

Exploring the Cultivation of Applied Talents Through International Exchange and Cooperation in Universities

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Abstract: With the strengthening of international exchange and cooperation, cooperation between universities and world-class universities is becoming increasingly close, and the internationalization development process of universities is accelerating. In such an environment, universities need to innovate their talent training models, cultivate applied talents, and meet the needs of society and the development of the times for talents. In view of this, the article will analyze the significance of cultivating applied talents in the international exchange and cooperation environment of universities, as well as innovative path strategies for cultivating applied talents, with the aim of cultivating international talents with both morality and talent.

Keywords: Universities; International exchange and cooperation; Practical personnel

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1. Introduction

The report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China pointed out that “Deepening the implementation of the strategy of building a strong country through talent and cultivating a large number of high-quality talents with both morality and talent is a long-term development plan for the country and the nation.” This provides fundamental guidance for international exchanges and cooperation in universities and points out the direction for educational foreign affairs workers to move forward ^[1].

2. The necessity of cultivating applied talents through international exchange and cooperation in universities

2.1. The need to achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation

Applied talents in the international exchange and cooperation environment are the key force in building a socialist, modernized, strong country and realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. They not only convey the voice of China, demonstrate Chinese wisdom and solutions, but also play an indispensable role in the process of building a “community with a shared future for mankind”. The Party and the government put

forward that colleges and universities should cultivate high-quality international talents who understand and master important national policies and strategies, are proficient in using foreign languages, have cross-cultural communication skills and an international perspective, targeted to cultivate talents with solid professional knowledge, professional skills and management capabilities required for the construction of the “the Belt and Road,” and planned to cultivate outstanding application-oriented international talents. To this end, colleges and universities need to strengthen discipline construction and improve the level of international exchanges and cooperation. Correspondingly, the Ministry of Education has also issued policy documents emphasizing the acceleration of cultivating applied international talents ^[2]. As an important battlefield for cultivating applied international talents, universities need to implement the spirit of the document. In fact, the national talent gap in China is relatively large and shows an increasing trend ^[3]. The talents engaged in the operation and governance of international organizations in China exhibit the following characteristics: a small number of participating international organizations, insufficient participation in international organizations, and a relatively small number of leaders in international organizations. For example, recently, in the United Nations system, Chinese employees only accounted for 1.12%, ranking 11th behind countries such as the Philippines and India. Therefore, universities need to accelerate international exchange and cooperation, cultivate applied international talents, and use high-level applied talents to accelerate the realization of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and enhance China’s international competitiveness and influence ^[4].

2.2. The era mission of international exchange and cooperation in universities

Modern universities have diverse functions, including cultivating outstanding talents, conducting scientific research, providing social services, inheriting and innovating traditional culture, and international exchange and cooperation. Among them, these five functions are not independent and distinct. International exchange and cooperation can effectively promote other functions and promote the cultivation of talents with an international perspective, learning from excellent foreign experiences and cultivating high-level scientific research talents. Besides, it also enhances students’ cultural confidence and sense of cultural identity. In teaching practice, China is promoting the construction of “Double First Class” universities, and international cooperation and exchanges among these universities are integrated into scientific research, talent cultivation, and other processes ^[5]. In the new era, cultivating talents in “Double First Class” universities is cultivating innovative talents with international competitiveness and a firm belief in socialism with Chinese characteristics. This is also the mission of the times for international exchange and cooperation in universities. Only through extensive and in-depth international exchanges and cooperation can universities further enrich talent training channels, expand talent training paths, and cultivate international talents who can spread the “Chinese voice” and tell the “Chinese story” well.

2.3. The era responsibility of higher education

From the perspective of higher education development, it is the responsibility of the times to cultivate a team of composite talents and technology leaders with international-level and global perspectives. With the progress of globalization, more and more countries have realized that cultivating talent in international exchange and cooperation can help improve the quality of talent cultivation, thereby promoting their economic development and technological innovation. For example, China has established Confucius Institutes overseas to cultivate professionals in Chinese international education. The EU implements the Erasmus+ program to cultivate comprehensive literacy among EU youth ^[6]. International applied talents are increasingly becoming an important factor in national development. Universities engaging in international exchange and cooperation and implementing policies to cultivate international talents can improve students’ cross-cultural communication skills, enable them to deeply understand the cultural customs of different countries and regions, and meet

the needs of the times and social development. Therefore, Chinese universities should bravely shoulder the responsibilities and missions bestowed by the times, utilize international exchange and cooperation, optimize the mode of cultivating international talents and improve the quality of cultivating international talents ^[7].

