

## СЕКЦІЯ 4. Традиції та перспективи навчання іноземних студентів у вишах України та світу

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### THE MOTIVATIONS FOR UKRAINIAN STUDENTS TO STUDY ABROAD

The number of applicants of domestic universities is declining, while the number of Ukrainian applicants in universities in Western Europe is increasing. The main reason that Ukrainian students prefer universities in Poland, England, Switzerland, Germany, France, and the Czech Republic is a better education. At the same time, Ukrainian diplomas are not recognized in Europe, and therefore foreign employers do not consider the qualification of Ukrainian university graduates sufficient. [4,177]

The **purpose** of research is to determine the main reasons why Ukrainian students prefer to study at foreign universities.

According to the purpose, the following **tasks** have been set:

1. to analyze the latest researches on a migration of Ukrainian students
2. to study the aspects which influence international mobility of students
3. to define the most popular foreign countries for studying abroad.

Many different factors affected international mobility of students at the end of the 20th century, among them the fall of the Iron Curtain and the related social and economic transformations, the launch of the European educational programmes (Erasmus, Socrates), altered attitudes of governments which began to see educational migration as an opportunity for economic development, as well as the changed approach of universities now actively recruiting foreign candidates so as to increase the prestige of their institution. [6,386]

It's worthy to note that harmonized EU entry and residence rules to make it easier and more attractive for people from third countries to study or do research at EU universities have been approved by Parliament. The new rules clarify and improve conditions for non-EU interns, volunteers, school pupils and au pairs. Due to the new rules students and researchers may stay at least nine months after finishing their studies or research in order to look for a job or to set up a business, which should also ensure that Europe benefits from their skills. [1]

The Government of Ukraine initiated an ambitious higher education reform package in 2014, marking a major turning point for an education system that has gone “largely unreformed since Soviet times.” The reforms are wide-ranging and include provisions that will bring Ukrainian universities into alignment with the Bologna Process – that is, with common European standards for higher education. The new reforms imply new opportunities for Ukrainian students who want to gain their education or do internship abroad.

When studying abroad, 70 to 80 percent of Ukrainian students choose business education. Others study law, design, fashion, and art. Overall, the most popular countries for masters programs are Poland, the Czech Republic, and Germany. Students from high income families prefer to study in the U.S. and the U.K. According to Education USA, 42 percent of Ukrainian students studying in the U.S. pursue bachelor degrees, 41 percent enroll in masters programs, 11 percent take optional practical training and five percent go for non-degree programs. From 2009 – 2014 the number of Ukrainian students studying abroad increased by 79 percent.

Figure 1. Increase in the number of students in foreign universities



The majority of Ukrainian students study in Poland, Germany, Russia, Canada, the Czech Republic, Italy, the United States (U.S.), Spain, France, Australia, and the United Kingdom.)

A growing number of Ukrainians are moving abroad for education and future work. According to CEDOS surveys, students can go to study abroad in two cases:

- Educational opportunities at home country are limited, but the return from education at home country is high, so they get the desired education and return home.
- There are wide opportunities for education at home country but the return from education is lower than in the destination country, so they are going to get education abroad with the intent to stay there permanently.

It is assumed that the majority of Ukrainian students studying abroad, moved there because of second reason. Our assumptions are based on the fact that in Ukraine access to higher education is almost unlimited due to substantial government contracts and relatively low cost of studying on a contract form, but the return from higher education is relatively low. [5]

Nowadays Poland is the leader in recruiting Ukrainian students. The number of students studying in Poland jumped from 9, 620 to 15,123 between 2012 and 2014. Ukrainian students are attracted to Poland by low tuition costs, a simple visa process, and the recognition of Polish degrees in the European Union. Other education destinations recently increasing in popularity include Australia, Canada, U.K., Czech Republic, and Italy. [2]

According to the survey conducted in 2014 by *British Council on Motivations for Ukrainian students to study abroad*, nearly six in ten survey respondents (56%) said that their motivation was to improve their English skills and to access a higher standard of education, 44% reported an opportunity to find a job abroad after studies, 39% expect to find a good job in Ukraine afterwards, 31% wanted to study abroad because there was no corruption, 29% hoped to learn a foreign language in addition to English and 19% of Ukrainian students chose foreign universities because of good scholarships.[3]

Judging from the survey held by the researchers from Poland, the respondents answering the question “Why did they decide to study abroad?”, frequently circled answers referred to the student’s wish to have a better chance on the job market, higher educational standards foreign universities (59%) and studying abroad looks good on my CV as employers are happier to hire graduates of foreign universities (44.6%). It has been also noted that people who were more advanced in their studies (3rd year of a BA course or 1st year of MA studies) more often indicated that the reason behind their decision was the lack of prospects for the future in their own country. Ukrainian students also mentioned their concerns relating to the quality of teaching and building their future career. The weak infrastructure and ageing resources available at Ukrainian universities were mentioned as well as small number of contact hours and poor teacher-student relations. Finally, old-fashioned teaching methods were also mentioned. Ukrainian students found corruption at Ukrainian universities. [6,389-390]

**Conclusion** Ukraine initiated an ambitious higher education reform to bring Ukrainian universities into alignment with the Bologna Process. European educational programmes (Erasmus, Socrates) allowed educational migration. The latest studies on students migration have been carried out by British Council and Polish researchers where have been analyzed the motives and numbers of Ukrainian students studying abroad. There are several reasons which pull Ukrainian students towards foreign universities.

Ukrainians are increasingly aware of the attractiveness and advantages of studying abroad. Among the factors that make Ukrainians leave their countries are: the quality of teaching in foreign countries is higher that means the students’ employment prospects are better when they return with a degree from a foreign university. Moreover a diploma from a European or American university is not only well received in Ukraine but also in the EU employment area. The third of students wanted to study abroad because there was no corruption. The students chose foreign universities because of good scholarships and the majority intended to improve their English skills and to access a higher standard of education

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