

HEI teachers' academic mobility: legislative basis

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Анотація. У статті окреслено можливості для викладачів вищих навчальних закладів України для реалізації міжнародної академічної мобільності. Охарактеризовано забезпечення міжнародної академічної мобільності у низці університетів України: Харківського національного університету імені С. Кузнеця, Таврійського державного агротехнологічного університету імені Дмитра Моторного, Сумського національного аграрного університету та Національного університету «Львівська політехніка». Виявлено, що зазначені університети беруть активну участь у міжнародній діяльності, зокрема надають можливості викладачам та студентам бути залученими до міжнародної академічної мобільності. Проаналізовано програми міжнародної академічної мобільності, які реалізуються у зазначених університетах, а також переваги для учасників міжнародної академічної мобільності.

Подано характеристику положення про забезпечення міжнародної академічної мобільності для студентів, аспірантів, докторантів, науково-педагогічних, наукових та інших працівників у Національному університеті «Львівська політехніка». Виявлено, що положення окреслює цілі, завдання, порядок організації міжнародної академічної мобільності, умови повернення до постійного місця навчання (роботи), виконання програм міжнародної академічної мобільності, визнання та зарахування її результатів для здобувачів вищої освіти та наукових ступенів, а також для працівників Національного університету «Львівська політехніка».

Проаналізовано види та форми міжнародної академічної мобільності для викладачів за різними ознаками. Зокрема, за сферою діяльності (освітня, наукова); за способом реалізації (очна, заочна, змішана); за процедурою визнання результату програми міжнародної академічної мобільності (кредитна, ступенева).

Охарактеризовано цілі та завдання міжнародної академічної мобільності у Національному університеті «Львівська політехніка». Цілі є такими: інтеграція до Європейського простору вищої освіти та Європейського дослідницького простору; обмін передовими практиками та досвідом у сфері освіти і науки; модернізація освітньої діяльності Університету; підвищення якості освіти та ефективності наукових досліджень; підвищення конкурентоспроможності освітньо-наукової спільноти;

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розвиток професійних навичок та особистісних навичок учасників міжнародної академічної мобільності; поглиблення співробітництва з міжнародними партнерами у сферах освіти і науки; підтримка соціального, економічного, культурного співробітництва з іншими країнами.

Завдання включають: підвищення рівня теоретичної і практичної підготовки учасників міжнародної академічної мобільності, професійної майстерності; отримання міжнародного досвіду провадження викладацької, наукової, науково-технічної діяльності та доступу до європейської та світової дослідницької інфраструктури; реалізація спільних наукових, науково-технічних та/або освітніх проєктів; підвищення рівня володіння іноземними мовами; популяризація української мови, культури, поглиблення знань про культуру інших країн.

Зроблено висновок з даного дослідження та окреслено перспективи подальших розвідок щодо питання академічної мобільності викладачів закладів вищої освіти.

Ключові слова: програми академічної мобільності, інтернаціоналізація освіти, професійний розвиток, положення про академічну мобільність, інформаційна підтримка, міжнародна співпраця.

Академічна мобільність викладачів закладів вищої освіти: нормативно-правова база

Annotation. The article highlights the opportunities for Ukrainian higher education institutions teachers to implement international academic mobility. The provision of international academic mobility in a range of Ukrainian universities was characterized (Kharkiv Semyon Kuznets National University of Economics, Dmytro Motornyi Tavria State Agrotechnological University, Sumy National Agrarian University, Lviv Polytechnic National University). It was revealed that the universities under research take an active part in international activity in particular provide the opportunities to teachers and students to be engaged in international academic mobility. The international academic mobility programs being implemented in the above mentioned universities were analyzed. The features of the regulation on international academic mobility of students, academics and other staff at Lviv Polytechnic National University were outlined. It was found that the regulation determines the goals, tasks, the procedure of organizing the international academic mobility, the conditions of returning to permanent place of study (work), fulfilling the international academic mobility programs, recognizing and counting their results for higher education and scientific degree acquirers as well as the staff of Lviv Polytechnic National University. The conclusions from the research were provided and the prospects of the further study of the HEI teachers' academic mobility issue were given.

