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## **USPAS from a student's perspective: learning about accelerator physics.** EVGENYA SMIRNOVA, Los Alamos National Laboratory

Overall, graduate education in the US is widely considered to be of the highest quality with the students from around the world entering our Universities. The difference between the US and European (in particularly, Russian) graduate educations is the availability of scholarly part in the US graduate programs. It consists of a number of classes (often mandatory) which help students to master their particular specialty and compensate for the lack of special classes during undergraduate years mostly overloaded with general studies. However, accelerator physics specialty has somehow historically become an exclusion with very few Universities offering classes in accelerators. The USPAS has became an essential part of my graduate education in accelerator physics, compensated for the lack of coursework at MIT, and greatly expedited my progress in thesis research.