Topic 1 University Studies

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*the role of higher education today*

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.

Topic 2 Y**outh and Society**

*Youth issues*

The youth faces a lot of problems nowadays. Materialism is when you can’t stop shopping and amass a lot of objects around you. Offending/destructive behaviour is when you get out of social norms in public. Failure to succeed in education is when you don’t keep up with classes, have troubles in communication with your professors or groupmaters. Substance abuse is when you have addiction to illegal substances. Racism is when a person is treated unfairly based on race or some other parameter. Parental pressure is one of the most popular youth issue, when parents live through their children and expect them to achieve everything they wanted but did not have. Cyberbullying is another important issue, because on social networks people can hide their identity, be anonymous, and therefore many use it to insult or humiliate someone.

*How to solve youth problems.*

To solve materialism you would need to find other activities in your life other than shopping. To fix offensive behavior, this needs to be prevented at early stages by parents or supervisors. As for failures to succeed in education, first of all you should team up with your groupmates, as learning together is way easier than doing that alone. Also don’t hesitate to ask your lectors and other teachers for help, there’s nothing wrong in that. On the other hand, substance abuse is a way bigger problem. Here medical treatment is required. To resolve racism it is important to raise awareness of this issue worldwide, as well as to contact with other peers and community which suffered from such problems.

*Tech addiction*

Addiction is when you no longer have control over doing, taking, or using something to the point that is causing harm to you or those around you. Tech addiction is a problem when a person either cannot spend time without modern devices, or spends too much time in