



МІНІСТЭРСТВА АДУКАЦЫІ
РЭСПУБЛІКІ БЕЛАРУСЬ
УСТАНОВА АДУКАЦЫІ
«МАГІЛЁўСКІ ДЗЯРЖАЎНЫ
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МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ
РЕСПУБЛИКИ БЕЛАРУСЬ
УЧРЕЖДЕНИЕ ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ
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На № _____ ад _____

Information of Mogilev State A. Kuleshov University about One-Year Educational Programs of the Second Stage of Higher Education

According to the recommendations received from the Center for Services for Students Abroad of the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China, the educational establishment "Mogilev State A. Kuleshov University" publishes information on one-year educational programs of the second stage of higher education, where explanations are provided on the merits of the issues that our university regularly receives:

1. *How many Chinese citizens have been enrolled for a master's degree, and how many Chinese graduates have received a master's degree in the past three years (2019-2021)?*

Mogilev State A. Kuleshov University is a leading university in the eastern region of the Republic of Belarus, which strives for maximum integration into the global educational space. In accordance with the University Development Plan for 2020-2025, the university plans to increase the number of foreign citizens (including Chinese citizens) up to 1000 people or 15-16% of the total number of students, which is in line with the internationalization of the university and global trends. Currently, about 600 foreign citizens from 12 countries of the world study at the university.

Table 1
Information on the number of foreign citizens studying at the university in the period from 2019 to 2021 (as of December 31)

| 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|------|------|------|
| 487 | 646 | 583 |

Table 2
Information about Chinese citizens who entered the second stage of higher education of the university in the period from 2019 to 2021

| 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|------|------|--|
| 6 | 135 | February-March – 145 September – 10 |

Table 3

Information about Chinese citizens who successfully completed the second stage of higher education in the period from 2019 to 2021 and received a master's degree

| 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | 7* | 95 | 19** |

* 1 Chinese citizen entered the 2-year program in 2018.

** As of March 14, 2022

The difference in the number of applicants and the number of graduates is explained by the fact that due to the unfavorable epidemiological situation, many Chinese students could not come to the Republic of Belarus to continue their studies and were forced to take academic leave.

A list of PRC students who have now successfully completed their second stage of higher education and who have been awarded a master's degree was sent by the university to the Overseas Student Service Center of the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China.

The university administration considers it important to note that the increase in the number of students from among the citizens of the PRC is a consequence of the reorientation of the university and the education system of the Republic of Belarus to the People's Republic of China as a country that is one of the strategic partners of Belarus, as well as the systematic career guidance work carried out by the university staff. So, since 2017, the Center for Chinese Language and Culture has been working on the basis of Mogilev State A. Kuleshov University, and work is underway to create the Confucius Institute. Every year, starting from 2016, university staff took part in advertising and exhibition events held in China. The expansion of cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and the People's Republic of China, including the field of education, is largely the result of mutual understanding between the President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping and the President of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko, **a graduate of Mogilev State A. Kuleshov University**. It should also be noted that the increase in the number of students from the PRC was ensured by reducing the number of master's students from other countries, in particular Turkmenistan, which made it possible to maintain the high quality of education at Mogilev State A. Kuleshov University.

2. During the pandemic, what master's student programs Chinese citizens were accepted at? What is the form of education of these educational programs?

Mogilev State A. Kuleshov University carries out educational activities in accordance with a special permit (License) issued on the basis of a decision of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus, and regularly undergoes state accreditation for compliance with the declared type and specialty (https://www.msu.by/info/umo/licenziya_2021.pdf).

The list of specialties of the second stage of higher education, for which the university has the right to recruit, is indicated in the License. The opening of new specialties is a lengthy procedure (from 1 to 3 years), as it requires coordination at the level of personnel customers, educational and methodological associations, the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus. After the start of the pandemic, Chinese citizens studied at the following programs of the second stage of higher education, the form of education is full-time (full-time):

Table 4

Education of Chinese citizens in the programs of the second stage of higher education after the start of the pandemic

