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THE ROLE OF STUDENT ACADEMIC MOBILITY IN LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN UKRAINE

According to the definition provided by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, “Academic mobility is the movement of students and teachers of higher education institutions for a certain period of time to another educational or scientific institution within or outside their country for the purpose of studying or teaching. There are several forms of academic mobility, namely: studying under academic mobility programs; language training; research internships; participation in joint projects; professional development; teaching; and others” (2015).

The RATING Pro analytical center conducted a survey among Ukrainians about the importance of knowing a foreign language. When asked “What 2 languages, besides your native language, would be most useful for you to know for self-improvement and development?”, the majority (66%) preferred English, followed by German (17%). English is considered the most useful language in all regions of Ukraine. 40% of respondents believe that children should start learning a foreign language from preschool age (Ternopil Press Club, Public Opinion, 09.08.2016, <https://pressclub.te.ua/gromadska-dumka/дослідження-ставлення-українців-до-і/>).

Academic mobility increases a person’s chances for professional self-realization and increases the quality of labor resources in the national economy. It becomes the response of national education systems to the challenges of the global educational space and fierce competition in the market of educational services.

It is not for nothing that people consider learning foreign languages useful. Today it is very important both in life, study, and work. Every year in Ukraine,

cooperation with international companies is developing more and more, partners and investors from other countries appear. Nowadays, when applying for a job, knowledge of a foreign language (or even two or more) is considered an important point. It's no secret that these people will receive higher salaries, even if they do not use a second language other than their native one very often.

There is an old saying "The more languages you know, the more times you are a human being". Each language is a key that opens the door to something new. For example, English is the official international language, the language of business and trade. German is the language of technology and finance. And French is an official or administrative language in various communities and organizations.

Also, by learning foreign languages, we broaden our horizons, communicate with people from other countries, learn about their habits and traditions, and move up the career ladder. This is important in various areas of our lives (law, economics, education, and much more).

Knowledge of a foreign language gives young people a chance to study in educational institutions of any country, and if their higher education institution cooperates with foreign universities, this is a good chance to broaden their horizons at least.

In conclusion, it is necessary to outline that academic mobility is an integration process in education that enables students, graduate students, and teachers to participate in various educational or research programs. The main goals of such programs are to improve the quality of education, develop intercultural exchange, and train future qualified specialists. Participation in academic mobility programs gives the student the opportunity to receive a quality education in the chosen field of study.

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