



ПЕДАГОГІЧНА АКАДЕМІЯ:
НАУКОВІ ЗАПИСКИ

ПРОФЕСІЙНА ОСВІТА

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International activities of the of higher education institution

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***Annotation.** This article provides an in-depth analysis of the international activities of a higher education institution, examining its engagement in cross-border educational and scientific initiatives over a specific period. The article outlines the primary areas of focus within the institution's internationalization efforts, detailing the objectives, achievements, and challenges encountered. Key aspects discussed include the institution's participation in a variety of international educational and scientific programs, highlighting partnerships with foreign universities and research institutions as pivotal components. The article also emphasizes the role of academic mobility,*



examining how the exchange of students and faculty with other countries contributes to enriching the academic environment, promoting cultural understanding, and enhancing the university's adaptability to global academic standards. Furthermore, the analysis sheds light on the significance of joint research projects, collaborative publications, and participation in global conferences, which collectively strengthen the university's research capabilities and its academic standing.

Additionally, the article considers the broader impact of international cooperation on the institution's educational quality, showcasing how exposure to diverse academic perspectives and teaching methodologies elevates both curricula and instructional approaches. The influence of international partnerships is evaluated in terms of the professional development of faculty and researchers, as well as the diversification of the student body, both of which contribute to a more globally informed and competitive academic atmosphere. Special attention is given to the institution's efforts to align its standards with those of globally recognized universities, thus improving its competitiveness and appeal to prospective international students and scholars.

The article underscores the critical role of international integration in positioning the university within the global academic community. Through active engagement in international networks and associations, the institution bolsters its reputation, credibility, and visibility on the global stage. In sum, the analysis highlights how strategic internationalization initiatives enhance the university's overall quality, research output, and international presence, ultimately fortifying its status in the global academic arena.

Keywords: *higher education institution, international activities, higher education management, internationalization, strategic development.*



Міжнародна діяльність закладу вищої освіти

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***Анотація.** У статті здійснено поглиблений аналіз міжнародної діяльності вищого навчального закладу, досліджено його участь у транскордонних освітніх та наукових ініціативах протягом певного періоду. У статті окреслено основні напрями інтернаціоналізаційних зусиль закладу, детально описано цілі, досягнення та виклики, з якими довелося зіткнутися. Серед ключових аспектів, що обговорюються, - участь установи в різноманітних міжнародних освітніх і наукових програмах, з акцентом на партнерство з іноземними університетами та дослідницькими установами як на ключовому компоненті. У статті також підкреслюється роль академічної мобільності, досліджується, як обмін студентами та викладачами з іншими країнами сприяє збагаченню академічного середовища, просуванню культурного взаєморозуміння та підвищенню адаптивності університету до світових академічних стандартів. Крім того, аналіз проливає світло на значення спільних дослідницьких проектів, спільних публікацій та участі у міжнародних*



конференціях, які разом зміцнюють дослідницький потенціал університету та його академічний статус.

Крім того, у статті розглядається ширший вплив міжнародної співпраці на якість освіти в університеті, демонструючи, як доступ до різноманітних академічних перспектив і методик викладання покращує як навчальні програми, так і підходи до викладання. Вплив міжнародного партнерства оцінюється з точки зору професійного розвитку викладачів і дослідників, а також диверсифікації студентського складу, що сприяє створенню більш глобально поінформованої та конкурентної академічної атмосфери. Особлива увага приділяється зусиллям закладу, спрямованим на приведення своїх стандартів у відповідність до стандартів всесвітньо визнаних університетів, що підвищує його конкурентоспроможність і привабливість для майбутніх іноземних студентів і науковців.

У статті підкреслюється вирішальна роль міжнародної інтеграції у позиціонуванні університету у світовій академічній спільноті. Завдяки активній участі в міжнародних мережах та асоціаціях університет зміцнює свою репутацію, довіру та видимість на світовій арені. У підсумку, аналіз підкреслює, як стратегічні ініціативи з інтернаціоналізації підвищують загальну якість університету, результати досліджень і міжнародну присутність, зрештою, зміцнюючи його статус на світовій академічній арені.

