

A Probe into the Internationalization of Colleges and Universities under the Construction of "First-class Universities and Disciplines of the World"

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Abstract: *The background of the construction of "First-class universities and disciplines of the world" puts forward higher requirements for the improvement of China's higher education level, vigorously promotes high-level substantive international cooperation and exchanges, and becomes a participant, promoter and leader of the world's higher education reform.*

Keywords: *internationalization, international cooperation, "First-class universities and disciplines of the world" construction*

In February 2017, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council emphasized in the "Opinions on Strengthening and Improving Ideological and Political Work in Colleges and Universities under the New Situation" that colleges and universities shoulder important missions of personnel training, scientific research, social services, cultural inheritance and innovation, and international exchanges and cooperation. So far, international exchanges and cooperation have been formally identified as the functions of universities.[1] At the same time, the "Guiding Opinions on Accelerating the Construction of "First-class universities and disciplines of the world" in Higher Education Institutions" also gives new missions and significance to the internationalization of universities. Strengthen substantive academic exchanges and scientific research cooperation with foreign high-level universities and top scientific research institutions, from international school running, teacher-student exchange to talent training, and appointments to international organizations, "The construction of "First-class universities and disciplines of the world" promotes the connotative development of universities, but also raises higher requirements and challenges for the internationalization of higher education[2]. This article will point out the problems and shortcomings in the process of internationalization construction of universities through the discussion on the internationalization of running schools, and propose corresponding solutions and optimization schemes.

1. Possible Problems in the Internationalization of Universities in Running Schools

1.1. Lack of International Teachers

There has always been a lack of uniform standards for judging the level of running a university, but the effectiveness of internationalization provides a measure for Chinese universities to enter world-class universities, among them, the internationalization of teachers is one of the important indicators for judging the degree of internationalization of universities, which points out the direction for China's internationalization construction[3]. Whether it can attract international teachers and whether it has an international team has also become the basic characteristics of first-class universities. According to data from the QS World University Rankings (2021) website, MIT and Stanford University ranked first and second in the world with 100% and 99.7% of international faculty respectively, and 91.9% and 63.6% of international students, respectively. China's top-ranked Tsinghua University and Peking University accounted for 55.3% and 69.7%, 29.7% and 34.3% of international faculty and international students, respectively [4]. From this data, it can be seen that there is still a big gap with the world-class universities. In addition, in terms of the internationalization of higher education, the international development of universities with abundant resources and sufficient conditions is often at the leading level in the country. This can be seen from the ratio of international teachers and students. Most local universities have not yet positioned internationalization as a school development strategy.

1.2. The Degree of Internationalization of Curriculum Construction is Not High

Under the background of internationalization, the construction of international networked courses is constantly advancing, but it also faces many problems, such as the lack of English display in the system interface, and the construction of Chinese and English systems is not perfect. Foreign teachers and students encounter certain difficulties when completing online course selection, score registration and inquiries. The cross-language learning platforms and databases of most newly-built universities in most places are not yet mature, slowing down the process of internationalization [5]. There is a lack of foreign courses, and Chinese courses are taught in English, which has no original intention to achieve internationalization. The opening of English courses fails to fully consider the acceptance of students. Students' English proficiency is uneven. Teaching in English has caused great pressure on students with weak English foundation. The effect of teaching in English for the same course is often not as good as teaching in Chinese. There is a lack of international teachers, teachers' lack of willingness to participate in internationalization, foreign teachers' online teaching efficiency is not high, and classroom interaction is not as good as offline teaching.

1.3. Insufficient International Exchanges

In terms of student dispatch, local "First-class universities and disciplines of the world" universities lack resources and funds, as a whole, there are insufficient publicity efforts, limited channels for students to receive information, and a small range of schools to choose from. Students and tutors also have some anxiety in the choice of dispatch time. Short-term projects are difficult to achieve the purpose of scientific research and learning, and long-term projects also face the risk of postponement. In addition, the amount of funding that can be applied for is limited, which restricts some students who are willing to study abroad but are dismissed by fees. In addition, due to many reasons, international travel restrictions and safety factors have affected the frequency of university student visits and teacher visits abroad, and online communication has become the choice of most teachers and students. Overseas masters and well-known international scholars also choose more online communication methods instead of face-to-face communication, which not only affects the intensity and depth of international scientific research cooperation, but also reduces the enthusiasm of students to interact with international universities.

2. Ideas for the Advancement of Universities in the Internationalization of Running Schools

2.1. Improve Quality and Efficiency Without Blindly, and Build an International Curriculum System

In terms of internationalized courses, we should first treat the opening of English courses with caution, weigh and consider the curriculum, selection of teaching materials, teaching methods, syllabus, etc., that is, consider the acceptance of students, and also conduct a comprehensive assessment of teachers' English teaching ability, do not follow blindly, do not start classes for indicators, and really benefit the students. Adhere to the introduction of external and internal training, the introduction of international excellent English courses, and strive to attract excellent overseas teachers, strive for more high-quality curriculum resources for students, expand their horizons, and gradually build a multi-dimensional high-level curriculum system. At the same time, we will strengthen the training of teachers' English teaching ability and global thinking mode, and strive to achieve full coverage of English courses. Two-wheel drive, increase the development of all-staff training, promote the construction of excellent teachers and all-English courses. Further strengthen the cooperation with foreign first-class universities, optimize the cooperation on the existing basis, and improve the curriculum based on understanding the other's curriculum system and combining their own characteristics, so that students can get the experience of first-class international courses even in China [6].

