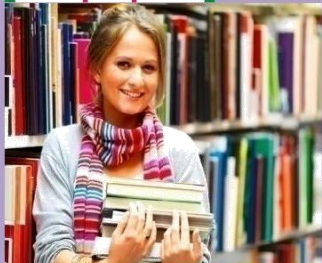



**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS**

**National Institute for Higher Education
International Center of Collaboration in Education**



**BELARUSIAN HIGHER
EDUCATION**




Study in Belarus

15 Moskovskaya St.,
220007, Minsk, Belarus
icec@nihe.by
Skype icec.icec

CONTENT

WHY BELARUS? **3**

BRIEFLY ABOUT BELARUS **5**

FAQ **6**

WHY BELARUS?

- Belarus is a unique and beautiful country, which is located in the center of Europe. It shares borders with five other countries: Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia and Russia. The whole area of the Republic occupies about 207.6 sq.km with a population of 9 465 400. It consists of six districts with its capital – Minsk. State languages are Russian and Belarusian.
- Belarus is an independent and highly developed industrial country. It is proud of its rich historical past and an exuberant natural environment. According to the latest information of UNO, Belarus was ranked as a country with a high quality of life. Belarus is on the 68-th place in the Index of Human Development among 170 other countries, which is ahead of all countries of CIS region.
- Belarus, in a way, is cross area where the most important trans European railway arteries converge along with highways, oil and gas pipelines, water and air routes uniting the economically developed Western Europe and Asia, which has an abundance of natural resources.
- The nature of Belarus is truly unique. It is a land of forests and thousands of rivers and lakes, wide green fields and grasslands. Here you can find rare species of plants and animals, such as white fir and European mink. Around 7.7% of the country territory is under ecological governmental protection. Among the most popular ecological sites is a park called “Belovezhskaya Pushcha”.
- Belarus is a land of a great historical past and a rich cultural heritage. It is a land of castles and churches, palaces and parks, ancient treasures. Every day numerous museums and theaters are happily invite their visitors.
- Belarus is a motherland of many remarkable people, such as a pioneer in book printing Frantisk Skorina, a saint apostle Yefrosiniya, Byelorussian noble family of Radzivils, it is a motherland of a famous painter Mark Shagal.
- Byelorussians are a very friendly nation. Most of the people from other countries are welcomed here with a warm heart and a great hospitality without discrimination based on nationality or religious believes. Belarus has an extensive experience in the international politics of inviting foreign guests to the country. There has been developed a whole range of different practices striving to make their stay as safe and comfortable as possible.
- There has been a dynamic development in the educational system of the Republic of Belarus in recent years. Academic staff of universities of Belarus is presented with highly skilled specialists. Taking into consideration part time staff, there are over 27082 of teaching professors work in state educational establishments, about 1313 of them are grand PhD specialists, 8530 – PhD specialists. 1242 professors have acquired the title of PhD professor, 7040 – associate professor.
- Research and development is carried out by more than 300 scientific organizations, universities, and large manufacturing enterprises, including a number of 20,000 researchers.
- Education in Belarus gives you an excellent opportunity to become fluent in Russian, to gain the experience of talking to native speakers, to immerse yourself in life, culture and traditions of the country, and also make new useful contacts.

- Education in the Republic of Belarus is of high quality, it meets the international standards. It also provides the highest level of practical learning in a number of specialized fields.
- Belarusian universities are recognized all over the world for the versatility and quality of education. University graduates are in great demand in the Belarusian and international labor markets.
- According to the latest data 12,136 students from 88 countries take their courses in Belarus. During current academic year the number of foreign students in the country has increased by more than 2000.
- In 2002, after enforcing a decree “About becoming parties to the Convention regarding evaluation of qualifications, which pertain to the area of higher education of the European region”, Belarus became a legitimate member of the Lisbon Recognition Convention of 1997 called “About recognition of qualifications in higher education” , which was developed by UNO and European Union. At the present time Belarus is working on having its higher education being accredited by the Bologna Agreement.
- A great number of educational establishments of the Republic of Belarus actively cooperate with such political organizations as UNO, UNCEF, UNDP, European Union, European Commission, European centers of professional improvement, etc.
- The whole procedure of the admission process to Belarusian universities and colleges is quite simple and transparent. There are no entry tests and international certificates of English language proficiency (IELTS, etc.) are not required.
- Students, who have chosen Belarus as a country of their studies, may choose from over then 54 universities. At the present time, about 45 state academic establishments are functioning in the Republic of Belarus (31 state universities, 7 academies, 3 higher education institutions and 4 higher education colleges), as well as 9 private academic establishments. Among these universities there are classic universities, medical, technical, agrarian, etc.