3. The path and strategy of international exchange and cooperation in universities to cultivate applied talents

3.1. Innovate educational models and improve educational quality

Cultivating applied talents through international exchange and cooperation in universities first requires innovative teaching models. The teaching models of universities should not remain unchanged. Still, they should consider the development characteristics of students as the main body, adapt to the overall environment of technological innovation and world integration, and make dynamic and flexible adjustments. Firstly, the traditional teaching model in universities is limited to hardware facilities and other factors, with teachers as the main force and imparting knowledge to students in a one-way manner. In the new era, universities need to update their concepts and adjust their models, respect the status of students as the main body, give full play to their subjective initiative, adopt a teaching method that combines explaining theoretical knowledge with practical exercises, innovate teaching methods, implement group cooperation, task-driven, heuristic and other teaching methods. This guides students to deepen their learning, think independently, establish a knowledge system framework and stimulate their confidence and interest in learning ^[8]. Secondly, universities need to innovate teaching methods and highlight international teaching factors, such as internationalizing teaching content and using internationally recognized textbooks. This can strengthen foreign language teaching and improve students' proficiency in using foreign languages for communication. With the help of information technology, students can learn the teaching experience of excellent universities at home and abroad through the Internet and obtain electronic network teaching resources. Thirdly, colleges and universities can build Internet schools that meet their characteristics, provide students with rich online teaching resources, enable people from different countries and regions to interact and communicate in the same classroom, and effectively improve the quality of higher education ^[9].

3.2. Accelerate the construction of international teaching staff in universities and improve the level of education

Teachers are the university personnel who have the most contact with students. To a certain extent, the professional level of teachers determines the quality and efficiency of courses. Excellent teachers are the cornerstone and guarantee for improving the quality of talent cultivation and are the talent support for international exchange and cooperation in universities. Accelerating the construction of international teaching staff in universities can promote the internationalization of teaching content, curriculum construction, and academic research. Economic globalization and the accelerated flow of high-quality talents have brought opportunities and challenges to optimizing the teaching staff of universities. Firstly, universities can invite outstanding international talents to serve as teachers in Chinese universities or invite renowned professors in a certain field from around the world to give speeches. This not only helps improve the academic research capabilities of universities but also enables teachers and students in a certain field to understand the latest international achievements and cultivate their professional abilities.^[10] Secondly, young teachers have great potential for development, and universities can take diverse measures to increase their training efforts. Their academic and teaching abilities can be improved by providing opportunities and platforms for young teachers to visit and exchange with excellent international universities. Universities encourage young and outstanding foreign teachers to collaborate and exchange ideas on a certain project and learn new methods through

interaction. Finally, universities are taking measures such as increasing salaries and creating a favorable academic research atmosphere to attract outstanding talents in the international market while retaining them and improving the level of the teaching staff. In summary, accelerating the construction of international teaching staff in universities, forming exemplary and demonstrative effects, can effectively enrich students' professional knowledge, improve their application abilities, and broaden their international perspectives^[11].

3.3. Targeting international influence and cultivating international communication talents

In the new era, strengthening China's communication capacity construction is significant. It is conducive to building a discourse power commensurate with its international status and creating a favorable external public opinion environment for the stable development of the Chinese economy. The core link for universities to strengthen the construction of China's communication capacity is to cultivate applied international communication talents and build an international communication team to showcase China's real and three-dimensional image. This task is a systematic and comprehensive project with diverse and rich training content, including the following aspects:

- (1) The basic course of news communication allows college students to understand the basic principles, laws and methods of news communication and master basic skills such as news interview, reporting, and editing.
- (2) Expanding their international perspective, college students can learn about the cultural, political, economic and social situations worldwide by reading international news, participating in international education projects and learning foreign languages.
- (3) The infiltration of humanistic literacy. Through studying subjects such as history, philosophy, and literature, college students can understand the essence and laws of human society and cultivate critical thinking and independent thinking abilities.
- (4) Cross-cultural communication ability. College students cultivate a sense of tolerance and respect for the cultural background of others by learning about language differences, values and behavioral differences between different cultures.
- (5) With modern new media platforms, college students can learn the communication laws, characteristics and skills of new media platforms and understand the trends and development directions of news communication in the new media era.