Ключові слова: *вищий навчальний заклад, міжнародна діяльність, управління вищою освітою, інтернаціоналізація, стратегічний розвиток.*

Introduction. The international activities of a university are an integral part of its development and integration into the global educational and scientific space. In the modern context of globalization and the rapid advancement of information technologies, universities cannot confine their activities to national borders alone.



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International cooperation opens up new opportunities for knowledge exchange, expanding scientific research, and enhancing the quality of the educational process. It contributes to the formation of the university as a center of innovation, research, and intercultural communication, enabling it to compete on the global stage.

Key elements of international activities include the academic mobility of students and faculty, collaboration with leading universities and research centers, and participation in international educational programs, grants, and projects. Participation in international conferences, symposiums, and publishing research results in prestigious publications are crucial factors in boosting the university's academic reputation. As a result, educational institutions strengthen their positions in international rankings, attracting talented students and scholars from around the world.

This article is dedicated to analyzing the international activities of the university over a specific period. It will examine the main directions of international cooperation, achievements in scientific research, participation in global educational initiatives, and the impact of these processes on the university's development. Special attention will be given to partnership programs, international exchanges, and their importance in training professionals capable of working in a globalized world.

Problem Statement. International activities in the field of education and science are a key component of the development strategy of Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University for 2021-2025 and encompass all of its structural divisions. These activities are aimed at improving the quality of education, scientific research, and the overall international recognition of the university. In accordance with the plan for international cooperation in the 2023/2024 academic year, the main directions of international activities included:

1. Establishing and maintaining partnerships with foreign universities, research institutions, international organizations, and associations, specifically through the signing of memoranda of understanding and cooperation agreements.



2. Participating in joint scientific and educational projects and grant programs, which allows for attracting additional funding to support the development of research and educational initiatives.

3. Organizing international academic mobility for higher education students and university faculty in accordance with the Procedure for the Implementation of the Right to Academic Mobility, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 579 dated August 12, 2015, "On Approval of Regulation on the Procedure for Exercising the Academic Mobility Right" (as amended by Resolution No. 599 dated May 13, 2022). This enables participants in the educational process to gain international experience, improve their knowledge and professional skills, and broaden their academic and educational horizons.

4. Promoting the participation of university faculty and students in international scientific events, where they can present the results of their research, exchange experiences, and establish new scientific contacts.

5. Attracting foreign students to study at our university, which fosters cultural exchange, enhances the quality of the educational process, and enriches the university environment.

6. Encouraging researchers to publish in prestigious international journals, thereby increasing the visibility and recognition of the university's scientific achievements on the global stage.

7. Participating in international university rankings, which encourages maintaining a high standard of education and research at our institution and contributes to enhancing its international reputation.

Analysis of Recent Research and Publications. O. Anysimova has defined the essence, key models, and mechanisms of the internationalization of higher education. She concluded that the international market for educational services is transforming into a rapidly developing sector of the economy, with the central elements being



international marketing of educational institutions and a targeted recruitment of foreign students. M. Azhazha and A. Ostenda analyzed international university centers that initiate the internationalization of higher education. Their article substantiates that the internationalization of higher education contributes to the deepening of political and economic integration processes, the reduction of military confrontation, the development of global telecommunication systems, and the mobility of students and faculty, which is characteristic of European educational programs, bilateral agreements between states on cooperation in the fields of education, science, and culture, as well as agreements between universities on academic exchanges. The authors argue that the primary goal of the higher education system at the turn of the century is to prepare graduates for life and work in a global society. L. Smolynchuk summarized that internationalization extends to virtually all aspects of educational activity, touching upon educational programs and standards, systems of accreditation and quality control in training, educational management, and teaching technologies. She noted that most developed countries regard internationalization as one of the key directions of educational policy, the implementation of which requires consideration of national interests as well as the needs and real capabilities of the national education system.

