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INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE INTERNATIONALISATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

At the beginning of the 21st century, globalisation and internationalisation are the main objective factors in human development, which also influence the sphere of education. Countries' desire for competitiveness in higher education is driven by their focus on building a 'knowledge economy'. In the new socio-cultural conditions, Ukraine faces the challenge of adapting the training of specialists to the modern requirements of the labour market, which presupposes the integration of international education standards that will ensure the formation of the ability of future specialists to engage in innovative professional activity, in particular in an intercultural environment.

In connection with these processes, intercultural competence, which is based on knowledge of a foreign language, communication is becoming particularly important for students, academics and university lecturers. This competence is based on knowledge of a foreign language, communication skills, awareness of the characteristics of other cultures and communication with their representatives, as well as psychological readiness to establish interaction based on dialogue principles.

Therefore, when teaching foreign languages, it is important to draw students' attention to the fact that the outcome of intercultural communication can be significantly influenced by the use of non-verbal means, which are necessary for regulating the communication process, establishing psychological contact between partners, and expressing people's emotions and reactions to a situation. Internationalisation, based on processes of intercultural communication, is not a new phenomenon in human history, as international relations have always been linked to an interest in the mutual exchange of material and spiritual values.

Internationalisation began to spread dynamically to the sphere of education as well, with the establishment after the Second World War of international organisations such as the UN and UNESCO. The desire of countries to ensure the competitiveness of their higher education systems by improving their quality and creating conditions for the introduction of international educational standards also led to the emergence of institutions whose goal was to promote the internationalisation of higher education.

Academic mobility is an integral feature of modern higher education. The intensity of international communication is evidenced by the active mobility of students and teachers, an increase in academic exchanges between higher

education institutions, joint scientific events and projects, research and publications by scientists from universities around the world. Intercultural tolerance is considered a quality of a moral personality, characterised by a tolerant attitude towards representatives of other cultures. The task of developing the internationalisation of higher education and academic mobility in Ukraine is particularly relevant in connection with the implementation of the provisions and principles of the Bologna Process, aimed at ensuring the quality of higher education and the formation of intercultural and professional competence among students.

In the context of the internationalisation of higher education, future participants in academic mobility must acquire intercultural competence, which requires knowledge the characteristics of another culture and its values, the specifics of the process of intercultural communication with representatives of other cultures, and the ability to establish intercultural interaction based on tolerance for differences in the communicative behaviour of its participants.

A high level of proficiency in foreign languages, primarily English as a language of international communication, in the context of the internationalisation of higher education ensures a quality education and further self-realisation for students and academic staff. Further research should be directed towards identifying ways to modernise the communicative training of students in higher education institutions.

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