**OUR UNIVERSITY**

**AND STUDENTS’ LIFE**

**I Studying at University**

*1 Read the text. Write out and memorise the topical vocabulary.*

Some students go to university because they enjoy studying, others just want a **qualification**. First, however, you have to get good **grades** in your final school exams to **get a place** at many universities. You can then **study for / do a degree**. If you complete the course **successfully**, you **get** your **degree** and **receive** a **certificate**.

In the UK, most degree courses **last** three years, although some take longer, e.g. medicine or law.

Teachers at university are usually called **lecturers**, and most of the **teaching** is done through **lectures**. The most senior lecturers have the title **Professor**. Students doing **arts** subjects, e.g. English or history, will spend time working in the **library** and writing **essays**. Students doing **science** degrees, e.g. physics or chemistry, will probably spend a lot of their time working in a **laboratory** (lab).

When students are doing their first degree, they are called **undergraduates**. When they complete their degree, they are **graduates**. Some graduates **go on to do** a **Master’s**, e.g. in the UK an MA (Master of Arts) or MSc (Master of Science). These are called **postgraduate** degrees. The longest one is a **PhD** (Doctor of Philosophy) where students **do research** for at least three years.

*2 Put the sentences in the correct order.*

I did a degree course.

I passed with good grades.

I got a Master’s.

I did a postgraduate course.

I did my final exams at school.

I became an undergraduate.

I got a place at university.

I got a degree in business studies.

*3 Are the statements about English universities true or false? If the statement is false, correct it.*

1) University teachers are all called professors.

2) Anyone can go to university if they want to.

3) Some students go to university just to get a qualification.

4) Most university degree courses in the UK last five years.

5) Students don’t go to lectures at university.

6) If you are unsuccessful, you get a degree anyway, just pay for it.

7) Students doing their first degree are called graduates.

8) Science students write a lot of essays.

9) A PhD is a postgraduate degree.

10) If you study arts subjects, you work in a laboratory.

*4. Complete the text using the topical vocabulary.*

Mark got very good… in his final school exams, and he went to University and got a… in IT. He then… to do an MSc.

The course… a year, and at the end he had an offer to go… business.

After a couple of years Mark decided to go back to University to do… for a PhD.

He knows it will be three years’ work, but he loves studying, and never went to university just for a… that would get him a good job earning a lot of money.

*5 Answer the questions about Belarus.*

1) Do you need to pass exams before you can go to university in Belarus?

2) How long do most degree courses last?

3) In England the first degree is called a BA or BSc. What is the first degree called in Belarus?

4) Do we have similar postgraduate degrees?

5) Do you get a certificate when you finish your degree?

**II Our University**

*1 Vocabulary box.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| to join a university | preparatory section |
| traditional values | post-graduate courses |
| new approaches | educational supplies |
| faculty | hostel (dormitory) |
| department | semester |
| to offer | attendance |
| modern facilities | compulsory |
| daytime training / full-time studies | credit test |
| part-time studies | scholarship |
|  | grade |

I am a student of Fr. Scorina Gomel State University. It was opened in 1969 on the basis of the Pedagogical Institute. It was the second University in Belarus.

Our University combines traditional values with new approaches. That is why we have various faculties: *the Faculty of Biology, Geology and Geography, History, Part-Time Studies and Pre-University Training, Foreign Languages, Mathematics and Programming Technologies, Psychology and Pedagogics, Physics and Information Technologies, Physical Culture, Philology, Economics, Law.*

Our University offers modern facilities for students and five forms of training – daytime training (full-time studies), part-time studies, preparatory section, distance learning and post-graduate courses.

The University trains future *teachers* in various subjects, l*awyers*, *economists* and *managers*, *psychologists*, *engineers*, *programmers* and *research workers*.

Part-time students combine work and studies. Preparatory section helps (those who finished schools many years ago) become students.

Our University has a good library. The students can get all sorts of educational supplies there. Reading halls, different laboratories with modern equipment are at the students’ disposal.

Many students of our University live in hostels.

