

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND INTERNATIONALIZATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION: EXPERIENCE, PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES (ON THE EXAMPLE OF DAAD)

GNYP O.P., SAVCHENKO N.M.

Odesa State Academy of Civil Engineering and Architecture, Odesa, Ukraine

Modern education and science require the introduction of new approaches to training specialists capable of working effectively in an international environment. Internationalization of the educational process is a response to the challenges of globalization. Participation in international academic programs allows not only to improve the qualifications of teachers and students, but also to improve educational programs, taking into account global trends.

Given the European integration and growing mobility, the future of education is closely linked to international cooperation. One of the key instruments of such cooperation is the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), one of the largest educational organizations in the world that provides mobility for students, postgraduates and teachers. Ukraine has been participating in DAAD programs since 1998, which allows talented young people to undergo internships and improve their skills in Germany. [1]

In October 2024, after a break of more than two years, the DAAD reopened its Kyiv office. Since the beginning of the war, more than 20,000 Ukrainians have received assistance in continuing their studies and research in Germany. The Center promotes cooperation between Ukrainian and German universities, including through lectures on the reconstruction of destroyed cities. [2]

The DAAD funds numerous academic mobility programs, including scholarships for bachelors, masters, and PhD students, as well as internships for Ukrainian researchers at German universities. The application period usually lasts from February to March, and the details are updated annually in January. In addition, the organization supports joint projects between higher education institutions in Ukraine and Germany, promoting academic cooperation.

Academic mobility programs within DAAD are based on modern scientific achievements and promote the integration of educational components into the international space. It is important that the educational programs of universities participating in such initiatives are constantly reviewed in line with changes in the requirements for specialists, the emergence of new teaching methods and the development of digital technologies.

This necessitates the improvement of curricula, in particular, the addition of new disciplines that develop intercultural communication, academic integrity and

international cooperation skills. In addition, it is important to evaluate the effectiveness of educational programs, as their implementation involves teachers from different departments, faculties, and even universities.

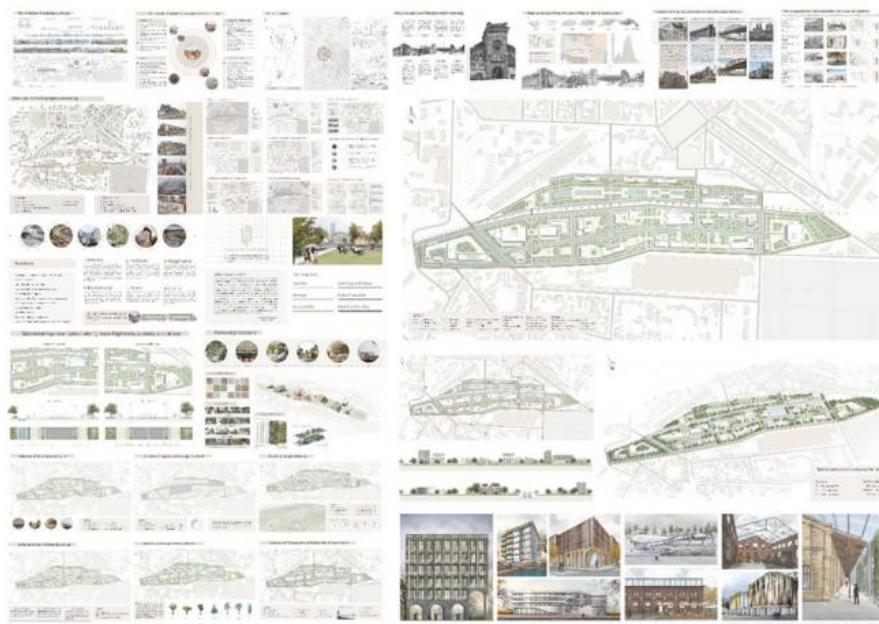
Analyzing the quality of the educational process within international programs (including DAAD) is necessary for their further effectiveness. The algorithm for self-assessment of such programs should be clearly defined, enshrined in regulations and consistently implemented. Only a transparent analysis of problems and opportunities will help to avoid stagnation and move towards improving educational processes.

International academic mobility plays an important role in training competitive professionals. However, there are a number of challenges, including:

- Adapting students to a different education system;
- harmonization of educational programs in accordance with international standards;
- financial support for the participation of students and teachers;
- recognition of the results of training and internships.

Creating international curricula requires not only organizational support but also openness to change. Teachers must constantly improve their knowledge by implementing modern methods, digital technologies, and best international practices.

As part of the DAAD program, the students developed a conceptual proposal for the revitalization of the Krayan plant (pic. 1), aimed at rethinking the industrial area and integrating it into the modern urban environment. They proposed the concept of transforming abandoned buildings into public, educational, and commercial spaces while preserving the historic architecture. Particular attention was paid to creating a comfortable urban environment with a developed pedestrian infrastructure, green areas, and a harmonious combination of restoration and modern architectural solutions. The project takes into account the principles of sustainable development, provides convenient mobility and promotes the integration of the territory into the overall urban structure.



Pic.1. Project proposal for the revitalization of the territory of the Krayan plant, made by students Savchenko N., Fedorenko K., Kocherhina A., 2023

Assessment of learning outcomes in international programs also requires clear and reasonable criteria. If they are purely formal and do not reflect real competencies, their effectiveness is significantly reduced. Therefore, it is important to formulate learning outcomes in such a way that they meet modern requirements and allow for a coherent model of training.

A graduate who has completed an international program (for example, DAAD) has:

- deep knowledge in their specialty;
- developed intercultural communication skills;
- understanding of modern scientific trends;
- ability to quickly adapt to changes and implement innovations.

Thus, international cooperation, including DAAD programs, plays a key role in the modernization of higher education. It contributes to the training of specialists who are ready to work in a global environment and meet modern challenges.

References

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