2.2. Expand the Scale of Overseas Students and Improve Their Quality

Actively increase funding for students sent overseas, expand publicity, and ensure smooth channels for students to obtain information. Encourage students with achievements to conduct overseas exchanges and conduct in-depth study and study; support students to conduct scientific research activities in overseas universities that have established cooperation foundations, seamlessly connect, and improve the quality of overseas dispatch. At the same time, vigorously promote international

cooperation with world-renowned universities, research institutes and enterprises, sign cooperation agreements, strengthen project cooperation, expand the choice of student dispatch, and provide more opportunities for cultivating talents with international vision and competitiveness. If offline visits are not possible, you can develop a cloud communication model with the counterparty's colleges and universities to have a clear and intuitive understanding of the study and life of overseas colleges and universities, and also provide an international learning environment and atmosphere for strengthening cooperation and exchanges.

2.3. Increase Investment in Internationalization

Internationalization needs to be practiced in every post in every department. Schools and colleges need to increase investment in internationalization funds, such as supporting the construction of international scientific research platforms, encouraging applications for international cooperation projects, introducing high-level and high-end talents, and subsidizing students to send overseas and so on, these provide more powerful financial support for teachers and students, so as to ensure the accelerated and deepened development of scientific research and teaching, and create an international school running model with the characteristics of the unit. On the basis of effective use of existing funds, actively apply for projects, encourage teams or individuals to carry out targeted international cooperation and exchanges with overseas high-level units, and focus on creating special projects for the purpose of students' international training, such as joint courses, competitions, international workshops, academic forums, innovation and entrepreneurship forums, etc., to enhance the international level of talent training.

2.4. Build an International Scientific Research Platform and Enhance International Cooperation Capabilities

Establish an international scientific research platform in the professional field, bring in high-level overseas talents from point to area, so as to introduce scientific research personnel who are centered on them, build professional teams in this field, increase substantive international cooperation with overseas universities, and actively publish international cooperation papers to enhance the visibility in the international arena. Give full play to the influence of the existing international scientific research cooperation platform, and focus on building an international cooperative research center, making it the birthplace of academic innovation, academic exchange center and the most attractive talent gathering place with global influence. Continue to strengthen cooperation with international companies, realize the transformation of results, and move towards a first-class and open international production-university-research base.

2.5. Strengthen the Depth and Breadth of International Cooperation

On the basis of many existing global partners, continue to expand bilateral or multilateral education and scientific research cooperation, actively seek partners covering the world, and focus on strengthening substantive cooperation with world-class universities, deepen cooperation and exchanges in student training, teacher introduction, international scientific research cooperation, etc. For example, strengthening Sino-foreign cooperation in running schools, building joint laboratories, holding international conferences and seminars, and expanding talent exchange and training. Only on the basis of good cooperation premises, scientific research cooperation between teachers can also come naturally, jointly carry out scientific research, lay a solid foundation for international cooperation papers, and achieve all-round growth in quality and quantity.

2.6. Strengthen the Introduction of Talents and Improve the International Level of the Teaching Staff

Create a four-in-one talent system of "talents-teams-platforms-disciplines", cultivate scientific research innovation teams in discipline construction, create an environment for talent growth, focus on education and scientific research applications, strengthen the construction of scientific research platforms, and maintain long-term competitive advantages. Give full play to the advantages of disciplines, focus on technological innovation, actively introduce international talents in important scientific and technological fields and industrial directions, and gather high-tech talents around professional fields. In terms of training mechanism, rationally plan the layout, establish a more flexible talent management system and effective incentive mechanism, and encourage talent innovation and

creation. Encourage top talents to improve their teaching and research capabilities, and support young talents to impact national talent projects. At the same time, young and middle-aged teachers are encouraged to go out and go to world-class universities for further studies to carry out in-depth cooperation, promote the internationalization of the talent team to varying degrees, and boost the construction of an international university.

In the ever-changing international stage, the internationalization of higher education has been in an important position. From the simple invitation of overseas teachers to the school for exchanges and overseas visits of teachers and students to the creation of an international scientific research platform and the establishment of international courses, etc., they all reflect that international schooling is bound to develop to a higher and new stage in an all-round and three-dimensional manner. Driven by the construction of "First-class universities and disciplines of the world", the internationalization of Chinese universities has challenges and opportunities. While rationally constructing an internationalized curriculum system, increase the investment in internationalization funds and encourage teachers and students to actively participate in international cooperation and exchanges, Strengthen the introduction of outstanding overseas talents, actively build an international scientific research cooperation platform, and promote the simultaneous development of horizontal and vertical international cooperation.

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