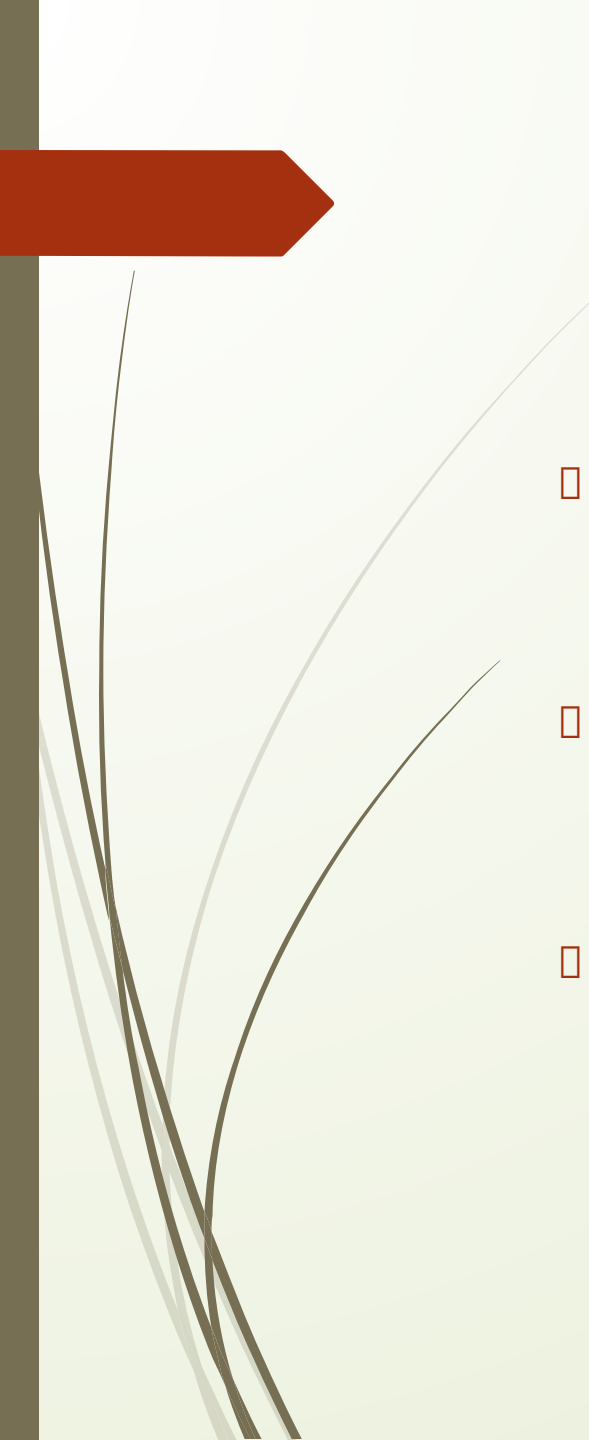



A large, modern, multi-story building with a grid of windows and a central entrance with stairs. The building is light-colored with dark vertical accents. The entrance has a covered porch and a set of stairs leading up to it. There are some plants and a small sculpture in the foreground.


The system of education in Belarus

- 
- Scientific and intellectual potential is the main strategic resource of Belarus. That's why Belarus has a developed system of education. It embraces a great number of educational establishments; thousands of teachers work there, about 40 % of population attends different forms of classes.
 - The system of education in Belarus starts with the preschool education. Kindergartens and daycare centers are the first stage of Belarusian education. They help to develop physical growth, the ability to communicate in the group, to reveal personal qualities and talents which children will develop at schools.
 - The basis of Belarusian education is secondary school. It must improve the level of general grounding, stimulate the diversification of individuality and capacities to work and learn. Secondary school starts with primary school (1-4 forms) where children are taught to read, count, draw, they are given knowledge in maths, nature studies and music.




- Secondary school itself (5-9 forms) acquaints pupils with culture, science, technology. Pupils study obligatory subjects like maths, biology, physics, chemistry, history and attend different electives to enrich their knowledge in favourite subjects as well as define their future profession.
- Senior school (10-11 forms) finishes the secondary education. Except obligatory subjects pupils can choose other subjects depending on their interests and talents. Practically every school offers several specialized classes in maths, economy, sport, biology or languages. There are even special sport and music schools for studying sports and music on high level. It's not obligatory to attend senior school. There are great number of new types of educational establishments like gymnasiya, lyceum, colleges, technical schools where pupils are given specialized knowledge they will need for their profession.

- 
- The higher school level comprises higher educational institutes. The Belarusian system of higher education consists of universities, academies, and institutes. It comprises 42 state and 15 non-state higher educational institutions with a total of 243,700 thousand students. Universities and academies offer graduate and post-graduate programs and are engaged in fundamental research. Whereas universities offer education in a wide variety of areas, academies have a narrower specialization (e.g., medical or management academies). Institutes are also highly specialized and usually have no post-graduate programs. They can function as separate entities or as part of a university. Higher educational institutions offer full-time (day) and part-time (night and correspondence) programs.
 - The degree that has been traditionally conferred by Belarusian higher educational institutions is Certified Specialist. It usually requires five years of training, success in final state examinations, and defense of a thesis. The need to integrate into the world educational community has stimulated the introduction of two other degrees: Bachelor's, after four years of training, and Master's, after six years of instruction. The advanced scholarly degrees include *Kandydat navuk* (literally "Candidate of Sciences") and *Doktar navuk* (Doctor of Sciences). The degree of *Kandydat* is approximately equivalent to a Ph.D. and requires at least three years of post-graduate study, success in qualification examinations, and the defense of a dissertation. It's highly prestigious to have a degree.



□ Applicants to higher educational institutions must have completed secondary education. The admissions are highly selective: on the average, there are 250 applications per 100 spots in full-time programs. Since some specialties are much more popular than others, the competition in the departments can be very intense. The prospective students have to take three to five entrance examinations. The obligatory subjects for all applicants are the Belarusian language and literature or the Russian language and literature. Other subjects, which have to be connected with the future specialty, are set up by the institution on the basis of the list, developed by the Ministry of Education, which includes: a foreign language, history of Belarus, new world history, humankind and society, geography, physics, information science, mathematics, chemistry, biology, art, music, technical drawing, and other subjects. The applicants who score the highest are admitted to free studies and are even paid a small monthly stipend. Those who have a gold or a silver medal take only one exam and are admitted if they get an excellent grade. Previously, higher education was free for all students. Now a certain percentage of students at state universities (those who passed the examinations but did not win the competition) pay tuition fees.

- 
- Students are graded both for their current work and examinations taken at the end of each semester. The grades used for evaluation are "excellent, good, satisfactory, and unsatisfactory." In case of a failure, students are allowed to retake the examination three times, the last time before a panel of professors. If they fail, they are expelled from the university. Excellent students receive an increase to their stipend. The course of study culminates in a state profile exam and/or defense of a thesis. Students who graduate with honors are awarded a "red certificate."
 - So we may say that all types of educational establishments stimulate effectiveness of education according to one's abilities and inclinations and correspond to the state educational standards.