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THE NEWEST MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS IN UNIVERSITIES OF AUSTRIA

The article is devoted to the newest master's degree programs of Austria by example of a few most authoritative universities. The author describes principles of studies at Austrian master's course, the organization of foreign language training of specialists of law at the second cycle of higher education, reviews the documents containing requirements for foreign language training of postgraduate students of legal specialties.

Key words: university; master of law; master's degree program; foreign language training.

In recent years the European spaces of the Higher Education powerfully develops both intensively and extensively, are modernized approaches to the organization of training in high school, improved curricula, created the new training programs as a response to the challenges of globalization and European integration processes. Therefore, the analysis and synthesis of the organization of study at the Master of European universities, including such leading state like Austria, is of interest for domestic science.

Review of the modern Ukrainian professional publications of the Educational Sciences gives grounds to establish that scientific papers devoted to the study of the new Masters programs in Austria are practically absent.

Austria, with its extensive network of the higher educational establishments and a large number of students (about 177 thousand) is of interest for the study of the modern processes in the field of higher education and, in particular, it seems appropriate to consider the organization of foreign language training of lawyers for the second cycle of higher education by the example of Austria. Eight public universities (in such cities as Vienna, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Klagenfurt, Linz, Graz) and nine private and 12 special universities, including technical institutes (German Fachhochschulen) and educational institutions (German Pädagogische Hochschulen) are acted [1].

We consider the relatively new graduate courses in law, which were introduced from 2004-2005, the most famous and prestigious universities in Austria.

Most of the private universities in Austria offer to get American degree of “Master of Laws” (LL.M), which is equivalent to a PhD in law. The granting of such degrees practices, for example the Danube University in Krems, the Vienna Academy of Diplomacy (Diplomatic Academy Vienna) and Karl Franz University in Graz. Usually, training program of the Master of Laws in private universities involves three to four semesters as full-time and distance learning, and includes the defense of master's thesis. Teaching in the master of these universities is in German, English (and the Vienna Academy of Diplomacy - French), so before entering, the training seekers must submit certificates that confirm knowledge of these languages. In English recognized, such certificates:

Cambridge Certificate “advanced user” (*Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English*) - level A, B;

Cambridge Certificate “power user” (*Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English*) - level A, B, C;

TOEFL (international, not institutional test), executed on the computer (*Computer based*), which has at least 230 points;

TOEFL (international, not institutional test), executed on the Internet (*Internet based*) that has at least 90 points;

TOEFL (international, not institutional test) printed (*Paper based*), which has at least 500 points [1].

Diversity and innovation masters' courses stand out among other private institutions Karl Franzen University in Graz. It has more than 2000 students, masters and PhD students and has links with over 20 universities on three continents of the world. Intercultural exchange and international cooperation enrich their academic life and create the research surroundings that provide the quality of education and researches [2]. This is the only Austrian university, which was passed to the Utrecht (Utrecht Network) and Coimbra university association (Coimbra Group) [3].

The basic vector of cooperation of the University is directed at the South-Eastern Europe, due both geographically and historically. Through this cooperation, the University is an important conductor of the European integration in the region. Training in many faculties in English promotes the internationalization of the educational process in the university. It should be noted that Karl Franzen University in Graz was the first Austrian university which in the field of internationalization awarded a special certificate ADA quality assurance (AQA).

The University of Karl Franzen offers such new Masters courses as “Master of Law in Eastern Europe and European integration”, and “Studies on Globalization” from 2010–2011 academic year and

“Political Philosophy, Economics and Law”. In addition, it is proposed the course “Right art and culture” (German *Kunst-und Kulturrecht*) [4].

Master's course in the study of law in Eastern Europe and European integration, which was introduced in the 2004–2005 academic year, provides basic training for future professionals on laws to “the region of future” (German *Zukunftsregion*) – South-Eastern Europe, thereby preparing a base for further expansion of the EU eastwards. Thus, the seekers of the pointed qualifications have a chance to get additional opportunities in modern European labor market.