Keywords: academic mobility programs, internationalization of education, professional development, regulation on academic mobility. Informational support, international collaboration.

Introduction

In modern educational environment academic mobility of students and teachers becomes a means of gaining new experience, cultural exchange, improving language skills, personal and professional development. Academic mobility contributes to the internationalization of education, improving the quality of teaching and learning, establishing contacts with higher educational institutions, organizations, experts and exchange programs. In these conditions there appears the problem of providing a legislative basis that regulates all the questions connected with academic mobility, the informational support and the departments responsible for processing all the documents at higher educational institutions.

The problem of academic mobility belongs to the sphere of scientific interest of many Ukrainian and foreign researchers. In particular, S. Baka studies the main elements of academic mobility in European and other countries. The researcher singles out and describes such elements as national mobility centers, higher educational institutions, students and teaching staff. She emphasizes that the legal framework provides the basis for implementing the academic mobility of the academic exchange participants. She considers the elements of academic mobility on the example of Austria, Germany, Great Britain, Finland and the USA [1].

A Zahorodnia devotes her research to outlining academic mobility as a means of assuring quality of professional training of the economic sphere specialists. She discloses such notions as “mobility”, “academic mobility” and “professional mobility” as well as describes the forms of academic mobility. She stresses upon the significance of the Erasmus+ program for the higher educational institutions. The researcher pays special attention to specifying the tasks of virtual mobility [2].

Notwithstanding the sincere interest of the researchers in academic mobility there hasn't been holistic study of the legislative basis of HEI teachers' academic mobility.

The aim of our research is to disclose the legislative basis for the academic mobility of higher educational institutions teachers.

Results

According to the aim of our research we propose to analyze the information about academic mobility provision at different Ukrainian HEIs: to disclose the academic mobility programs, advantages of participation in academic mobility, informational support from universities' departments as well as documents specifying and regulating academic mobility of students and teachers in universities.

In Kharkiv Semyon Kuznets National University of Economics the Department of International Relations is responsible for the academic mobility programs. Within international cooperation S. Kuznets University of Economics is a partner of students' exchange programs such as Erasmus+, Mevlana and others. It stimulates the development of international academic mobility programs which offer the following opportunities for students and teachers:

- participation in international exchange and study programs in European universities;
- conducting research on the basis of universities in other countries;
- doing practice in foreign HEIs and organizations;
- inviting scholars and experts from the leading European HEIs and international organizations to deliver lectures;
- involving teachers from Kharkiv Semyon Kuznets National University of Economics to conducting lecture courses in European universities [3].

The advantages of participating in academic mobility programs are determined. They include: improving the quality of the educational process; professional development, gaining new knowledge and professional experience; possibility of receiving grants to study abroad; experience of studying in European universities and familiarizing with their teaching methods; enhancing employment opportunities and competitiveness both at the domestic and international labor markets; development of career prospects and potential; language skills improvement; networking and communication in cross-cultural environment [3].

The Department of International Relations of Kharkiv Semyon Kuznets National University of Economics provides a short guide for applicants to competition for academic mobility programs. It involves five steps: 1) choose the academic mobility program within your educational and professional or educational and scientific program; 2) make sure that you meet the criteria of participation in competitive selection; 3) fill in online application according to the link in competition announcement; 4) prepare a set of documents and submit to the Department of International Relations to participate in competitive selection; 5) find out the results of competitive selection [3].

The analysis of academic mobility in Dmytro Motorny Tavria State Agrotechnological University shows that they define it as the possibility to spend some time as an intern at a foreign university without stopping one's work at the University. The tasks of academic mobility programs being the internationalization of education and cultural integration of academics from different countries. Academic mobility is traditionally of two- or multilateral character, i.e. one and the same university not only its teachers abroad but also accepts foreign teachers from partner universities [4].

