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ACADEMIC AND SOCIOCULTURAL ADAPTATION OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN UKRAINE

Nowadays, Ukrainian higher education institutions cooperate with many countries. As a result, many international students come to Ukraine to pursue education. It makes the issue of their studying and adaptation very important.

The work aims to analyze international students' learning experience in Ukraine, identify key challenges, and suggest ways to improve it.

International students face many difficulties, including language barriers, cultural differences, and unfamiliar educational systems. These factors can influence their academic success and overall experience (Невмержицька & Ревть, 2024).

First of all, one of the most important problems is adaptation. International students need time to get used to a new country, culture, and way of life. They may feel uncomfortable because everything around them is different from what they are used to in their home country. It includes traditions, communication style, and even daily habits.

Another important issue is the language barrier. Many students do not know Ukrainian well enough, and their English level is sometimes insufficient as well. As a result, they may have difficulty understanding lectures, completing assignments, and communicating with teachers and other students.

Moreover, international students often experience psychological difficulties. They may feel lonely, stressed, or anxious because they are far from their families and familiar environment. It can negatively affect their motivation and academic performance. In addition, there are differences in the educational system (Невмержицька & Ревть, 2024). Students need to adapt to new teaching methods, assessment systems, and a

higher level of independent work. Not all students are ready for these changes at the beginning of their studies.

Modern challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have also influenced the educational process. Many students had to switch to online learning or even leave the country. However, removing learning also creates new opportunities and makes education more flexible.

In scientific literature, the problem of adaptation of international students is considered from various perspectives: psychological, social, cultural, and pedagogical. Researchers emphasize the need to develop an effective support system that accounts for both students' individual and cultural characteristics. However, modern challenges in the educational environment require the search for innovative strategies to ensure a more flexible and effective approach to organizing learning and socializing international students. An important direction for modernizing the educational process is the implementation of digital technologies, interactive teaching methods, and the personalized learning path (Любецька, 2025, 223).

The main condition for successful student training is the quick and effective mastery of the Ukrainian language. The better the language is learned, the more effective the adaptation becomes. Students stop feeling shy about addressing local citizens and students from other countries with their requests. In other words, communication becomes easier, and therefore learning new things becomes easier as well, which is very important (Тихоновський, 2015, 118).

The combination of these innovative practices with systematic psychological and pedagogical support creates conditions for the effective adaptation and integration of international students into a new environment.

In conclusion, studying in Ukraine is a valuable opportunity for international students, but it is connected with many challenges. The main problems include adaptation, language barrier, and psychological difficulties. At the same time, there are

good prospects for improvement. Universities should develop support programs, improve language training, and create better conditions for students. It will help international students to adapt faster and study more effectively.

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DIGITALIZATION IN FASHION EDUCATION: INTEGRATING DIGITAL TOOLS INTO PROFESSIONAL TRAINING IN LIGHT INDUSTRY TECHNOLOGIES

Digital technologies are changing many areas of life today, including education and creative industries. In professional training for light industry technologies, digitalization brings new chances to improve learning quality, keep students more involved, and better connect what they study with what real workplaces need.

Using digital tools in fashion and textile education is becoming common around the world. Programs like CLO 3D, Browzwear, and Adobe Illustrator, as well as digital pattern-making systems, are slowly taking the place of older manual methods. With these tools, students can see how a garment will look in 3D before making a real prototype, which saves both materials and time (Kim & Park, 2022, 45–58).