

Mechanism of selection of foreign students to study at higher education institutions of Belarus

In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus of June 12, 2018 № 232 "On grants for training", a quota of 100 places is allocated annually for foreign citizens to study on the basis of grants in state institutions of higher and secondary special education of the Republic of Belarus on educational programs of higher, secondary special education (Art. 198 of the Code of Education of the Republic of Belarus):

- general higher education, bachelor's degree;
- advanced higher education (master's degree);
- specialized secondary education.

The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus together with other state administration bodies consider proposals received from the diplomatic missions of the Republic of Belarus abroad, which then are used as a basis for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus and the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus to form a Plan of Admission of foreign citizens for training to be approved by the Minister of Education of the Republic of Belarus by November 15.

The Plan specifies the list of countries, the number of places, the level of education, as well as the specialties to be proposed to foreign citizens for education.

When making proposals to the Plan of Admission, the diplomatic missions of the Republic of Belarus abroad are primarily guided by the state-of-play and prospects of political, trade and economic relations of the Republic of Belarus with foreign states, implementation of joint projects in foreign countries and the need to train their personnel, promotion of other initiatives aimed at strengthening the foreign political and economic relations of the Republic of Belarus.

The procedure of selection of foreign citizens for training is carried out in three stages:

Stage 1. Until February 20, diplomatic missions of the Republic of Belarus abroad accept documents from foreign citizens who have expressed a desire to study in educational institutions of the Republic of Belarus.

The list of documents to be submitted by foreign citizens to the diplomatic missions of the Republic of Belarus abroad to participate in the second stage of the selection process is determined by the Regulation on the procedure for selecting foreign citizens and stateless persons permanently residing outside of the Republic of Belarus to study on the basis of grants in state institutions of higher and secondary specialized education of the Republic of Belarus, approved by the Decision of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus on September 7, 2018 No. 646.

Documents to be submitted by candidates
for participation in the second stage of the selection process

No.	List
1	Application for admission to training (in free form with arguments in favor of the chosen specialty)
2	Copies of the document for traveling abroad and (or) identity document
3	Copies of the document on education (or a certificate that the foreign citizen is a student, indicating marks in all subjects, certified by the head of the educational institution)
4	Copy of the document confirming proficiency in Russian and (or) Belarusian languages (if available)
5	Copy of the medical document on the state of health indicating the possibility of training in the chosen specialty and certificate of absence of HIV infection, issued by the official health authority of the candidate's country
6	Characteristics from the place of study (for students)
7	Documents confirming Belarusian origin (if relatives have Belarusian citizenship)
8	Documents confirming the preferential right to participate in the third stage of the selection process
9	If the score is lower than 7.5, a petition from the diplomatic mission of the Republic of Belarus abroad
10	Apostilized translation of the documents, notarized if they are in a foreign language
11	From the diplomatic mission: - Cover letter and preliminary list of candidates

Documents drawn up in a foreign language must be accompanied by a notarized translation into Russian or Belarusian.

Stage 2. Diplomatic missions of the Republic of Belarus abroad form preliminary lists of candidates and send them with copies of submitted documents to the Ministry of Education on paper and in electronic form until March 15.

The second stage of selection is conducted by the commission created by the Ministry of Education with participation of representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, other state administration bodies and organizations. The commission at its meeting considers the preliminary lists of candidates and submitted documents.

Following the results of the meeting, the commission shall form a list of candidates recommended for participation in the third stage of selection.

Stage 3. Based on the results of the commission's work, by May 1, the Ministry of Education informs the educational institutions of the lists of candidates recommended for participation in the third stage of selection, with the copies of the submitted documents.

The educational institutions inform the candidates of participation in the interview until May 20.

The third stage of the selection process is carried out till June 15 in form of an interview to establish the level of candidates' knowledge of the language to be used for the educational process, in order to determine the possibility of mastering the content of the educational program of higher or specialized secondary education.

Based on the interview results, before June 20, the educational institutions send the lists of candidates selected for training to the Ministry of Education for approval.

The educational institutions shall notify the candidates of the positive results of the interview and ensure sending invitations for training in order to organize their entry into the territory of the Republic of Belarus.

Applicants from among foreign citizens and stateless persons (their representatives) submit the following documents to the admission commission of a higher education institution:

- application to the head of the higher education institution in the form established by the Ministry of Education;

- original certificate (document) on education (except for persons studying at the higher education institution and entering for the second and subsequent higher education, as well as persons entering for distance education) with indication of subjects studied and marks (points) obtained on them, provided that these documents are recognized in the Republic of Belarus in accordance with the established procedure;

- a document on passing a mandatory medical examination in territorial health care organizations, determined by the higher education institution in coordination with the health care committee (head offices) of the Minsk City Executive Committee (regional executive committees), confirming the absence of medical contraindications to study in the Republic of Belarus;

- a certificate of absence of HIV infection issued by the official health authority of the country of origin of the applicant;

- original (copy) of the birth certificate and (or) other document confirming the date of birth and citizenship – for minor applicants;

- a certificate of graduation from a pre-university training faculty, preparatory department, or the higher education institution preparatory courses
- in case of their graduation.

Foreign citizens and stateless persons enrolling in educational institutions **on the basis of grants** under the international treaties of the Republic of Belarus, may submit to the admission commission *the original documents upon arrival in the Republic of Belarus before the beginning of the academic year.*