| Specialty opening | Specialty code | Name of specialty | Profilization | Academic degree |
|--|----------------|--|---|-----------------|
| Letter from the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus dated 06.02.2009 № 04-01-13/369-np | 1-08 80 02 | Theory and methods of education and upbringing (by fields and levels of education) | General pedagogy, history of pedagogics and education | Master |
| Letter from the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus dated 06.02.2009 № 04-01-13/369-np | 1-08 80 02 | Theory and methods of education and upbringing (by fields and levels of education) | History | Master |
| Letter from the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus dated 06.02.2009г. № 04-01-13/369-np | 1-08 80 02 | Theory and methods of education and upbringing (by fields and levels of education) | Musical art | Master |
| Order of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus dated 04.08.2017 № 512 Order of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus dated 30.01.2019 № 51 (the specialty "Legal support of economic activity" was transformed into the specialty "Jurisprudence") | 1-24 80 01 | Jurisprudence | Legal support of economic activity | Master |
| Order of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus dated 23.02.2009г. № 133 | 1-23 80 03 | Psychology | Psychological counselling and psychocorrection | Master |
| Order of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus dated 06.06.2011г. № 363 for the specialty "Theory of Language". Order of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus dated 30.01.2019г. № 51 (the specialty "Theory of Language" was transformed into the specialty "Theoretical and Applied Linguistics") | 1-21 80 02 | Theoretical and Applied Linguistics | Language Theory | Master |
| Letter from the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus dated 06.02.2009г. № 04-01-13/369-np for the specialty "Native History", Order of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus dated 11.06.2009г. № 732 for the specialty "General History". Order of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus dated 30.01.2019г. № 51 (specialties "Native History" and "General History" were | 1-21 80 15 | History | Native History, General History | Master |

| | | | | |
|--|------------|---------|--------|--------|
| transformed into the specialty “History”) | | | | |
| Order of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus dated 05.06.2007r. № 369 | 1-31 80 05 | Physics | Optics | Master |

Thus, training in these specialties is carried out over a long period. The code and names of specialties correspond to the National Classifier of the Republic of Belarus OKRB 011-2009 “Specialties and Qualifications”, put into effect by the Decree of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus dated 02.06.2009 № 36, as amended by Amendments № 27 OKRB 011-2009, approved by the Decree of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus of December 17, 2018 № 122.

Training in the specialties of the second stage of higher education was carried out in **full-time (daytime)** form of education. In accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 17 of the Education Code, letters from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus “On carrying out measures to prevent COVID-19 infections” (dated April 7, 2020 № 03-01-18/3305/Дс, dated 04.04.2020 № 7-19/6000, respectively) **in order to ensure safe conditions for education and upbringing, as well as in connection with the need for mandatory mastery of the content of educational programs of higher education for students receiving higher education full-time, the educational process was organized with the use of information-communication technologies.**

3. *What measures have been taken to ensure the quality of education using information communication technologies and the implementation of individual plans at your university?*

The educational process for Chinese citizens studying at the university master’s program is organized on the basis of educational standards and curricula of specialties.

In connection with the spread of coronavirus infection 2019-nCOV, the issue of introducing information and communication technologies for teaching students has become particularly acute and relevant in the training of students of the second stage of higher education in master’s programs. At Mogilev State A. Kuleshov University this task was solved by using the LMS Moodle system, which provides a concentration of educational materials and courses and covers course management, course registration and planning, discussion forums and assessments.

In LMS Moodle, the so-called “Master’s segment” was allocated for foreign students who are not able to arrive in the Republic of Belarus on time to receive education. For each specialty, courses have been created for all academic disciplines, an individual master’s plan, a schedule of classes, schedules of tests and exams are posted.

Electronic resources posted on the site can be used in the classroom under the guidance of a teacher and independently. Tasks for academic disciplines, placed in LMS Moodle, are aimed at the formation of systemic thinking and the activation of creativity, the ability to find non-standard ways of obtaining, comprehending and processing information. Master’s students for using electronic educational resources have the necessary level of knowledge of a personal

computer, each of them is assigned a login and password to enter the system. Working with e-mail is a mandatory form of reporting on the results of practical training in the magistracy.

Mogilev State A. Kuleshov University, when organizing the educational process using information and communication technologies, ensured the fulfillment of all the requirements of the current educational standards and curricula in terms of the amount of contact work of students with the teaching staff.

In the process of implementing the educational program of the master's program with the use of information and communication technologies, **daily monitoring** of the conduct and attendance of classes by students and their performance of training tasks was ensured.

Individual work plans for master's students were developed on the basis of the curriculum in the specialty by the supervisors of the research work of master's students together with master's students, discussed at meetings of the department and faculty council and approved by the first vice-rector. Individual plans of master's students provide for activities for the development of the educational program of the second stage, forms and deadlines for reporting.

The management of the research work of master's students is carried out by supervisors appointed from among teachers who have an academic degree and academic title. The number of such students for one supervisor does not exceed 7 people. PhD and candidates of sciences from among the **highly qualified employees** of the university have been appointed scientific supervisors of foreign students, citizens of the PRC, most of them have completed the English language courses organized by the university in the period from 2018 to 2021. In order to ensure operational communication between teachers, supervisors and master's students from among the citizens of the PRC, a database was created with information about e-mail addresses and contacts of foreign students in the WeChat messenger, which is widely used in the People's Republic of China. Communication in WeChat allowed for operational consultations, which is widely used in the People's Republic of China. Communication in WeChat made it possible to conduct prompt consultations on the subject of the master's thesis.

