

A Study on Internationalization of Higher Education in Ceramic Art at Jingdezhen Ceramic University

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Abstract: *The internationalisation of education is an inevitable trend of globalisation, and as a unique component of Chinese higher education, the international development of ceramic art education will face new opportunities and challenges. This paper discusses the development process of the internationalisation of ceramic art education at Jingdezhen University of Ceramics in the context of internationalisation, and proposes an effective practical path for the internationalisation of education as a local university with professional characteristics.*

Keywords: *Ceramics Art, Higher Education, Internationalization*

Under the global trend of internationalisation of education, the internationalisation of education in universities is also an inevitable trend. Through extensive international exchange and cooperation, the cultivation of professional talents with an international perspective is a necessary path for our universities. Ceramics is an important symbol of the country's foreign exchange, and the internationalisation of ceramic art education is an important part of the current internationalisation of Jingdezhen Ceramic University.

1. The Background of Ceramics Art Education Internationalization

1.1 The Support from Strategies of Chinese Government

"The One Belt One Road initiative aims to borrow the historical symbols of the ancient Silk Road and actively develop cooperation with countries along the route, creating a community of interests and responsibilities with economic integration and cultural inclusion. This presents a huge strategic opportunity for the internationalisation of Chinese higher education. Ceramics was one of the very important products exported to the world along China's ancient Silk Road and has occupied an important place in the history of China's foreign exchanges. As one of the professions with great regional characteristics in modern universities, the international development of ceramics has both advantages and challenges[1].

1.2 The Tendency of Global Education Internationalization

The internationalisation of global education is an irreversible trend. The internationalization of higher education is a process of continuous development, which requires facing the world, absorbing foreign higher education experiences and achievements through extensive international exchange and cooperation, spreading the essence of our education and culture, cultivating talents with international competitiveness and promoting international understanding. Taking the path of internationalization and connecting with the international community has become the necessary path for China's universities[2][3]. In this context, Chinese ceramics higher education has implemented a comprehensive open policy, studying and introducing the ceramic education models of developed countries, and gradually forming a ceramic higher education model with Chinese characteristics by combining the specific conditions of our own country.

1.3 The Requirement for the Development of the Ceramics Education

Ceramics have been an integral part of China's foreign exchange since ancient times and have become an important symbol of the country's foreign exchange. Ceramic products are rich in traditional Chinese culture, and the exchange of ceramics is also an exchange of culture. The large number of Chinese porcelains in the museum collections of many countries bear witness to this glorious history of

ceramic exchange with foreign countries.⁴ In 2018, the state established the National Experimental Zone of Ceramic Culture Inheritance and Innovation in Jingdezhen, and in the specific implementation plan it is clearly stated that the construction of ceramic talents and the improvement of ceramic cultural cooperation and exchange should be strengthened. The proposal supports the foreign exchange of ceramic education in local universities in Jingdezhen, and also incorporates ceramic art courses into the curriculum of the national Confucius Institute headquarters. The Jingdezhen National Experimental Zone for Ceramic Culture Inheritance and Innovation not only helps to comprehensively promote international exchanges between local universities in Jingdezhen and the world, but ceramic art education, as a national symbol of foreign cultural exchange and a medium of communication, is an integral part of it^[4-5].

2. Internationalization of Ceramics Education at Jingdezhen Ceramic University

2.1 The Primary Stage

From the beginning, the main leaders and teachers in the school had a background in foreign countries, which brought very advanced ideas and techniques to the ceramic school at that time. Table 1 shows the education background of the administrators before 1960s at Jiangxi Provincial Ceramic School (now ungraded Jingdezhen Ceramic University). At the same time, the government also sent a large number of foreign students to countries represented by the United States and Japan, making a positive contribution to the spread and exchange of ceramic art education between China and abroad^[6].

Table 1: Education background of the administrators before 1960's.

Countries	Japan	U.S.	U.K.	Other countries
Number	10	3	1	3
Rate	50%	15%	5%	15%

The hiring of foreigners to teach at the academy was also a means of international exchange during this period, although such appointments were relatively rare and most foreign teachers did not teach their core skills out of concern for the interests of their own country^[7]. This international exchange was superficial.

