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PECULIARITIES OF ADAPTATION OF FOREIGN STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS OF UKRAINE

International relations in the educational sphere are prevalent in the modern world. Ukraine is no exception, thousands of applications from foreign entrants come to our higher education institutions every year. Our country can provide foreigners with quality higher education at affordable price, so many people choose Ukraine.

Studying abroad gives a lot of new knowledge, experience and opportunities. However, in order to become educated in another country, a foreign student will have to go through the adaptation stage. This often causes difficulties in the learning process. Orientation in a new environment is not easy, a person feels confused and isolated from others. Many factors affect the speed of adaptation. Most of all, it depends on the person, their character and how they interact with society. Obviously that a self-confident and extroverted personality will be able to quickly adapt to new conditions, but unfortunately, most international students are closed people and therefore adaptation is much more problematic for them. So what adaptation problems can foreigners face in Ukraine?

First, it is a change in the schedule and rhythm of life. Ukrainians are always in a hurry, they are often too busy to stop and enjoy the present moment, and this scares most foreigners who are used to a slow and calm pace of life. It follows from this and the second problem is misunderstanding the culture of another country. It is very hard to get used to other traditions, habits and religion. But Ukraine is a fairly free country, there is no racial, religious or any other discrimination here, so foreigners don't have to fully adjust to our culture, it will be enough to simply respect it.

Another important problem faced by foreigners is ignorance of the laws of the new country. Knowing your rights gives you a lot of advantages that simplify the adaptation process. Ukraine gives foreigners complete freedom in this regard, they have the same rights as Ukrainians.

And the biggest problem for for foreigners is the language barrier. Most foreign students don't know Ukrainian and communicate in English or their native language. Of course, this will not prevent the learning, as Ukrainian universities have an individualized program for foreign students. But not knowing the official language will significantly slow down the process of adaptation. So how to solve all these problems?

The best way to adapt to a new place is to communicate with the locals. It is very important for an international student to find a guide or a friend who can explain things that are not clear, give support and guidance. Ukrainians are interested in talking to foreigners and if a person is open to contact with others, the problem will be easily solved [1].

Active participation in various cultural events, festivals, and national holidays helps to solve the problem of adapting to a new culture. After taking part in such events, most foreigners simply fall in love with Ukrainian culture and want to become a part of it.

And finally, what about the language barrier? This is not an easy problem, because learning a new language is commonly a long and time-consuming process. But do foreigners need the Ukrainian language at all?

Ukraine has a national language – Ukrainian, which is the language of instruction in higher education institutions, a means of communication in public spheres of social life and required for further successful employment. However, the unresolved language issue in the country creates a misleading opinion among foreigners. They are usually addressed in English or Russian, so foreign students don't feel the need to learn Ukrainian. This is a big mistake, since without knowing the language of the country, people lose many of the benefits it provides. A foreign student who studies the Ukrainian language will be able to

better explore the culture and integrate into society. Knowing Ukrainian will also have a positive effect on learning, because the majority of teachers don't have such information in another language. With knowledge of the official language, a foreigner will also be a desirable employee in the Ukrainian labor market. Besides, «knowledge of languages is the doorway to wisdom». But regardless, learning a language is an individual choice [2].

In conclusion, Ukraine is a good choice for international students. Until recently, Ukraine was quite a popular destination in the world for higher education. But after the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the share of foreign applicants dropped by as much as 90%. Nowadays, foreign students study remotely.

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