

## Секція 5. ІННОВАЦІЙНІ АСПЕКТИ ІНДУСТРІЇ ГОСТИННОСТІ

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### **THE INNOVATIVE APPROACHES OF KHARKIV STATE UNIVERSITY OF FOOD TECHNOLOGY AND TRADE TO THE PRACTICAL TRAINING OF FUTURE SPECIALISTS**

When graduates get hired, very often employers complain about the lack of practical working skills in their chosen specialties, the lack of knowledge of state-of-the-art technologies and equipment, and as a result, more trouble finding jobs and a growing duration of the orientation period at starting positions. It all leads to the overall tarnishing of the higher education's image. The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine emphasizes that despite the standardized curricular regulations concerning the practical training of students many higher schools reduce its volume by editing curricula to their taste. A practical training report becomes a technical document for perfunctory defense by a student or no defense at all. KhSUFT teaching and methodical staff gathers it important and reasonable to take the following steps to improve the state of the students' practical training programs:

Firstly, it is necessary to revise the curricula and the integrated training programs with the aim of coordinating their contents, terms and conditions, and developing new approaches to the practical training of students. Secondly, it is essential to direct our efforts towards the initiation and further development of mutually beneficial collaboration with organizations and businesses, including the conclusion of the agreements with the existing and prospective partners in view of creating branches of the University's departments on their premises later. Thirdly, it would be practical to maintain a feedback system for keeping in touch with the University's alumni, who could assist or participate in the University's training programs by donating their employment resources, time or teaching expertise. Fourthly, it would be expedient to give students an opportunity to be trained at their prospective employers' companies or institutions.

One of our University's innovations aimed at raising the level of future specialists' training is offering the students an opportunity to participate in training programs abroad. Foreign practical training programs are the way of mastering the best national and international practices and experiences, professional knowledge, skills, raising the personal intellectual and cultural level.

The main objectives of international practical training programs proposed by the International Programs Office of the University are the following: studying the modern world's experience in tourism, hospitality and food catering, getting to know the latest state-of-the-art techniques and technologies; mastering the knowledge and skills necessary for making independent decisions in a real market and industrial work environment; nurturing the need for a systematic continuous upgrading of their knowledge to use it creatively in everyday working situations; widening their international outlook, improvement of foreign language skills, learning how to work with the present-day e-money and booking systems, acquiring qualifications according to foreign nation's attestation and grading.

The students of the University take part in the practical training programs abroad in accordance with the official agreements concluded between the University and business firms, companies, educational establishments and other organizations where the students will be trained. The dates and duration of training programs are discussed with foreign partners and approved by both sides are adjusted to the academic timetables at each faculty for specialty.

The students in junior years are mostly engaged in group introductory practical training programs aimed at acquainting them with a foreign country's political, socio-economic structure, national culture and customs, traditions and history, religion, geography and natural resources, climate, the progress in collaboration between that country and Ukraine. The most important integral part of the programs is the study of foreign nationals' professional activities in the students' chosen specialties, adjusting their expertise to foreign markets, as well as the acquisition or the improvement of professional skills and techniques in their area of interest. The group practical trainings are supervised by either accompanying or regularly visiting university teachers. The individual practical training programs are more suited for the senior year students who are doing well at the University, speak foreign languages well, have a certain professional expertise and a previous foreign practical training experience. The University's departments recommend their candidates and the International Programs Office discusses them with the receiving organizations and interviews are organized with the foreign partners' representatives of human resources departments. The selected candidates participate in the practical training programs according to the individual task guidelines developed by their relative supervising departments.

At the end of the practical training programs all students are given references and issued special certificates to prove the successful completion of the program.

For each young specialist an opportunity of practical training abroad is without a doubt a new lever for their further professional growth and sometimes the beginning of a brilliant career.