The chief task of a student is to learn. Attendance at all lectures, seminars and practical classes is compulsory for all students. The course of study lasts for four or five years. The academic year is divided into two semesters. At the end of each semester students take credit tests on practical work and examinations on theory.

The first-year students of the Faculty of Mathematics and Programming Technologies study physics, higher mathematics, descriptive geometry and social sciences. Later they acquire profound knowledge in cybernetics, computing machinery, etc. Special attention is paid to analog and digital computers. There is a computing centre at the University where the students are taught to work with computers.

Many students receive scholarship that depends much on their grades.

As well as academic success, the social scene is an important part of life at the University. Students extend their knowledge and talents, develop as individuals.

*2 Complete the sentences.*

1) It was opened in…

2) Our University combines…

3) Our University offers…

4) The University trains…

5) Part-time students…

6) The chief task of a student…

7) Attendance…

8) The course of study…

9) At the end of each semester…

10) Students of the Faculty of Mathematics and Programming Technologies study…

11) As well as academic success,…

*3 Make up your own sentences using the following words and phrases.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| to join a university | a hostel |
| to combine | scholarship |
| to offer modern facilities | computing machinery |
| to be at smb’s disposal |  |

*4 Define the tense-forms of the predicates in the following sentences.*

1) It was opened in 1969 on the basis of the Pedagogical Institute.

2) It was the second University in Belarus.

3) Part-time students combine work and studies.

4) Many students will receive scholarship.

5) Most of the students have passed their exams successfully.

6) As well as academic success, the social scene is an important part of life at the University.

*5 Answer the questions to the text.*

1) When was our University opened?

2) What faculties do we have at our University?

3) What facilities does our University offer for students?

4) What is the chief task of a student?

5) Is the social scene an important part of life at the University?

*6. Problem solving.*

*You are a student of Gomel State University. It’s a great event in your life. Share your joy with your friend. (Make up short dialogues)*

1) Describe your first impression of the University.

2) What new information about our University did you learn from the text?

3) Your advice to a future school-leaver.

4) Who helped you choose you future speciality.

**III Students’ life**

*1 Read this story about Paul, a university student. Note down the useful words to talk about the university life.*

My friend’s name is Paul, he’s a freshman.

Paul **enroll**ed in four classes. And he decided to take Psychology 100. At first Paul was a very good student. He studied very hard.

After Paul enrolled in Psych 100, Paul **hit the books**. Every night he opened his book and studied. Then the professor, the prof, **handed out the assignment**. But Paul got very stressed. He couldn’t think about the assignment, he was too stressed out about it, so he ended up partying and having fun. And then the assignment came due, which meant he had to give the assignment in on a Thursday. The night before the assignment was due, Paul decided to **pull an all-nighter**. He stayed up all night working on it. So the next day, he went to class and **handed in** his assignment.

Paul got a really good mark on his paper, somehow. Paul got an A+. But then he started **to skip class**. Instead of going to class he **cut class**.

Instead of studying he was at the bar with his friends having fun. Paul had no idea what was happening in class. Every week he was supposed to read a certain amount. He didn’t do any of his readings. So, he **fell behind**. So there was too much work for him to do. Everybody was over here. This was really bad at university.

He started to go to class, get advice, become a better student. He hit the books again. So, because of his effort, a nice thing happened: he **got caught up**. He tried really hard, he hit the books, he got caught up, but then he started to skip classes again, and he started to cut class again. He stopped doing his assignments, he stopped doing his homework, and what happened? He fell behind again. So then Paul was back in a bit of a problem, in a difficult situation. So there was a couple of things Paul could do then. He could leave the course. That meant he could quit the course. He wasn’t going to **withdraw from the course** or **drop the course**.

But the problem was that Paul was a little bit of a lazy student. So instead of doing what he should, Paul did something a little bad. Not a little bad, very bad. Paul “plagiarized”. He decided **to plagiarize** his paper. He copied an essay from the Internet, or he bought an essay online.

