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FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRE-PROFESSIONAL TRAINING SYSTEM OF FOREIGN MEDICAL APPLICANTS IN UKRAINE (HISTORICAL AND EDUCATIONAL ASPECT)

ABSTRACT

The growing number of foreign applicants looking forward to getting education in Ukrainian medical universities makes us find the ways how to improve and make effective the pre-professional training system of foreign medical applicants for further education. The article deals with the issues of the history of formation and development of the pre-professional training system of foreign medical applicants in Ukraine. On the ground of the electronic databases of the official websites of higher educational establishments, the data on years of opening first offices of the dean, departments and preparatory faculties for foreign medical applicants in Ukrainian medical universities are analyzed and systematized. Also the data on the setting up preparatory faculties at other universities who carry out licensed training of foreign students of the medical profile are presented. The data on the operating and management of such institutions in the system of the University administration are generalized. It's revealed that during the years of its functioning the pre-professional training has changed, in particular the system was commercialized and the institutions involved in training foreign applicants have been reorganized. The modern trends in teaching foreign medical students at the preparatory faculties of the Ukrainian medical universities are displayed. Based on the analysis of the data it is concluded that the system of the pre-professional training of foreign medical applicants was set up in the 50s-60s years of the twentieth century. During this time, some positive experience in the preparation of future international medical specialists has been gained. The system of the pre-professional training of foreign medical applicants has been comprehensively improved and an effective system of managing foreign medical applicants has been created.

Key words: foreign students, foreign applicants history, medical profile, medical universities, preparatory departments, pre-professional, training.

INTRODUCTION

The integration of Ukraine into the world educational space strengthens responsibility for training foreign students who come to study in our country. According to the statistics the foreign citizens who get education in medical universities, are one third of the total number of all foreign students (Лазоришинець, 2008). Traditionally, preparing foreigners for admission to Ukrainian medical universities starts from the pre-professional training at the preparatory departments. The need to improve the system of the foreign medical specialists training requires studying the experience of formation and development of the pre-professional training system of such specialists.

THE AIM OF THE STUDY

The aim of this article is to analyze the experience of formation and development of the pre-professional training system of foreign medical students in Ukraine.



THE THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND RESEARCH METHODS

Some questions of formation and development of the pre-professional training system of the foreign students are presented mainly by the publications by V. Hrutysyak (Груцяк, 2008), I. Khristenko (Христенко, 2010) and J. Fedotova (Федотова, 2009). The thesis work by L. Rybachenko (Рибаченко, 2001), in which the author thoroughly analyzed the experience of training of foreign students in Ukrainian universities for the period since 1946 until 2000, is especially important for our study. In her work the author defined both the negative and positive experience of such training and the ways of reforming the training system of foreign specialists. However, the historical aspect of the preparation of foreign medical students hasn't been studied yet. In this regard, it seems necessary to analyze the process of formation and development of the pre-professional training of foreign medical applicants.

The research methods we used are: theoretical analysis, synthesis, the method of studying educational and historical documents.

THE RESULTS

According to the statistics of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine and electronic databases of the universities, today in Ukraine 15 medical universities and academies prepare doctors and pharmacists for different foreign countries.

The systematic training of foreign medical students started in the 50s of the 20th century when the Soviet Union established friendly relations with other countries and provided them with the financial, technical and scientific assistance. Foreigners from Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Mongolia and other countries began to arrive to the Soviet republics, including Ukraine.

Thus, the training of foreign specialists at medical universities started in 1946 at Odessa Medical University, in 1951 – at Kharkiv National Medical University, in 1956 – at Bohomolets National Medical University, in 1958 – at M. Gorky Donetsk Medical Institute (now Donetsk National Medical University). Kharkiv Pharmaceutical Institute (now National University of Pharmacy) began educating foreigners on “Pharmacy” speciality in 1959. In 1961, foreign students started in Crimea State Medical University named after S. I. Georgievsky and in Danylo Halytsky Lviv National Medical University, in 1978 – in National Pirogov Memorial Medical University, Vinnytsya.

The increasing number of foreign students and entarants in Ukraine in the 60s years of the 20th century, their diversity and multilingualism raised the questions of setting up special institutions to work with them. In different universities such institutions became offices of the dean of foreign student affairs, later preparatory faculties and departments. In 1964 the Office of the Dean of Foreign Student Affairs was set up at Odessa Medical University and Kharkiv National Medical University, in 1966 – in Crimea State Medical University named after S. I. Georgievsky.

In 1967 “Regulations on preparatory faculty for foreign citizens” by Ministry of Education of the USSR No 231 from 04.18.1967 was adopted. According to the regulations, preparatory departments were recognized as the units of higher educational establishments and their activities were subordinated to USSR Ministry of Higher Education. The tasks of preparatory faculties were to prepare foreign students for further study according to the speciality they chose (Христенко, 2010).

