**Topic 1 University Studies**

***the role of higher education today***

Higher education plays an important role in our life today. People with higher education have an extensive knowledge base, thanks to which they can find an interesting and highly paid job for themselves. Also, higher education is our key to development: many scientists and inventors work day after day to make our lives easier and safer. Higher education is very important, because thanks to it we can develop further.

***higher education in Belarus: levels and length of study, university organisation, cost of study***

Belarus has a three-level system of higher education. It consists of bachelors degree, master’s degree and postgraduate study. Bachelor's degree usually lasts 4 years, master's degree lasts from one to two years, and postgraduate studies last 3 years. All HEIs in Belarus are made up of faculties according to the specialities they provide. The cost of studying in Belarusian universities is lower than the cost of studying in the USA and the UK. Also, everyone will try to enroll in a budget form of education, where they will not have to pay tuition fees, and they will also receive a scholarship for their studies. But after graduation they will have to work out their studies.

***advantages of getting tertiary education in Belarus***

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

***BSUIR structure***

BSUIR was founded in 1964 as the Minsk Radio Engineering Institute. Now it is one of the leading IT universities in the country. Today, the structure of the university includes 8 faculties, 32 departments, 49 specialties and the Institute of Information Technology. 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 are usually assessed at the end of each semester through a pass-fail system, written and oral examinations, and through a coursework in the form of projects. In the first year of study, all specialties have similar subjects, such as social sciences, higher mathematics, analytical geometry and technical drawing. Later the subjects passed in the specialties begin to differ more and more, there are subjects specialized for these specialties.

***academic and social life at BSUIR, how to reach balance***

University life is more than just lectures and exams. The Trade Union offers a wide range of entertainment and support for students. The Student Club organizes evening parties, festivals and social events. The University is proud of its Brass Band, Students’ Theatre, group of Sport Dances, and (of course) English Speaking Club. The university also hosts a large number of different creative events, contests, competitions and other extracurricular activities. All these events are organized by the student council, and anyone can become a part of it by passing the selection.

***personal traits and skills needed for university success***

I believe that in order to study well at the university, you need to have certain skills. Firstly, a person must have motivation, because without motivation he will not see the advantages of higher education and as a result will drop out of university. I think that organization is also one of the important skills, since without it a student will not be able to plan his day correctly and follow this plan, and as a result of which he will not have enough time to complete tasks. I consider adaptability to be an equally important skill, because as a result of studying, a large number of problems and questions will fall on the student and he must be able to adapt quickly and solve these problems so that they do not accumulate. Of course, there are still a large number of skills that a student should ideally possess, but I believe that the skills mentioned above are among the most important, with which a person can study at a university without major problems.