A precondition for studying at master is a bachelor degree or equivalent document (for foreign seekers). Another essential factor is **the confirmation of the high knowledge level of seeker of the English language as the process of studies is in English**. In addition, desirable for foreigners is the ownership of German for everyday communication. The University for this Category of seekers of the higher education provides the opportunity to take an intensive German speaking course twice a year, which begins in September and February.

A number of study places is limited – 35. The main criteria for the selection of candidates are successfulness and relevant qualifications. Duration of the course – three semesters, credits number – 90 ECTS. Working seekers have the opportunity to extend the term of studies.

The purpose of the master course “Studies on Globalization”, which lasts four semesters, is a mediation and support of global perspectives through the description and analysis of historical, contemporary and future processes and integrative thinking in a global society, its mechanisms, relationships and problems as a basis for working out an appropriate actions schemes in case when there are disagreements on issues that arise in the process of globalization. The characterized Master Course binds educational resources to the various perspectives of globalization. The seekers are offered unbiased look at the problems of the globalized world – global warming, resource scarcity, famine, mass poverty, terror and violence, and also are defined and listed possible solutions. Of particular note is the fact that all the ideas and actions of certain members of globalization process are considered by lecturers of the course comprehensive and in dynamics.

It should be noted that the considered Master Course is an entirely new; its main features are interdisciplinary and diversity. He encourages seekers professionally to analyze numerous international and intercultural requirements facing globalized society. During training the future professionals develop by themselves a flexible and innovative thinking that will be necessary for a control of the variety

of multicultural situations. Moreover, international experience and practice in the country further enrich their knowledge and develop professional competences, which increase the chances of these individuals in the labor market.

Thus, the Master Course “Studies of globalization” involves the study of various aspects of globalization: from economic, legal, historical, ecological, climatic, technical, to cultural, religious, social and gender. This is due to a set of compulsory subjects, which are studied by the future masters:

Cycle “Law and Politics” (international law, international politics, human rights, environmental law, etc.);

Cycle “Economics” (globalization, international division of labor, development and decline of nations, world trade, world economic order, financial markets, etc.);

Cycle “History” (History of globalization, interregional coverage, European imperialism and colonialism, etc.);

Cycle “Environment, Climate and Technology” (ecological scarcities, ecological balance, environmental technology, clean technology, etc.);

Cycle “Culture, religion, society and gender politics” (society and their value systems, comparative characteristics of cultures, gender roles, interculture, and intercultural conflicts, etc.).

Along with theoretical knowledge seekers are imparted with practical skills such as the ability to properly communicate with different cultures negotiates. It should be emphasized that **considerable attention is paid to the study of international communication languages: English, Spanish, and Chinese.**

The course is structured so that the first semester the seekers learn the basic disciplines (German *Grundstudium*), on the second – the discipline of your choice (German *Spezialisierung in Wahlfächern*), on the third they have a practice, usually abroad (German *Berufspraktikum*), and on the fourth – they finish master's thesis (German *Verfassung der Masterarbeit*).

Another integrated Master Course with interdisciplinary training at the University of Graz, which deserves attention, is the “Right of art and culture”. It, like the previous one, just lasts for 4 semesters, however, designed to teach seekers to solve various problems in the field of art and culture, based on the legal and economic knowledge.

The training is permitted to persons who have a bachelor's degree on law, or Bachelor of Arts. On the first phase (first module) seekers are divided into two groups, and for those who studied law, are taught art

courses, and for those who have studied the art – legal. Already for the second module the subgroups are connected and they are taught the subject “Introduction to cultural policy”. In the subsequent modules seekers study the art and culture from the perspective of private law and the right to cultural institutions and the organization and financing of projects. Therefore, the aim of this interdisciplinary course is to provide citizens of Austria and foreigners the integrated education in the fields of law and art. The target audiences are those people (citizens of Austria, and foreigners) who for the sake of competitiveness in the labor market would like to receive additional qualification or specialization in law or art. In addition, it may be workers in the arts and members of the liberal professions who wish to deepen their professional knowledge.