BRIEFLY ABOUT BELARUS

Official Name: The Republic of Belarus

Location: Central part of Europe

Area: 207 600 km²

Capital: Minsk

The republic borders: with Lithuania to the northwest, with Latvia to the north, with Russia to the northeast and the east, with the Ukraine to the south, with Poland to the west

Population: 9 465 400 people (more than 70% are urban residents)

Belarus consists of **six regions:** Brest, Vitebsk, Gomel, Grodno, Minsk and Mogilev

The biggest cities are: Brest (322 105), Vitebsk (367 773), Gomel (492 100), Grodno (327 540), Minsk (1 888 900), Mogilev (364 072)

Official languages: Belarusian and Russian

Religion: mostly Christianity - Orthodoxy, Catholicism, Protestantism. Judaism and Islam are the most common among other religions

Form of government: State Republic

National currency: belarusian ruble (Br). The banknotes of 50, 100, 500, 1,000, 5000, 20000, 50000, 100000, 200000 rubles are issued

Climate: temperate continental with mild and wet winters, warm summers and damp autumns. The average January temperature is from -4 ° C to -8 ° C and from +17 ° C to +19 ° C in July

Timezone: UTC+3

Phone code: +375

Internet domain: .by

Electricity: voltage 220 V, frequency 50 Hz

Distance from Minsk to the capitals neighboring countries: Vilnius – 215 km

Riga – 470 km

Warsaw – 550 km

Kiev – 580 km

Moscow – 700 km

Non-working holidays and commemorative days in Belarus:

January 1st – New Year

January 7th – Christmas (Orthodox)

March 8th – Women's Day

9th day after the Orthodox Easter – Radunitsa

May 1st – Labour Day

May 9th – Victory Day

July 3rd – Independence Day

November 7th – Day of the October Revolution

December 25th – Christmas (Catholic)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **What requirements entrant should fulfill to be accepted to the Belarusian educational institution?**

Main requirements to entrants:

1. Sufficient level of the previous education (senior secondary education).
2. Sufficient level of Russian.

The entrant whose level of Russian isn't suitable for studying can be enlisted on training courses where Russian and other subjects depending on the chosen specialty are studied. Foreign citizens who completed a full course of training at Department of Pre-Tertiary Studies, successfully passed final tests and have the confirming certificate are enlisted on subsequent studying without entrance tests on the interview basis.

The entrant who can't acquire Russian and pass final tests at Department of Pre-Tertiary Studies would be deducted and had to leave Belarus. In exceptional cases repeated training courses are allowed.

- **Which documents are necessary for application?**

To pass preliminary selection foreign citizens provide the following documents to the Department of international relations of educational institution:

- 1) The fulfilled Questionnaire;
- 2) Notarized and translated into Russian copies of the educational certificate with the indication of the studied subjects and the received estimates/points (the certificate of senior secondary education / diploma of higher education and the annex to it; other certificates on professional development, foreign language, etc.);
- 3) The notarized copy of medical certificate, given out by official medical institution of the candidate resident country (a sample of the medical certificate); citizens of Turkmenistan should submit the certificate in a form 086/h (with a translation into Russian);
- 4) Copy of the passport valid for period of studying and its notarized translation into Russian (if passport not in Russian);
- 5) The one page motivation letter with justification of a specialty choice (explain specifically as the specialty choice is connected with previous education and future plans);
- 6) Post envelope with the return address.

Documents are sent to educational institution by mail with a mark "The application for study". The specialized committee examines filed documents and makes preliminary selection of candidates for studying.

In a case of positive decision educational institution sends the candidate the official invitation to the study, necessary to obtain the educational visa in consular institution of Republic of Belarus in a candidate resident country (for foreign citizens from the countries with a visa regime of entrance to Republic of Belarus).

- **Which documents foreign citizen should provide to the specialized committee on the arrival to Republic of Belarus?**

- 1) The application questionnaire of the established sample;
- 2) The original educational certificates with the indication of the studied subjects and the received estimates/points;
- 3) The original of medical certificate, confirming the possibility of foreign citizen studying in the Belarusian climatic conditions, assured by official medical institution of the candidate resident country;
- 4) The medical certificate on AIDS status, given out by medical institution of the candidate resident country;
- 5) A notarized copy of the birth certificate;
- 6) 6-8 photos of 3x4 cm in size.

- **How much is the studying in Belarus?**

Traditionally studying in Belarus for foreign citizens is paid. Training cost as it's in international practice is established by educational institution for each specialty and depends on the chosen specialty, form of education and educational institution.