He handed in his paper to the professor, and the professor realized there was something wrong with his paper. The professor did an online search, and saw: “Wait a second. Paul didn’t write this paper. Somebody else wrote this paper.” So then Paul was in huge trouble at the university. Luckily, the professor was a very nice person and just gave Paul a zero. But if you plagiarize you can **be expelled** or **kicked out**.

So, luckily, that didn’t happen to Paul. This was his first year, his freshman year. Afterwards, he learned how to be a good university student. He never plagiarized again. He never... Well, he fell behind a couple more times, but he always managed to get caught up. He hit the books, he studied really hard, and so Paul actually did really well.

And now he has a really high-paying job. So, good job, Paul!

*2 Fill in the gaps with the suitable words from the text.*

1) When you decide to go to university, you… in multiple classes.

2) She handed her term paper… late.

3) It’s about time he got his first…

4) Normally, when I…, I just want to sleep all day.

5) He was ill for six weeks and… with his schoolwork.

6) Can you… what you’re doing and help me with this report?

7) If you compare the two books side by side, it is clear that the author of the second has… (from the first).

8) My brother was… from school for bad behaviour.

9) I was… out of the game for using bad language.

10) The teacher asked her to… out the worksheets.

11) You promised you wouldn’t… classes.

12) What course would you like to… for?

13) I can’t go out tonight. I need to… the books.

14) Having cut some many classes, he would hardly get… up.

15) She had to… from the competition because of a leg injury.

*3 Use these words and write about either your experience at university or somebody’s you know.*

*4 Watch the video “The People You Can Meet at University” on YouTube and take notes of the vocabulary.*

*5 Match the word with its definition.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| - a freshman  - a sophomore  - a junior  - a senior  - undergraduate students/ undergraduates  - Master’s students/  grad students  - TA  - RA  - PhD student  - post doc  - instructor/lecturer  - professors  - faculty  - advisor  - registrar  - Dean | - a third year student  - students of a university  - teaching assistant  - a person doing a profound research  - a person professionally conducting research after the completion of their doctoral studies (typically a PhD)  - a first-year student  - full-time members at the university  - a second year student  - the academic staff of a university  - the head of the department or university  - the person you go to when you want to get into a class  - students doing their 1 or 2 years’ postgraduate study  - last year student  - research assistant  - a person who teaches undergrads  - helps undergrads, and grad students with their studies, gives advice on things |

*6 Make sure you know the meaning of the following words.*

1) to take/do/sit/resit an exam;

2) to pass/do well in an exam;

3) to fail/do badly in an exam;

4) to revise for (the exam);

5) to skip classes/lectures;

6) marks/grades;

7) continuous assessment;

8) to graduate from the university;

9) to get grants/scholarship.

*7 Correct these sentences.*

1) I can’t come out. I’m studying. I’m passing an exam tomorrow.

2) Congratulations! I hear you succeeded your examination!

3) You can study a lot of various careers at this University.

4) I got some good notes in my continuous assessment this term.

5) She is a professor in a primary school.

6) He gave an interesting 45-minute conference on Hardware.

*8 What is … ?*

1) A first degree at college or university

2) The lower level of postgraduate degree

3) The highest university degree

4) A person who is studying for their first degree

5) A person who has completed their first degree

6) A person who is studying for a master’s or PhD

*9 Complete these sentences.*

1) This undergraduate… lasts four years.

a) credit;

b) programme;

c) field.

2) To complete the year students need 180… 60 of these are for the thesis.

a) lectures;

b) credits;

c) modules.

3) After three years, you will … with a bachelor’s degree.

a) research;

b) credit;

c) graduate.

4) My master’s … on modern English literature was 120 pages long.

a) field;

b) credit;

c) dissertation.

5) Dr Lewis has been doing … into dolphin behaviour and has made a very important discovery.

a) research;

b) thesis;

c) field.

6) Lucy is an expert in the … of ancient history and has just completed her PhD on Greek art.

a) field;

b) programme;

c) research.

*10 Speak on one of the following topics:*

1) My University studies.

2) My usual day at University.

3) Students’ life in Belarus.