Intermediate attestation of master's students was held at the meeting of the department twice a semester. Corresponding records are available in the minutes of the meetings of the department and are included in the individual plan of the master's student.

On January 21, 2021, the issue of improving the quality of education when using information technologies in the educational process was discussed at the University Council. By the decision of the University Council, teachers implementing educational programs of the second stage of higher education with students who are unable to come to the Republic of Belarus due to the unfavorable epidemiological situation are recommended to plan at least 20% of lectures and practical classes using the Zoom platform and (or) through recording video content and placing a link to this content in the schedule of training sessions.

Examination sessions were held in accordance with the "Rules for attestation of students, cadets, trainees when mastering the content of educational programs of higher education" (approved by the Decree of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus on May 23, 2012 № 53).

The schedule of examinations and consultations at the university were drawn up and approved in the prescribed manner. The results of the examination sessions were analyzed and discussed at meetings of departments, faculty councils, and the university council.

Due to the impossibility of arrival of master's students to the university to pass the current certification, the university management decided to conduct the events of the current certification of the winter credit and examination session using the Zoom platform in online mode for recording. One of the mandatory conditions for the organization of the current certification was to ensure the identification of the student by presenting an identity document.

The form of the final certification of students in accordance with Article 215 of the Code of the Republic of Belarus on Education in mastering the content of educational programs of higher education of the second stage is the defense of a master's thesis. The final certification of students upon completion of mastering the content of the educational program is carried out by state examination boards (hereinafter referred to as SEB). The chairmen of the SEB are appointed **by order of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus**, the SEB (members of the boards) of the higher education establishment are approved by the rector of the university no later than one month before the start of the work of the commissions for the defense of master's theses.

Decisions on the admission of a master's thesis for defense are made taking into account the degree of originality and correct borrowing, confirmed by the relevant certificate. Students who have fully completed the curriculum of the specialty, the individual work plan of the master's student, and have passed tests (differentiated tests), exams in academic disciplines, are allowed to defend a master's thesis.

After the epidemiological situation normalized, all foreign students were returned to the classrooms. The final certification of foreign students was carried out in strict accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Belarus and **exclusively in full-time format** with the personal presence of master's students, which is fully consistent with the order of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus dated July 29, 2021 № 577 "On measures to improve the quality of training at the second stage of higher education".

4. *Is it in line with the order of July 29, 2021 № 577 "On measures to improve the quality of training at the second stage of higher education" admitting Chinese citizens in the 2021/2022 academic year to study one-year educational programs of the second stage of higher education, conducting training sessions, current and final certification at your university?*

The university administration responsibly declares that after the issuance of the Order of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus № 577 dated July 29, 2021 "On measures to improve the quality of training at the second stage of higher education", recruitment, conducting training sessions, conducting current and final certification of students from among the citizens of the PRC is carried out directly in the classrooms of the university in strict accordance with the Order of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus:

- In the 2021/2022 academic year, the admission of foreign citizens for higher education of the II stage is carried out in strict accordance with the Rules for the admission of persons for higher education of the II stage, approved by the

Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus dated February 2, 2012 № 110.

- Admission of foreign citizens to receive higher education of the II stage is carried out directly at the university in the classrooms determined by the admission committee of the university.

- The university administration prepared a corresponding notice for students from among the citizens of the PRC studying at the university (letter № 4729 dated 08.09.2021), in accordance with which the students were informed about the change in the conditions of study. The students were offered to immediately arrive to study in the Republic of Belarus, and in case of impossibility of arrival, arrange an academic leave before arrival.

- Currently, classes with students who have arrived to continue their studies, as well as with students who entered the university in the 2021/2022 academic year, are held in accordance with the above requirements – directly in the university’s classrooms, taking into account measures to prevent infection caused by coronavirus.

In order to ensure the proper quality of training for foreign citizens, including citizens of the People’s Republic of China studying at the second stage of higher education, the university administration has taken additional measures:

- Only highly qualified teachers, doctors and candidates of sciences are appointed as supervisors and teachers of foreign students, most of whom have completed the English language courses organized by the university in the period from 2018 to 2021.

- For master’s students studying in English, 8 English-language versions of curricula and corresponding educational and program documentation have been developed. 66 academic disciplines are taught in English. 63 (95.5%) new curricula have been developed, 3 (4.5%) curricula for the disciplines of the “Additional Types of Education” cycle have been updated.

- All master’s students in all academic disciplines of the curriculum are provided with educational literature and teaching materials in electronic form, including in English.

- The teaching staff of the university, which provides teaching in the specialties of the magistracy, provides individual consultations for foreign master’s students both on the studied academic disciplines and on writing a master’s thesis, including in English.

Sincerely,
First Vice-Rector of the University



D.S. Lavrinovich