education institutions in the country. Most of them are state-owned.

*2. The Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics*

The Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics, the former Radioengineering Institute, was founded in 1964.

Today the BSUIR is the leading Belarusian University in the field of computer science, radioelectronics and telecommunications. The University includes 10 faculties, 42 departments. The overall number of students is about 18,000 including international undergraduate and postgraduate students coming from more than 30 countries.

It trains engineers in 35 specialities in the field of radioengineering, computer science, microelectronics, telecommunications, automatic control, medical electronics, economics and other.

There are about 1,000 highly qualified members of the academic staff at the University. The students study at 10 faculties. I study at the Faculty of Information Technologies and Control.

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. Students from other cities live in 4 comfortable dormitories with a local net and Internet-access.

*3. Social life + daily routine*

The BSUIR today is a large educational and scientific center of Belarus. The University has the status of a scientific organization and cooperates with more than 100 science organizations and educational institutions from 30 countries.

The BSUIR has always been one of the top sporting universities. The students are free to choose between athletics, soccer, basket-ball, volley-ball, hand-ball, swimming, freestyle wrestling, body-building.

I’m a full-time student and my day-to-day activities depend on my timetable. My classes usually begin at 9 o’clock. Every day I get up at 7 o’clock. Usually I feel sleepy in the morning. I brush my teeth, take a shower and have a breakfast. I leave at about 8 o’clock. I get to the university by metro. The University is situated in the city center. It takes me about 40 minutes to get there. I have 3 or 4 classes a day. They are usually over at 15:20. I come home at 4 p.m. I have dinner and start doing my homework. If I have some spare time I play table tennis. I go to bed at about 12 p.m. or 1 a.m., sometimes at 2 a.m. At weekends I usually get up later and do the same things I do on weekdays. Sometimes I go for a walk with my friends or classmates or stay home.