The Department of International Relations of Dmytro Motorny Tavria State Agrotechnological University highlights the advantages of participating in academic mobility. They include such things: to receive a splendid opportunity of getting to know the culture and the education system of another country; to improve the command of foreign languages; to meet new friends and get valuable experience; to try oneself in another system of higher education organization; to acquire professional experience of working at a foreign enterprise or scientific laboratory (center) which, as a rule, is provided by the curriculum; to get additional knowledge in related areas; to use modern technical facilities of foreign study laboratories and scientific centers in order to solve the assigned tasks [4].

Dmytro Motorny Tavria State Agrotechnological University offers participation in international programs such as double degrees, yearly study grants, international scientific and students' contests as well as teachers' academic mobility programs [4].

International cooperation of Sumy National Agrarian University provides opportunities of participation in academic mobility programs. It is a unique possibility to study, teach, have internship or conduct research in another higher educational institution on the territory of Ukraine or in other countries without dismissal from the main place of work or study [5].

The procedure for implementing the right of students and teachers to participate in academic mobility programs is regulated by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 579 "On the approval of the regulation for the implementation of the right to academic mobility" and the Regulation on the implementation of the right of students of the Sumy National Agrarian University to academic mobility approved by the Academic Council of the University (protocol No. 7 dated January 25, 2016) [5].

The advantages of participating in academic mobility programs are outlined. They are the following:

- involvement in the best international practices and getting unique experience;
- enhancing competitiveness on the labor market;
- familiarizing with teaching methodologies and the features of the educational process in foreign higher educational institutions;
- the possibility to conduct cross-cultural and professional dialogues;
- improving language competencies;
- expansion of professional and personal outlooks [5].

The range of academic mobility programs in which Sumy National Agrarian University is involved in includes: DAAD Scholarships, BAYHOST Scholarships, Fulbright Programs, Mitacs Globalink Research Internship, Global UGRAD, Mevlana, Study Tours to Poland, Government of the Slovak Republic Scholarships, Latvian State Scholarships, Government of Canada Scholarships, Campus France Ukraine Scholarships [5].

Lviv Polytechnic National University is actively participating in international education and developing cooperation with foreign universities and organizations. The foundation for international activity of the University are the international agreements. The agreements signed enable the implementation of the international academic mobility of students and teachers, formation of consortiums to work on joint educational and research projects, exchange of information in different spheres of education. Lviv Polytechnic National University develops international links within bilateral and multilateral international agreements which

include 377 valid agreements on cooperation with higher educational institutions and organizations from 40 countries [6].

Center for International Education at Lviv Polytechnic National University was founded in 2015 according to the decision of the Academic Council and the order of the Rector of the University. The activity of the Center is directed at the following tasks:

- to expand the participation of the University's academics and students in international academic exchange programs;
- to establish educational, scientific, political and economic international cooperation;
- to promote the formation of competitive graduates of the University on the global labor market;
- to deepen the knowledge of the University's academics and students about other cultures and promote interethnic understanding [7].

It should be noted that the academic mobility at Lviv Polytechnic National University is provided under the "Temporary regulation on international academic mobility of students, academics and other staff of Lviv Polytechnic National University" approved by the Rector's order No 139-1-10 from April 4, 2023. The regulation determines the goals, tasks, procedure for organizing international academic mobility, the conditions of returning back to studies (work), fulfilling the programs of international academic mobility, recognizing and counting its results for students of higher education and scientific degree acquirers as well as the staff of Lviv Polytechnic National University [8].

According to the Regulation international academic mobility is defined as the possibility of educational process participants to study, teach, have internship or conduct scientific activity in a foreign educational institution (scientific establishment). International academic mobility presupposes fulfilling the program by a Ukrainian participant in a foreign institution or by a foreign participant at Lviv Polytechnic National University [8].