2.2 The Development Period

A new era in the history of Chinese ceramic education was marked by the establishment of the Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute as an undergraduate institution in 1958. International exchanges developed further. The School insisted on the internationalisation model of "going out" and "bringing in", sending teachers to Japan, Germany and the UK to study ceramic machinery and ceramic engineering. From this time onwards, the school began to recruit foreign students. At that time the Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute received students from socialist countries such as Romania and Vietnam, and since then the internationalisation of ceramic art education has extended to non-socialist countries such as Europe, Asia and Africa. At the same time as 'bringing in', a large number of Chinese students also 'going out', and students of ceramic art travelled around the world to receive foreign ceramic art education, using the international exchange of ceramic education as an important initiative to revitalise the development of China's ceramic industry^[8].

From the 1980s onwards, Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute began to focus on international intercollegiate cooperation and exchange, with visits among universities becoming more frequent and signing intercollegiate friendship exchange agreements with a number of universities outside of China. Destinations of intercollegiate exchange in 1980s to 2000s is shown in Figure 1. In 1993, an inter-school friendship was signed with the Wonkwang University of Fine Arts in South Korea, which was a further manifestation of the depth of the school's foreign exchange. In the twenty-first century, Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute has established partnerships with 35 universities and research institutions in Korea, Japan and Poland, marking the initial improvement of international exchange and cooperation^[9]. Compared to the visits abroad, visits from foreigners are more frequent. Most of the visitors are professors, experts, researchers and ceramicists from universities, museums and companies abroad. The purpose of the visits is to exchange visits and lectures. During this period there were more than 13 countries keeping the international exchanging, but the closest exchanges were with Asian countries such as Japan and Korea^[10]. By establishing friendly partnerships with international universities during this period, more people were able to go out and come in, improving teaching

standards and enhancing the international reputation of the school.

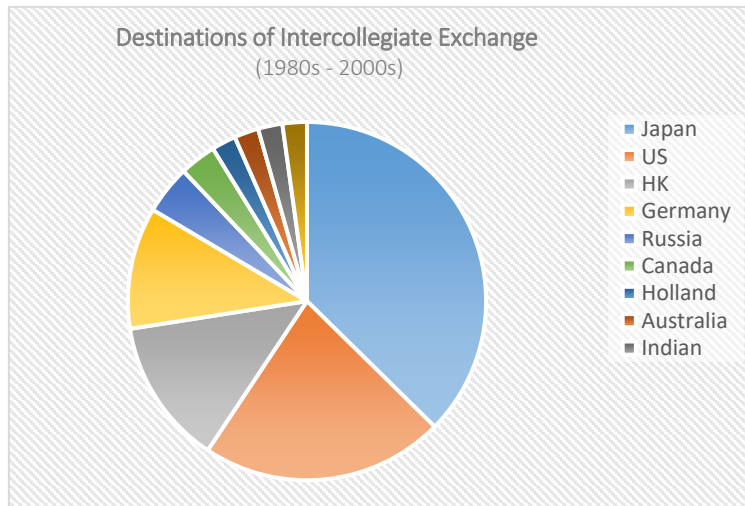


Figure 1: Destinations of Intercollegiate Exchange (1980s-2000s)

2.3 The All-Round Opening up Period

In order to better introduce and integrate international quality educational resources, continuously improve the level of internationalisation of the university, help the university to build a high-level university and promote the implementation of the university's internationalisation strategy, the university established the International School in 2016. This marks the internationalization of Jingdezhen Ceramics University into a period of full opening up. The International School is responsible for the recruitment and education of international students, and has trained more than 3,000 international students from more than 20 countries, and has signed treaty of friendly cooperation with more than 30 universities and international ceramics associations in the United States, Britain, France, Japan and Korea, which is shown in Figure 2. The International School is internationalized by sending teachers to lecture, students to visit each other and jointly training art talents; studying in China has also experienced the development from a single ceramic art major to different disciplines of study in China, such as art, engineering materials, business administration, computer science, fine arts and archaeology. Moreover, it carries out “credits transfer” programs with many universities abroad. The program involved many universities from different countries and regions, which is shown in table 2. "Promote cultural exchange with projects, enhance academic level with exchange", the International School also invites outstanding artists from all over the world for lecture and exchange, to create a diversified international ceramic culture dissemination platform, so that more people can understand ceramic art and attracted by it, thus get to know Jingdezhen Ceramics University in China. It can help build a "first-class discipline, first-class university" and dedicate ourselves to China's higher art institutions.

