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**State institution “South Ukrainian National Pedagogical University  
named after K. D. Ushynsky”**

**Harbin Engineering University**

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## **CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE AS A PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF USHYNKY UNIVERSITY**

*The article deals with the issues related to the international activities of Ushynsky University on the platform of the Education and Culture Centre “Confucius Institute”. The author specifies the CI’s capability and potential which facilitate the international activities of Ushynsky University. Some culture-related creativity-based events contributing to academic and profession-focused success of university students and teachers non-specialising in foreign languages have been revealed; their philosophical content (related to the abovementioned events) has been described. The perspectives of further collaboration of Confucius Institute and the Faculty of Arts and Graphics have been outlined (involvement of the academic staff of the Faculty of Arts and Graphics into internship programs both in China and in other Western and Oriental countries under and within the relevant programmes; involvement of the students majoring in Arts into the programmes of academic mobility; institutional partnership with foreign institutions and education centres).*

***Keywords:** international activities, Confucius Institute, internship programs, academic mobility, culture-related events.*

**Introduction.** The COVID-19 pandemic, which has lasted for almost 2 years, has forced both teachers and students to adapt to new forms and means of demonstrating and acquiring knowledge. It is obvious that the sphere of teaching languages is the one that was affected to a great extent since teaching/learning languages has effective results if interlocutors contact person-to-person. In most cases, educational institutions provide students with online classes, which deprives teachers and students of sharing vivid emotions and bona fide feelings. Many students lose motivation to master their profession-related skills and abilities using new technologies, the traditional ones seem to have been ousted. Thus, university administration boards encounter a dilemma: how to organize curricular activities to interest students in improving their learning outcomes and how to involve students and academic staff into international activities both under quarantine and non-quarantine conditions.

Thus, **the purpose** of the research is to analyse the international activities of South Ukrainian National Pedagogical University named after K. D. Ushynsky on the platform of the Education and Culture Centre “Confucius Institute”. It presupposes the solution of the **tasks** as follows:

1) to specify the CI’s capability and potential which facilitate the international activities of Ushynsky University;

2) to analyse culture-related creativity-based events contributing to academic and profession-focused success of university students and teachers specialising in Arts as well as to reveal the philosophical content of the events under study;

3) to outline the perspectives of further collaboration of Confucius Institute and the Faculty of Arts and Graphics.

These **methods** were used: theoretical analysis of the literature related to the issue under study to specify its essence and structure; descriptive and illustrative analyses of the culture- and education-related events in the framework of international

activities of Ushynsky University to depict how they works and contribute to the students' academic success and teachers' professional self-realisation.

The new educational dimension covers two keynote phenomena enabling successful mastering of educational and professional programmes (professional degree programmes): • academic mobility; • international cooperation of universities which provide professional degree programmes.

According to *The Law on Higher Education* (The Law on Higher Education, 2019), ***academic mobility*** is associated with the opportunity for participants of the teaching / learning process to study, teach, train or perform research activities in some other institution of higher education (scientific institution) in Ukraine or abroad.

Academic mobility is encouraged by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine; it is one of prerequisites of any profession-related degree programmes in terms of its accreditation.

The European Commission (European Commission, 2020) considers ***international cooperation*** as a strategic priority in research and innovation since it enables:

- access to the latest knowledge and the best talent worldwide;
- business opportunities in new and emerging markets;
- science diplomacy to influence and enhance external policy.

Our European colleagues relate multilateral research and innovation initiatives to the most effective way to tackle global challenges facing our world – climate, health, food, energy and water. Working together reduces the global burden, pools resources and achieves greater impact. Thus, academic international cooperation facilitates adaptation of curricula, syllabi, profession-related degree programmes alongside provision for unification of the European and Oriental education systems.

#### **A. Education and Culture Centre “Confucius Institute” in the context of Ushynsky University’s International Activities**

The Education and Culture Centre “Confucius Institute” (alongside other information and resource centres of foreign countries) contributes to the

internationalization of the educational process of Ushynsky University and its affiliated educational institutions. This is manifested in the activities as follows:

- training of would-be specialists for foreign countries;
- implementation of international projects;
- organization of internships and academic exchanges of teachers and students in establishments of higher education abroad;
- holding international scientific forums;
- implementation of joint research with foreign partners;
- participation in grant competitions, etc.

Successful implementation of the set tasks is possible due to effective coordination of international activities by responsible persons. The involvement of leading experts from China, the Republic of Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America deserves special attention. It should be noted that the scientific component of international cooperation is updated as part of the annual publication of teachers' and students' research issues in the international journal "Modern Vectors of Science and Education Development in China and Ukraine" and participation in the annual international scientific conferences "Current Issues of Philology and Specialist Training in the Multicultural Space".

#### **B. Cooperation of the Education and Culture Centre "Confucius Institute" at Ushynsky University with the Faculty of Arts and Graphics**

the Education and Culture Centre "Confucius Institute" has been cooperating with the Faculty of Arts and Graphics for a long time, starting from the origins of its existence. The specifics of the artistic specialty of this faculty allow integrating the development of creative skills of drawing hieroglyphs with fine arts, the study of history and philosophy alongside linguistic and cultural studies of China.

There are two projects initiated by Confucius Institute, in which students and teachers of the Faculty of Arts and Graphics regularly participate:

- 1) International Collegiate Snow Sculpture Contest;
- 2) International Day of Confucius Institutes.