The University of Salzburg offers master's program “Law, economics and the world of professions” (German *Recht, Wirtschaft und Arbeitswelt*) [5]. The feature of this program is the possibility to hold an economic research at the University of Salzburg and partner universities. Accumulated knowledge potential of the teachers and masters of the University in the field of law and economics successfully transmitted then to companies that coordinate these interdisciplinary research projects. Especially for such studies at the University of Salzburg as a subdivision was established the so-called “Law Academy” (German *Rechtsakademie*) [6]. The objectives of the Academy are: leadership and coordination of all institutions of the Academy, determination of the dates of annual reports (lectures), inviting influential speakers and consultants, establishing relationships with them, discussion and coordination of topics and content of reports, organization of the large scientific symposia and conferences (as well as co-organizer, such as the Salzburg Chamber of Lawyers or some enterprises, the European Commission, the Law Society of Salzburg, etc.). There is a practice of publishing collections of abstracts of the selected measures.

Legal Academy also offers an intensive training program for practitioners. As reporters make a speech the experts from various economic enterprises and legal institutions that successfully combine in their lectures the theoretical material of teaching seekers practical skills. Relevant topics for discussion at these lectures are: the questions of credit insurance, banking, public, trade law, Internet, law duties, payments, private, tax, commercial, civil law and legal use of the Internet.

The University of Innsbruck, along with classical masters courses in “Law” provides the opportunity to obtain a master's degree in the specialty “Commercial Law” (German *Wirtschaftsrecht*), and also offers

a bilingual German-Italian “An integrated course in law” (German *Integriertes Diplomstudium der Rechtswissenschaften*) [7].

The future masters of commercial law study disciplines in two cycles: the legal (civil, social, labor, European law) and economic (business economics, international economics, marketing and competition, finance, and taxes). It should be noted that the compulsory subjects belong also “English for Lawyers” and “English for economists”. Important also is the fact that the subjects to choose from, along with “Banking”, “Internet”, “Insurance Business” are the study of three foreign languages: French, Italian or Spanish.

Among the requirements to the graduates from courses are indicated legal and economic competences, the ability to think critically and to argue their opinions, communication skills, ability to negotiate and **foreign language skills**. Separately is stated that during the training future graduates are taught how to solve complex interdisciplinary issues, with legal and economic aspects.

Of particular note is the fact that in all the brochures and on the University website, which contains information for applicants, must be pointed the professional prospects and career opportunities in a particular specialty. Thus, in the section for students described in the master course “Commercial Law” stipulates that “they can work with chambers of trade, professional associations, national and international organizations like the European Commission, United Nations, World Trade Organization, as well as sectors (social) policy and culture” [7].

As for a bilingual German-Italian “Integrated law course” here refers to the compulsory subjects “Italian Constitutional Law”, “The Italian Civil Law”, “The Italian Trade Law and the Securities Law”, “The Italian criminal law”, etc., as This course is taught in collaboration with the University of Innsbruck partner in Padua (Italy). The aim of the course is to prepare the examined versatile lawyers. Graduates should possess professional skills at the highest level, quickly and competently working out (including new) issues of European and international law. Because of this, graduates of Master of such specialty should fluent in German and Italian.

It was mentioned that professional prospects and career opportunities are clearly describe to the future professionals in law before entering the magistracy. For graduates from the course have the ability to “work as the judges, lawyers, prosecutors, notaries in higher administrative services primarily in Austria, Italy or other European countries, as well as chambers of trade, professional associations, national and international organizations like the European Commission,

the United Nations, World Trade Organization, as well as in the areas of (social) policy and culture” [7].

Thus, the Austrian universities are characterized by the high levels of foreign language training on law. Graduates of the Austrian training programs of the second cycle of higher education willingly are offered jobs in the UK and the U.S. Their high potential is the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration, which also prepare future graduates of law, according to the rating of the English magazine “Wall Street Journal” (WSJE) it is one of the best specialized higher educational establishments in Europe [1]. So, the described approaches to foreign language training on law in Austria can be adapted to the Ukrainian realities and to use by developing the new principles of foreign language training of the Masters of Law in the higher educational establishments.

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