The first preparatory faculty specialized in medicine and biology in Ukraine was set up in 1973 in Zaporozhye State Medical University. In 1974 in Kharkov Pharmaceutical Institute (now National University of Pharmacy), the Faculty of Foreign Student Affairs was founded. Later in 1979 the Preparatory Faculty for foreign citizens was open in National Pirogov Memorial Medical University, Vinnytsya.



To optimize the scientific, technical and educational work on the preparation of foreign students, some faculties established language departments. In particular, in 1964 the Language Training Department for foreign students learning Russian was established at Kharkiv National Medical University, in 1969 – the Department of Russian Language at Odessa Medical University, in 1974 – the Department of Russian Language at M. Gorky Donetsk State Medical Institute, the Department of Russian Language and of General Training Courses for foreign students – at Zaporozhye State Medical University.

After the collapse of the USSR the number of foreign students taking up places at Ukrainian universities decreased rapidly and the state support of the preparatory faculties for foreign citizens ended. Nevertheless the tradition of training foreign students has been saved. The system of foreign specialists' training was commercialized. It became the way of integration into the world educational space and, of course, contributed to the financial interests of the Ukrainian universities. There were changes in the format of training foreign students. Studying at preparatory faculties wasn't considered as initial training anymore but pre-professional one. Some offices involved in preparing foreign students to study at universities were reorganized. Thus, in 1992 the Office of the Dean of Foreign Student Affairs at Odessa Medical University was displaced by the Preparatory Department for foreign citizens. In the same year, the Faculties of Training Foreign Students were organized at Ukrainian Medical Stomatological Academy and Bohomolets National Medical University. In 1994 International Medical Faculties were opened at M. Gorky Donetsk National Medical University and Crimea State Medical University named after S. Georgievsky. The Preparatory Department for foreign citizens at I. Gorbachevsky Ternopil State Medical University functioned until 1992. Its work was updated in 1997. Danylo Halitsky Lviv National Medical University opened the International Department and Faculty of Foreign Students and Kharkiv National Medical University set up the Preparatory Department for foreign students. In 2008, the Preparatory Department for foreign citizens at Lugansk State Medical University was reorganized into an independent unit of the university and was subordinated to the Office of Dean of Foreign Students Affairs. Ivano-Frankivsk National Medical University began to accept foreign students in 1992, and in 2003 opened the Preparatory Department.

It should be noted that preparatory faculties and departments that carry out licensed training of foreign students on different profiles (medical, engineering, economic, humanitarian, etc.) for admission to higher educational establishments work at other universities, too. The most popular universities and faculties among foreign students are:

Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, the Preparatory Faculty of which has a very long tradition. Training foreigners at this Preparatory Faculty started from 1960;

National Aviation University in Kiev, which started training aviation specialists for foreign countries in 1949, and in 1959 the Department of Foreign Students' Affairs at Mechanical Faculty was established. Later it was reorganized into the Office of the Dean of Foreign Students Affairs. In 1977 the Preparatory Faculty for foreign citizens was opened here (at that time the university was called Kiev Institute of Civil Aviation). Ten years later this faculty was voted one of the ten best in the Soviet Union. At present, the training at the faculty is carried out in different areas, including medical and biological;

National Technical University "Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute" began training of foreign specialists in 1946. Until 1996 the Office of the Dean of Foreign Students Affairs was responsible for organization of work with foreign students. In 1996 the Center for foreign citizens which coordinated all the work related to foreign students was set up. In 2009, in connection with the expansion of tasks and directions of the university work the Faculty of International Education was established;



V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University. The training of foreign specialists on different profiles at this university began in 1948, and in 1961 the University opened one of the first in the country Preparatory Faculty for Foreign Citizens.

The long experience of the preparatory faculties showed their effectiveness.

Among the universities, which are currently engaged in medical training of foreign specialists, the leading universities are Lugansk Medical University, Bohomolets National Medical University, Crimea State Medical University named after S. I. Georgievsky, Zaporozhye Medical University, Odessa State Medical University, National University of Pharmacy, National Pirogov Memorial Medical University and P. I. Shupik National Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education (Лазоришинець, 2008). Most of the universities started an innovative English form of the educational process which become more and more popular in all medical universities and academies.

CONCLUSIONS

Thus, the system of the pre-professional training of foreign medical applicants in Ukraine started to form in the 50s–60s years of the 20th century. Its formation and development was difficult. During this time, Ukrainian universities have gained some experience in the organization of the pre-professional training and teaching foreign medical students that allows Ukraine to compete on the international education market.

Prospects for further research. Further progress needed on developing new methods of teaching foreign students medical profile.

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