- **When studying in Belarus begins?**

Academic year in Republic of Belarus begins on September 1 and is divided in 2 semesters: 01.09 – 31.01 and 10.02 – 30.06.

For foreign entrants the rigid periods of application in educational institution aren't determined. Every institution has the right to accept foreign entrants during the whole academic year.

- **When filing documents for studying in Belarus?**

Documents in Russian or English should be submitted no later than in 2 months before academic year beginning by mail, to the fax or an e-mail. Advices on any questions can be received on Skype: icec.icec

- **Whether foreign student receive a place in a university hostel?**

The providence of a place in a hostel to foreign students is guaranteed. 2-3 persons live in the room. The cost of a place in a hostel is 10 - 30 USD per month.

Accommodation on leased apartments is also available. In Minsk city the rent depends on apartment comfort and an arrangement and varies from 200 to 350 USD per month. In other cities the rent is much lower. Educational institutions have established contacts with estate agencies. For their services agencies take commission charges.

Practically all educational institutions in Belarus assist in obtaining permission to temporary residence, help to find a residence. The majority of students live in hostels. It is convenient and rather cheap.

- **Whether it is necessary to have the medical insurance?**

According to the Belarusian laws all foreign citizens who are temporarily staying at the territory of Republic of Belarus, are obliged to have the medical insurance certificate on any case of receiving medical care. The system of medical insurance allows foreigners to receive any medical care at the territory of Republic of Belarus except for odontology services. All check-points on borders of Belarus, and also the airports and railway stations have offices of the Belarusian state insurance companies where the foreign citizen can issue the insurance medical certificate. Foreign citizens have to issue the medical insurance for the entire period of their stay in Belarus. Registration is rather fast.

Tariffs for medical insurance for foreign citizens fluctuate from one US dollar on two-day stay to 85 US dollars on stay within a year.

In case of absence of the contract of the medical insurance signed with foreign insurance company, corresponding to the criteria established by the Decree and refusal to sign the contract of obligatory medical insurance foreign citizen is refused in the admission through frontier of Republic of Belarus.

Detailed information about medical insurance and the foreign insurance companies which certificate are valid in Republic of Belarus can be received on [Belgosstrakh](#) site

• **How to receive the official invitation?**

The foreign citizens before start studying in educational institutions need to receive the official invitation which allows to open the educational visa in consular offices of Republic of Belarus.

To receive the official invitation the foreign citizen has to provide the following documents to education institution:

- 1) the copy of the educational certificates with the indication of the studied subjects and the received estimates/points;
- 2) copy of the passport or other identification document;
- 3) the fulfilled application form (with the indication of passport data, the home address, the phone/fax, an email address);
- 4) Medical certificate on a state of health and on AIDS status given out by medical institution of the candidate resident country.

The documents executed in a foreign language should be translated in Belarusian or Russian and notarized.

After obtaining documents of the candidate for studying, educational institutions carry out their expertise and make the decision on possibility of giving the official invitation. Institution sends the official invitation to the candidate home address or for Republic of Belarus Embassy or other consular offices in the candidate resident country.

The candidate makes out the educational visa in Republic of Belarus Embassy or other consular offices in the candidate resident country.

The official invitation is free of charge.

• **Do you need educational visa to study in Belarus? How to receive it?**

The educational visa is made out in consular offices of Republic of Belarus in the candidate resident country. Requirements to documents to receive a visa can vary for the different countries so detailed information on it for every region can be found on a site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Belarus ([http:// www.mfa.gov.by/](http://www.mfa.gov.by/)) or in Embassy of Republic of Belarus in the entrant resident country.

To receive educational visa the entrant should have the official invitation from Belarusian educational institution. In that case the national visa of type B is requested which on arrival lasts (permission to stay) on the basis – study in Republic of Belarus.

The consular fee for the educational visa is paid on a place of receipt for visa. Since September 1, 2012 possibility of receiving all types of entry visas of Republic of Belarus in the Consular Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus at Minsk National Airport remains only for citizens of the foreign states with no diplomatic representations or consular offices of the Republic of Belarus.

• **Documents acceptance dead-lines**

The selection committee of Belarusian educational institution accepts the entrant documents:

- 1) till October 15 – to the main Departments;
 - 2) till November 1 – to the Department of Pre-Tertiary Studies.
- Magistracy and Department of postgraduate study have no dead-lines.

**International Center of Collaboration
in Education**

*15 Moskovskaya St.,
220007, Minsk, Belarus
icec@nihe.by
Skype icec.icec*



Study in Belarus

Minsk, NIHE, 2013