

## **MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION AS A STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN UKRAINE**

Introduction. Multilingualism has become a decisive professional asset in today's interconnected economy, where language skills directly correlate with career mobility. For international students in Ukraine, proficiency in Ukrainian, combined with English or other European languages, creates unique competitive advantages. This linguistic competence facilitates integration into local employment sectors and positions graduates favorably in international job markets. As Ukraine seeks to strengthen its position in global education, developing effective multilingual education policies becomes crucial for maximizing these opportunities.

With its growing international student population, Ukraine has the potential to become a hub for multilingual education. However, the current educational policies and language-learning frameworks need further development to maximize these benefits.

The work analyzes the correlation between multilingual competence and employability for international students in Ukraine, identifies systemic gaps in language education, and highlights the need for institutional reforms.

The professional value of multilingualism is particularly evident in sectors like international business, diplomacy, and IT, where language skills directly translate into higher salaries and greater career mobility [1; 2]. For international students in Ukraine, this presents a unique opportunity, while English remains essential for global communication, adding Ukrainian proficiency unlocks access to local employment sectors that increasingly prioritize the state language. Government agencies, non-governmental organizations operating in Ukraine, and domestic companies particularly value this dual-language competence [5], as it demonstrates cultural integration and professional

versatility.

However, realizing this potential requires confronting systemic challenges in Ukraine's language education framework. Many universities lack structured Ukrainian courses tailored for international students, while extracurricular immersion opportunities remain limited. Compounding this issue, some learners prioritize English exclusively, perceiving Ukrainian as having limited utility beyond national borders. This perception overlooks the growing demand for Ukraine-literate professionals in international organizations and businesses engaging with the country [5].

Addressing these gaps calls for targeted policy interventions. Integrating mandatory Ukrainian language components into international curricula, coupled with scholarship incentives, could significantly boost proficiency rates. Simultaneously, partnerships with employers to create language-dependent internship programs would reinforce the practical value of multilingualism [3; 4]. Such measures would enhance Ukraine's attractiveness as an education hub and equip graduates with skills that bridge local and international job markets – a critical advantage in today's interconnected professional landscape.

Conclusion. Multilingualism is a powerful tool for career advancement, and international students in Ukraine stand to gain significantly from mastering Ukrainian alongside other languages. However, systemic improvements in language education policies are needed to unlock this potential fully. Ukraine can enhance its appeal as a study destination by implementing structured language programs, fostering immersion experiences, and collaborating with industries while boosting graduates' employability. Investing in multilingual education will benefit foreign learners and contribute to Ukraine's integration into the global economy.

## REFERENCES

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