The forms of international academic mobility are classified according to the following features:

a) sphere of activity – *educational* (connected with educational process) and *scientific* (connected with scientific process);

b) way of implementation – *offline* (physical moving of an academic mobility participant to a partner institution); *distant* (interactive communication of an academic mobility participant which is provided by the use of information communication technologies); *hybrid* (offline and distant participation of an academic mobility participant);

c) procedure of recognizing the result of international academic mobility program – *credit* (studying of a Ukrainian participant in a foreign partner institution or a foreign participant at Lviv Polytechnic National University with the aim of achieving of study results and/or corresponding competencies with/without gaining ECTS credits which will be recognized in the institution of permanent study); *degree* (studying of a participant in a foreign partner institution or a foreign participant at Lviv Polytechnic National University with the aim of achieving a certain degree of education) [8].

As for the goals of international academic mobility at Lviv Polytechnic National University, they include: integration into European higher education and research environments; exchange of advanced practices and expertise in the sphere of education and science; modernization of the University's educational activity; digitalization of the education and management of the University; education quality and efficiency of scientific research improvement; competitiveness enhancement of the academic community; professional skills and personal qualities development of the international academic mobility participants; deepening cooperation with international partners in the spheres of education and science; supporting social, economic, cultural collaboration with other countries [8].

The tasks of international mobility participants at Lviv Polytechnic National University are: enhancing the level of the theoretical and practical training, professional skills of the

international mobility participants; acquiring international experience of conducting teaching, scientific and technical activity as well as the access to European and world research infrastructure; implementing joint scientific, technical and/or educational projects; improving the level of foreign languages competence; promoting Ukrainian language, culture and deepening the knowledge about the culture of other cultures [8].

It should be noted that the specific forms and types of international academic mobility are determined by the agreements of Lviv Polytechnic National University with the foreign partner institutions as well as the agreements on cooperation and their appendices. Such types of international academic mobility as participation in seminars, conferences, presentations and publications within certain specialty/area of knowledge not contradicting current legislation do not require the agreements signed [8].

The Regulation on international academic mobility at Lviv Polytechnic National University specifies the persons and the department responsible for its provision. General management of the international academic mobility is carried out: by the Rector and Vice Rectors on the University level; by the Directors and Deputy Directors responsible for the development of international relations on the level of the Educational and Scientific Institutes; by the Heads of the Departments and their deputies responsible for the development of international relations of the Department [8].

General coordination of the international academic mobility of the University is executed by the Center for International Education in particular:

- concluding inter institutional agreements on international academic mobility;
- informational provision of international academic mobility, forming the announcements database;
- consulting support concerning the processing of documents on international academic mobility;
- competitive selection of applicants for participation in international academic mobility;
- monitoring the learning outcomes of the educational process participants obtaining bachelor's and master's degrees;
- monitoring the learning outcomes of the educational process participants obtaining PhD or are the academics or other staff members of the partner institutions [8].

Conclusions

The analysis of the legislative basis of HEI teachers' academic mobility has shown that there exists a keen interest on the side of Ukrainian universities to establish and develop international cooperation with foreign institutions and organizations in particular in the sphere of the international academic mobility.

It was revealed that the universities under research (Kharkiv Semyon Kuznets National University of Economics, Dmytro Motornyi Tavria State Agrotechnological University, Sumy National Agrarian University, Lviv Polytechnic National University) have departments of international relations or centers for international education which are responsible for informational support, monitoring and provision of international academic mobility programs for students and teachers. The departments or centers supply the information on the universities' official websites about the advantages of participating in the academic mobility programs as well as the kinds of programs provided.

It was found out that at Lviv Polytechnic National University the regulation on the academic mobility of students, academics and other staff was adopted. It determines the forms and kinds of the academic mobility according to different criteria, the goals and the tasks of the international academic mobility at the university as well as the responsibilities of the departments, institutes and the Center for International Education of the University.

The prospects of the further research in the given direction include a thorough analysis of the needs and expectations of the teachers from the academic mobility programs, the

possibilities of including international academic mobility into the professional development of HEI teachers and correspondingly its proper rating. It is also vitally important to study foreign experience of the academic mobility provision at HEIs in particular the informational and supervisory support of the participants.

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