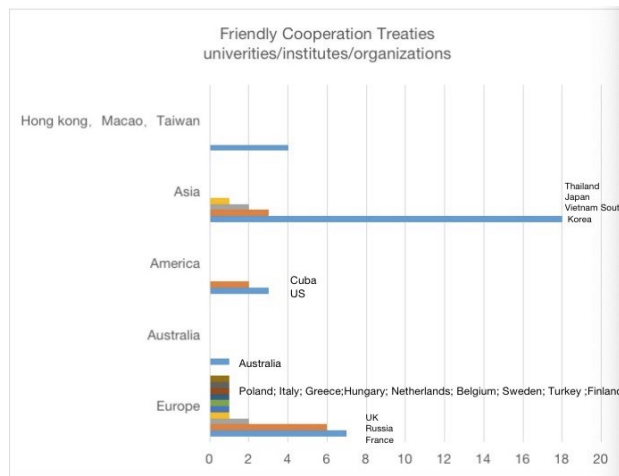


Figure 2: Friendly Cooperation Treaties between Jingdezhen Ceramic University and other universities

Table 2: "Credit Transfer" programs abroad.

Countries/Regions	France	Italy	Poland	Turkey	Taiwan	Japan	Korea
Numbers of universities	2	1	1	1	1	1	2

The Office of International Cooperation and Exchange is the functional department of the University to manage foreign cooperation and exchange, Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan affairs. It is a centralized management department of the University to implement foreign affairs policies, strengthen external liaison and communication, and handle foreign-related work of the whole University. It is responsible for administrative management, guidance and coordination, foreign affairs services, consultation and liaison[11]. The main activities of external cultural exchange include: integrating the international resources of teachers, international friends and international alumni who have overseas study and visiting experiences in our university, taking ceramic art as the main axis and carrying out various ceramic projects as the path to efficiently promote substantive cultural exchange activities with high-level foreign universities and ceramic organisations; integrating the resources of international ceramic universities, ceramic organisations, associations and individual potters to create an international The University is responsible for the promotion of the University overseas, the establishment of friendly cooperation with overseas universities, research institutions, societies and private organisations, the expansion of cooperation and exchange projects, and the establishment of a platform for cooperation and exchange for the University. Jingdezhen University of Ceramics has promoted Sino-foreign cooperation in ceramic education and science and technology through exchange activities such as the International Symposium on Ceramic Art Education, the International Symposium on Design in Central China, the International Symposium on Ceramics and Humanities, the International Symposium on High-Tech Ceramics in Asia and the International Symposium on Ancient Ceramic Technology[12]. For example, the 2nd China Sanbao International Contemporary Printmaking Exhibition in 2009, the Jingdezhen Ceramic University hosted an international symposium on "A Common Journey - Ceramic Art Education in China and the United States", the China (Jingdezhen) International Forum on High-Tech Ceramics in 2004, and the Sino-French Cultural Forum are some of the most representative events. The Sino-French Cultural Forum was one of the most representative international exchange events.

The International Ceramicists' Studio is another important manifestation of the internationalisation of education at Jingdezhen Ceramic University. It attracts experts and professors from home and abroad, artists, corporate organisations and even individual enthusiasts of ceramics to come to the University for exchange and experience through creative residencies, academic lectures, ceramics experiences and training and research activities. This allows people from different industries and cultures to get to know ceramic art and experience it. This cross-border exchange has also greatly enhanced the visibility of Jingdezhen University of Ceramics. It can be said that through its efforts over the years, Jingdezhen University of Ceramics has made many outstanding achievements in international development, building an international ceramic culture dissemination platform with international colleges and international potter's studios as its core, thus giving it an important platform advantage in the process of international development of ceramic education.

