

Olha Petrova, Maryna Bogun

Kharkiv National Medical University

ENGLISH FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES IN THE CONTEXT OF ACADEMIC MOBILITY

Modern university practice involves academic mobility, which realizes the right of the university students and teachers to move abroad for exchange educational or scientific program according to a study plan or practice with guaranteed enrollment of study credits at a partner university or scientific organization under study program at the home university [1; 2].

It is important for every university to be interested in promoting its students and teachers on the world stage, demonstrating its achievements, on the one hand, and receiving knowledge from well-known higher educational centers, on the other, as internationalization of Ukrainian universities is currently one of the most challenging tasks.

Kharkiv National Medical University widely uses the opportunities of academic mobility programs (physical and virtual mobility), which include internships or studies in more than 20 partner medical institutions in Germany, Italy, Poland, Japan, Great Britain and other countries, where they thoroughly study the chosen disciplines if they wish. These are, in particular, the recently completed exchange projects at the Oxford Clinical Hospital, the Sachsenhausen Clinic, etc. For the seekers of higher education, this is a unique opportunity to gain new skills and knowledge in future job, especially, by implementing foreign language communication skills.

Such opportunities are offered on a competitive basis. To win the competition for the academic mobility program, it is necessary to demonstrate high academic performance, knowledge of a foreign language (mainly English), active participation in scientific activities (publications, conferences, etc.). Therefore, one of the aspects of this competition is that the students must demonstrate such a level of knowledge of a foreign language, English for Specific Purposes, that will allow them to fully and adequately participate in educational and professional life both at the national and international levels.

The department of foreign languages of the university plays a certain role in supporting ESP in the context of academic mobility. In the programs of the university foreign language disciplines, the department takes into account the subject of a professional field. For example, for education seekers in a specialty Medicine these are: body systems, diseases, history taking, filling out a medical history; for the specialty Physiotherapy and Ergotherapy: work of a physiotherapist and occupational therapist, physical therapy, diseases of the cardiovascular and nervous systems, injuries of the musculoskeletal system, types of pain, communication with patients, occupational therapy, massage, physical therapy; for the Technology of Medical Diagnosis and Treatment: emergency medicine, first aid, geriatrics, body systems, drugs and their administration, clinical blood tests, tests for various disorders, taking history, liver function tests, diagnostic tests for infectious diseases, bacteriological tests, etc.

As needed, the department participates in interviewing and testing students while the selection process, depending on internship programs, scholarships offered by partner universities, summer schools, practice, training and teaching at partner institutions around the world, thematic courses, lectures and courses within the framework of formal and informal education.

The Department of Foreign Languages develops tests and an interview scope, which includes questions determined by the specifics of educational programs, which differ in the required educational goals and results, terms, tasks, country of study, etc. Internship programs typically have different language entry requirements, especially by country. The test and the interview conducted should confirm or not the ability of the candidates to participate in these internships, clinical practice, or other exchange programs. As a rule, interview in English involves proving the ability to maintain a conversation on general and intercultural competence (details about where you live, education, favorite subject, hobbies, friends, travel, what you know about the exchange program you apply to, etc.) and professional (ESP) topics [1; 3].

The features of the interview also apply to the professional goals of the offered program. In some programs, the ability of students to communicate with both staff and patients in the hospital in English is relevant.

Our students who have completed academic mobility programs publish feedback on the university site with a report, in particular, indicating how they used foreign language as the student-followers take into consideration the reports of their colleagues. According to their reports, for example, the communication in English in certain programs may concern the item of being prepared to visit different departments of the hospital, visiting patients who are preparing for surgery and undergoing rehabilitation after surgery, presenting new cases and analyzing X-rays/CT when discussing with doctors of other specialties, being involved in laparoscopic and open surgeries, even surgeries using 3D technologies, trauma surgeries, discussion of the advantages of new technologies, study of procedure algorithms, approaches to therapy, complications and ways to prevent them, etc.

The university and the department of foreign languages create conditions for ensuring the ESP needs of students studying in various educational programs, increasing their academic mobility and competitiveness at the national and international levels. The department advises students who wish to take part in the selection competition for exchange programs on the aspects of their self-training aimed at improvement the level of ESP and general English proficiency.

Modern requirements for the educational and professional component of the university training, defined by the standards of higher education, are based on international requirements for relevant professional and general competencies. Therefore, foreign language, namely ESP, is included in compulsory components of educational programs of the university, thus supporting ESP level of the education seekers that provides their exchange opportunities ground in the context of academic mobility.

References

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