SOME ASPECTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN GREAT BRITAIN (ДЕЯКІ АСПЕКТИ ВИЩОЇ ОСВІТИ У ВЕЛИКОБРИТАНІЇ)

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There are different kinds of educational institutions in Great Britain: universities, colleges (residential and non-residential), University extramural departments, evening departments at colleges. At present there are about forty universities in Britain: practically every big city of the country has a university.

Universities in Great Britain are different from those in other countries. They greatly differ from each other in date of foundation, history, tradition, size, methods of teaching, way of student life, etc.

Until the 19th century there were only two universities in England: Oxford and Cambridge. Both Universities are residential. They have a tutorial system of education. Each student has a tutor who helps the student to plan his work.

The modern Universities are University of London, Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham and others. They are not residential. They provide instruction chiefly by means of lectures attended mainly by day students.

Most of civic universities were founded in the 19th century as University colleges. Later they became universities. These universities were founded to serve the needs of their city and surrounding area, in contrast to Oxford, Cambridge and London which took students from all over the country.

College is a separate institution. Most colleges are state colleges but there are also private colleges.

At present there are about 300 technical colleges in England. They give diplomas, not degrees. The course for training specialists at such colleges is shorter as a rule than at the universities. It usually lasts 3 or 4 years, while at the universities it lasts as a rule more than 4 years.

A person who studies for a degree at a British University is called an undergraduate. Bachelor of Arts or of Science is the first degree. One can become a B. A. after 3 years of hard study and a M. A. (Master of Arts or of Science) at the end of 5 years. Doctor of Philosophy is the highest degree.

The academic year has 3 terms. Each term lasts about eight – ten weeks. Between terms the students have their holidays – a month in winter, a month in spring and three or four month in summer.