One of the important criteria for testing international application-oriented talents is international influence. To cultivate national talents, we should pay attention to the audience of international communication is international and foreign people. Therefore, colleges and universities should attach importance to the way and skills of news communication, tell the story of the CPC and spread the voice of Chinese culture. For example, universities can adopt a combined training model of "domestic training + foreign training + domestic and foreign practical training" to play a positive role in the overseas dissemination of excellent humanistic academic achievements and student internships^[12].

3.4. Creating international channels for scientific and technological cooperation and building an international platform for scientific and technological cooperation

Universities need application-oriented international talents to carry out international exchanges and cooperation. In this regard, universities need to create international channels for scientific and technological cooperation and build international scientific and technological cooperation platforms. From the perspective of international scientific and technological cooperation channels, firstly, universities need to "go global" and encourage enterprises, universities and research institutions with academic research advantages to go abroad. Based on the actual characteristics of overseas markets, research centers should be established, relevant resources should be allocated and cooperation with

foreign excellent resources should be carried out to improve scientific research innovation. For example, China is promoting high-tech projects to developing countries and promoting advanced domestic technologies.

Secondly, universities need to “invite in” and encourage research institutions to engage in international cooperation, introduce outstanding scientists and industry leaders, closely integrate with emerging strategic industries, and breakthrough key technologies by utilizing information technology, integrating domestic and foreign scientific and technological resources, making good use of scientific and technological resource databases, improving cooperation and exchange levels, and cultivating professional talents ^[13]. From the perspective of building an international science and technology cooperation platform, universities can create demonstration models for international science and technology cooperation based on integrating scientific research resources and form a demonstration effect from point to area.

Firstly, building an international innovation park will closely integrate with the core areas of emerging strategic industries and carefully lay out the international innovation park. Universities fully utilize the advantages of parks as high-quality carriers, committed to attracting cutting-edge scientific and technological projects, advanced technologies, and top international talents to settle in. Through this approach, universities aim to create a smart highland that gathers talents and innovative resources, thereby enhancing the competitiveness of industrial clusters on a global scale. Secondly, to comprehensively enhance the country’s scientific and technological strength and industrial competitiveness, universities must further deepen the breadth and depth of international scientific and technological cooperation, ensure that the level and quality of scientific and technological cooperation are significantly improved, actively encourage and scientifically guide various forces such as universities, research institutions and enterprises to carry out extensive and in-depth multilateral technological research and development cooperation. In cooperation, universities actively introduce excellent foreign talents and advanced scientific research equipment according to actual needs and achieve effective digestion and absorption of technology introduction through joint research and development. In summary, universities rely on technology platforms and projects, cooperate and exchange, share achievements and apply scientific research results to talent cultivation, improving talent cultivation ^[14].

4. Conclusion

In summary, the government attaches great importance to international exchanges and cooperation among universities, stimulates innovative development momentum and promotes the internationalization of academic research. This process helps to enhance China’s international status and influence. The acceleration of the internationalization process of domestic higher education and the enhancement of international exchange and cooperation capabilities are conducive to achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, helping higher education adapt to the trends of the times and undertake the mission and responsibility of the times. In the context of global economic integration, to carry out education work well, universities need to change their talent cultivation methods, innovate education models and improve the quality of education by accelerating the construction of international teaching staff in universities and improving the level of education. To cultivate international communication talents with the goal of international influence, universities and educators can create international channels for scientific and technological cooperation, build international scientific and technological cooperation platforms and improve the quality of talent cultivation ^[15].

Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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