**Levels of higher education and length of study in Belarus, the UK and the US.**

In Belarus tertiary education takes place for 4 years, only medical higher education institutions have usual study time of 5 years. There are 3 levels: specialist’s/bachelor’s degree, master’s degree and doctor of science

In the UK education is usually 3 years, with 3 levels: bachelor’s degree, master’s degree and Ph.D in Science or Arts

In the US the system is similar to the UK one, just that the education lasts for 4 years.

**University organisation in Belarus, the UK and the US.**

In Belarus all HEIs are made of faculties, where each faculty provides a list of specialities, with focus on breadth in studies.

In the UK universities are made up of colleges specialized in specific topic and are autonomous from each other. The focus is on depth of education.

In the USA though, you admit to a larger education and declare your major only at the end of the first year, then studying in different schools or departments which house the related majors. The focus is on breadth, just like in Belarusian education system.

**Course of study in Belarus, the UK and the US.**

In Belarus academic year is divided into 2 terms, first one starting on the first of September, second one starting late winter with small break in winter and a larger one in summer.

In the US universities begin their studies in mid to late August, and have 2 semesters as well, with a rather lengthy break starting from late-December.

In the UK, studies consist of 3 trimesters, from beginning of October to the end of June or the beginning of July.

**Assignments and grades in Belarus, the UK and the US.**

In the US, as the system focuses on breadth of study, it requires constant students’ participation throughout the course, with weekly assignments, researches, oral presentations and more.

In the UK, courses are more lecture-based and your final grade is usually based just on the final exam.

In Belarus, we have adopted the flexibility of both systems: some courses require constant participation like labs, while others are lecture-based.

**Cost of study in Belarus, the UK and the US.**

In the US the cost of education is way higher than average in the world. It also varies based on whether you are an in-state or out-state student, as well as between public and private universities.

In the UK the cost is education is also quite high, but less so than in the US

In Belarus, pricing is less than world average, but is quite a lot by country’s income levels. Students may admit to public universities by passing Centralised Testing, and if they score high enough, they can study on a cost-free basis.

**The mission of BSUIR and core areas of training**

The mission of BSUIR is to train engineers and scientists capable of generating and implementing innovative ideas in the spheres of computer science and electronics.

**The University framework**

Today the university framework includes 8 faculties, 32 departments, 49 specialities, the Institute of Information Technologies, the R&D Department

**The teaching staff of BSUIR.**

The highly qualified teaching staff consists of academicians, corresponding members of Belarusian Academy of Sciences, foreign Academies of Sciences, professors, doctors, associate professors, senior lecturers and assistants.

**Subjects being studied and the University curriculum.**

Different subjects are taught at the University depending on the faculty and the course. First-year students study physics, higher mathematics, descriptive geometry, technical drawing and social sciences. Later they acquire profound knowledge in electronics, cybernetics, computing machinery, etc. Special attention is given to computer-oriented subjects. Four foreign languages are taught at the university, but main focus is given to technical English.

**University facilities at the students’ disposal.**

University facilities include a number of computing classes and engineering laboratories. There is also a video conferencing centre, and lecture theaters are with up-to-date with the latest multimedia facilities. There is a large library with many reading halls, with 3 electronic ones with internet access. Students from other cities live in 4 dormitories with modern amenities.

**BSUIR as a scientific organization.**

BSUIR is a large scientific organization with 34 R&D labs, 8 scientific centres and an IT business incubator. It collaborates with the world’s best scientific organisations, and students showcase their researches worldwide.

**The role of sport and extracurricular activities in the University life.**

Sport occupies a crucial part of university life, with university team constantly winning different competitions. Students choose a section they like and are provided with all the needed facilities.

The student’s council gives us opportunities to unlock our team-leader and creative skills, working on different tasks to make lives of each student better. There are many competitions, quizzes and festivals organized.

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

To succeed at university, student must be responsible. They don’t fall behind the studies because they just spend a hour of their time daily to re-read new material or to prepare for the next day. They don’t hold their deadlines till the last day.

Good students work hard and are self-motivated.

They usually have a clear goal in life and follow it, with university being a key part in the process.

One of the main things to be a good student is to have good time management.

Also, good students always ask questions to fill in the gaps when necessary, otherwise it causes misunderstanding in future studies.

**Ways to be a better student.**

To be a better student, first of all you must love what you’re doing. You should set clear goals and follow them. Be punctual, make a list of tasks that require critical attention. Participate in different activities to achieve work-life balance, but don’t overdo it. Take a good care of your health, after all it’s the only thing that matters. And ensure to write notes and listen carefully during lectures, then you will have no problems in understanding the courses

**My daily routine as a student.**

I wake up at 6:40 am, prepare my breakfast and then do a micro-sleep. I go to uni and study, then return to the dorm, have lunch in the amazing canteen located there. Then I rest a bit, go to the gym, then I usually have lunch, do my home tasks and work on my side projects. I go to sleep at a late time usually.

**The main characteristics of academic life and my workload.**

In my case, it is important to visit all the lectures, labs and tutorials. Not only not to miss some important information, because in some subjects even 1 missed lecture means a week of trying to grasp a new topic, but also because attendance is controlled. We can’t skip much, otherwise we lose our scholarship for 1 month.

As per the workload, I think it is fine. I had less free time when preparing for Centralised Testing at my lyceum.

**The main characteristics of student social life and my extracurricular activities.**

For social life, my extracurricular activities including doing some tasks for the Student Council, like creating a website for the BitCup competition held annually at my faculty. Also in my free time I work on improving my pet projects.

**How to reach the balance between academic and social life at university.**

I think that to achieve balance you should not overdo neither of those activities, you shouldn’t fall behind with studies too much and you shouldn’t study too much either. It is possible to achieve good results with minimal efforts. Just that you shouldn’t forget about amazing events happening at your university every now and then.