The International Snow Sculpture Contest takes place annually in early January at our Chinese partner university, Harbin Engineering University.



For 2 years in a row, it has been held online due to the epidemic situation. Preparations for this kind of competition began in the autumn of 2021. This year, for the first time during the existence of this competition, students of the Faculty of Arts and Graphics under the sensitive guidance of teachers have represented two sculptures, not one:

- “Ecology of coexistence” (in the classical style);
- “Faith – Hope – Love” (in the modern style).

Each sculpture has deep philosophical content.

**“Ecology of coexistence”**. From love to hate, from peace to war, from life to death – one look, one word, one step... The world is big and majestic, but extremely vulnerable. Without understanding, compassion, commonwealth, COEXISTENCE is impossible.

The sculptural composition combines an allegorical image of the inanimate and the living: the frozen geometry of the cube contrasts with the image of ideal symbiosis in nature: dynamic sea anemones, between which amphiprion fish live in safety. Nature provides images-keys and ways-tips on how to coexist to preserve the future of mankind.



**“Faith – Hope – Love”**. Faith, Hope, Love are three symbolic “whales” that hold the inner world of each individual and the outer world of people. In creating a common future, WE:

- BELIEVE in understanding for the sake of peace, in support for the sake of implementing ideas, in helping for the sake of life, we believe in our own strength and God;

- HOPE for creativity for the sake of unity, development for the benefit of the community, for the preservation of the memory of the ethnic group for the education of future generations;

- LOVE our family, the country of Ukraine, our nearest and dearest, we love to travel, get to know each other, return home, where they are waiting for us.



The composition embodies the trinity of “Faith, Hope, Love”, which has an inward focus – the inner space, as a protective shell of man, and at the same time directed outward views – the world, to establish harmony – connection with the environment, symbolically conveying braids-ribbons intertwined in the vault.

Despite the lack of appropriate climatic conditions in Odesa, the students have demonstrated their high skills once again. Possession of skills of figure cutting, production of complex details and reproduction of projection – all this confirmed the proper professional level of student training at the Faculty of Arts and Graphics. The contestants from Ushynsky University took the second place among more than 60 countries.



As for the second event, which involves students and teachers of the Faculty of Arts and Graphics (International Day of Confucius Institutes), the Education and Culture Centre “Confucius Institute” celebrated it for the eighth time on September 29, 2021 at the Summer Theater in Odesa. This holiday is different in scale and variety of content.

It is attended by representatives of the diplomatic corps, heads of Confucius Institute branches, schoolchildren, students, the Wushu Federation, guests of South Palmyra and others. The International Day of Confucius Institutes was timed to the 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China, which included a photo exhibition that reflected the thematic spectrum of the national day, namely:

- daily life of the Chinese people;
- incredible landscapes of China, reflecting the majesty of the rivers and mountains of China.

It should be marked that the Confucius Institute staff consulted with the representatives of the Faculty of Arts and Graphics while selecting photos.

In parallel, colleagues from the Faculty of Arts and Graphics prepared an exhibition of works by foreign students from China and Ukrainian students and conducted a master class “Constructive drawing of an ancient head in two turns”, which aroused visitors’ great interest.



Thus, it can be stated that the international activities of the Faculty of Arts and Graphics have ensured the internationalisation of its educational process, on the one hand, and interiorisation – on the other hand. Intercultural communication, cooperation of Ukrainian teachers and students with foreign teachers, in particular with those from China, contributed to the development of students’ general competences; socio-cultural adaptation to the multicultural environment of the educational process participants;

development of creative thinking, self-awareness, motivation of the subjects of educational activity to educational and professional self-realisation; mastering new knowledge and gaining social experience.

### **C. Perspective vectors of cooperation between Confucius Institute and the Faculty of Arts and Graphics**

In order to stably expand the spheres of international cooperation, improve the educational process according to the world and domestic standards, we consider these vectors to be perspective:

- involvement of the academic staff of the Faculty of Arts and Graphics in internship programmes both in China and in other countries of the West and East under the relevant programs;
- involvement of the students majoring in Art specialties in academic mobility programmes;
- institutional partnership with foreign institutions and education centres, *etc.*

In our opinion, through international activities, a strong platform is being formed for the exchange of experience and expansion of cooperation vectors within education- and culture-based programmes.

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## 外国留学生汉语教学中需要关注的问题

### ----以乌克兰南方师范大学孔子学院为例

本文以乌克兰南方师范大学孔子学院为例，列举了国外孔子学院汉语教学在语音教学、国情知识教学、未来职业关键专业知识、贸易知识等方面存在的问题，并提出了相应的解决方案。希望该文能引起同行的思考，推动各孔子学院的教学在未来对上述问题做出相应的调整。

**关键词：**汉语语音，贸易知识，国情知识

近二十年来，随着中国经济的高速发展，中国的国际影响力不断提高，同时随着中国在国际贸易领域所占份额不断增长，与中国开展国际贸易成为越来越多国家的现实需要。基于这一现实需求，世界各国对于汉语人才的需求不断增长，因此，对于汉语人才的培养成为了世界各国的现实需求。为满足世界各国培养汉语人才的现实需要，中国政府根据世界各国大学及各类教育机构与中国国内高校的合作协议适时地协助各国开设孔子学院，以支持各方共同培养汉

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