3. The Path to Internationalization of Ceramics Education at Jingdezhen Ceramic University

It is a cooperation among the different departments including International Cooperation and Exchange Department, International College and International Ceramicists' Studio at the university. The path to internationalization of ceramic education at university is shown in Figure 3. It can be carried out from three aspects as follow.

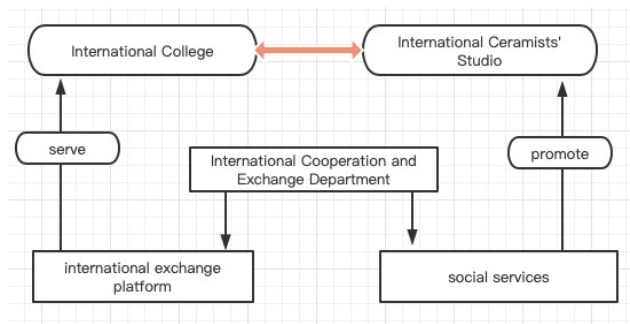


Figure 3: The Path to Internationalization of Jingdezhen Ceramic University

3.1 Deepening and Expanding Sino-Foreign Cooperation

Currently Jingdezhen Ceramic University has established friendly cooperation with several countries around the world regarding ceramic art education, however, there are no more in-depth cooperation projects in specific cooperation and exchange. Firstly, international cooperation among teachers is the most direct force for enhancing internationalisation. The introduction of top international talent is an important force in the development of higher education and science and technology, and the government and university employers should develop the level of talent training and research at high level universities through a talent introduction linkage programme [8]. Secondly, the origin of international students is homogeneous, with most of the existing international students in our university coming from Korea, Russia and some African countries. It is important to develop a medium and long-term development strategy and plan for the education of international students, so as to enhance the brand of the University. Improve the rules and regulations to create a positive environment for international students to come to the University [13]. Finally, the University should increase inter-university cooperation, increase the number of international exchange students, and do a better job of "going out" and "coming in" in both directions. Inter-school cooperation is an in-depth manifestation of co-operative schooling, through which we can introduce advanced teaching and education concepts, advanced curriculum systems and original teaching materials. In addition to the existing cooperation, schools should set long-term internationalisation goals to achieve further development.

3.2 The Improvement of the International Exchange Platform

The existing international exchange platform of Jingdezhen University of Ceramics is mainly through the external extension business of the International Cooperation and Exchange Department, with the International School to recruit and train international students to China and the International Ceramists' Studio to attract the exchange of outstanding international ceramic artists. The specific measures are: firstly, to establish a network platform system for international student education, and to establish a platform for international students through improved study abroad services for information sharing, resource sharing and coordination and interaction. Secondly, international exchange work should not only rely on a limited number of full-time staff, but should form a group effort of the whole university, with everyone participating, so that the channels of exchange can be broadened and the number of exchange projects can be increased, and a new situation of international exchange can be created. For example, on the one hand, give full play to the influence and international vision of a group of famous experts and scholars in the university, and establish a university international exchange committee. The committee will provide advice, recommendations, argumentation, supervision, evaluation and guidance on the international exchange and cooperation work of the university. On the other hand, give full play to the enthusiasm and participation of all secondary units, and all faculties, institutes and departments can independently carry out exchange and cooperation projects and play an active role in electing foreign affairs policies, cultivating international awareness and mobilising the participation of all staff [14].

3.3 Expansion of the Social Services Function

In the process of internationalisation, Jingdezhen University of Ceramics, as a local university with special characteristics, should establish the concept of serving the industry in an international context [10]. In the process of internationalisation, Jingdezhen ceramics university, as a local university with special characteristics, should establish the concept of serving the industry in the international arena [15]. It has become the trend of international academic exchange to participate in "industry-university-research" cooperation in the region and even in the world, to build research teams or platforms, to form academic communities, to further expand the breadth and depth of international academic exchanges, and to produce substantial academic results. The local service function of the featured local universities will be further amplified, expanding from serving the territory to participating in regional and international services in the international space [16]. Schools can develop education abroad in ceramics-related disciplines to train professionals urgently needed by the local community for the economy. It can also work with local universities and research institutions to establish specialities with a focus on ceramics, and jointly train internationalised and applied talents to meet the needs and development of bilateral socio-economics.

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