

Mogilevskiy Kyrylo

Kyiv National University of Technologies and Design (Kyiv, Ukraine)

Language and scientific supervisor – Makhovych I., senior lecturer

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES: INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MIGRATION TO UKRAINE'S HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

One of the important forms of international cooperation for higher education institutions of all forms of ownership and accreditation levels is the training of foreign students. It not only contributes to the strengthening of Ukraine's authority in the international arena, but is also a significant source of additional funding for national education. In particular, in 2015, the number of foreign students in Ukraine was 63,172, which is about 1,5% of their number in the international market of educational services [4]. Furthermore, the number of foreign students enrolled in a university is considered in determining its rankings, indicating its reputation, popularity, and competitiveness in the international education market. The aim of this study is to examine why foreign students choose to migrate to Ukraine and the impact that this emigration has.

Higher educational institutions of Ukraine are becoming increasingly popular among foreign students, as of January 1, 2020, more than 80,000 students from 158 countries are studying in the country. The top ten countries of origin of foreign students are India, Morocco, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Nigeria, Turkey, China, Egypt, Israel, and Uzbekistan [1]. However, the decision to study abroad in Ukraine is often made at the last minute, with around half of foreign students only selecting Ukraine as their destination a month before admission [3, p. 23].

Foreign students face several challenges in adapting to their new environment in Ukraine. One of the biggest issues is racism, with 50% of students surveyed by the «Social Action» center stating that they feel unsafe traveling on public transport [2]. The country's harsh winter climate can also

have a significant impact on physical and mental well-being, and the food provided in educational institutions often does not take into account the specific dietary needs of foreign students. Additionally, language barriers can make it difficult for foreign students to communicate with their peers and teachers, as their proficiency in Ukrainian is often not sufficient.

The appearance of the university and its facilities are also important factors to consider when choosing a university, as they can influence an applicant's first impression. However, some universities have a formal attitude towards foreign students, which can result in issues such as bribery and diplomas that do not accurately reflect the student's qualifications [5].

Despite these challenges, the growing number of foreign students in Ukraine is beneficial for the country's higher education institutions, as it allows for more funds to be allocated towards improving the facilities and resources available to all students. It is important for universities to take steps to address the challenges faced by foreign students and to ensure that they receive a high-quality education.

In conclusion, Ukraine has become a popular destination for international students seeking higher education opportunities. With students from over 150 countries, Ukraine has shown itself to be a welcoming and diverse educational hub. However, foreign students face several challenges, including adaptation to the cultural, physical, and linguistic differences, as well as the issue of corruption in some educational institutions. It is essential that the government and universities take necessary measures to improve the adaptation process and ensure the quality of education for foreign students. This includes increasing language proficiency among teachers, providing better living conditions in dormitories, and ensuring that the qualification of graduates corresponds to the one indicated in their diplomas. By addressing these challenges, Ukraine can continue to attract students from around the world, contributing to the country's development and global cooperation in education.

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