There are no scientific generalizations of the regional experience of international activities of higher education institutions, which is the focus of this article.

Purpose of the Article. The purpose of this article is to analyze the international activities of the university over a specific period, identify its key directions, and assess its impact on the development of the educational process, research activities, and the academic reputation of the university. The article will examine how international cooperation contributes to the integration of the university into the global educational space, enhances its competitiveness, and shapes specialists capable of successfully working in a global context.



Presentation of Main Material. The international activities of the Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University are aimed at integrating into the global educational and scientific community, expanding international cooperation, and ensuring high standards of education. These activities are carried out in accordance with the applicable regulatory documents:

- The Law of Ukraine "On Higher Education" (as amended on October 27, 2022);
- Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 579 dated August 12, 2015, "On Approval of Regulation on the Procedure for Exercising the Academic Mobility Right" (with amendments made according to Resolution No. 599 dated May 13, 2022);
- The Statute of Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University, approved by the order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (dated February 21, 2022, No. 214);
- The Development Strategy of Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University for 2021–2025 (dated January 15, 2021, protocol No. 9);
- Regulations on the Implementation of the Right to Academic Mobility for Participants in the Educational Process at Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University (dated April 30, 2024, protocol No. 18);
- Regulations on the International Relations Department at Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University (dated March 30, 2021, protocol No. 15).

As of June 2024, the university has 71 agreements on cooperation with foreign educational institutions, organizations, and associations.

During the 2023-2024 academic year, 10 new cooperation agreements were concluded with foreign educational institutions, organizations, and associations in Bulgaria, China, the Republic of Moldova, the Kingdom of Norway, and the Republic of Poland.



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Based on the cooperation agreements with partner universities and foreign scientific educational institutions, participation of higher education seekers and academic staff in international academic mobility programs was organized, and the qualification level of university instructors was enhanced through the coordination of scientific contacts with educational institutions in foreign countries.

In the 2023/2024 academic year, 14 university students studied at foreign educational institutions under international credit (semester) and degree academic mobility programs.

17 higher education students exercised their right to academic mobility in the form of educational and research internships. The total number of education seekers participating in international events was 231. 24 academic staff members and 53 university students participated in international programs and projects.

In October 2023, the project "Youth Exchange: From Uman to Poznan: Border is not a Barrier, Common Ground Unites..." was implemented, funded by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine (272,275 UAH). Specialists from the Uman State Pedagogical University named after Pavlo Tychyna, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, scientists from the National Dendrological Park "Sofiyivka" of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the State Historical and Cultural Reserve "Trypillia Culture" of the Kurnik Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Kurnik), the Enigma Cipher Center (Poznan), the Museum of the Beginnings of the Polish State (Gniezno), the Tourism Department of the Uman City Council, and the Society of Poles in Uman "Ognisko" were involved in the project. The direct participants of the youth exchange project "From Uman to Poznan: Border is not a Barrier, Common Ground Unites..." consisted of 32 individuals (16 from Ukraine and 16 from the Republic of Poland). Among them, 8 individuals represented the initiative groups of the Uman State Pedagogical University named after Pavlo Tychyna (Ukraine) and the partner educational institution – Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań (Republic of Poland),



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while 12 individuals were students from the aforementioned higher education institutions.

During the reporting period, the scientific and pedagogical staff of the Faculty of Social and Psychological Education participated in a project aimed at implementing pilot initiatives to prevent domestic violence, which was carried out in collaboration with UNFPA and the NGO "Innovative Social Solutions" with the support of the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USA).

The student youth of the Faculty of Social and Psychological Education took part in the implementation of three projects under the UPSHIFT program of the NGO "SKC Zadzherkalya" in the Cherkasy region, supported by UNICEF and the government of Japan: "School Panda," "Quadrivium," and "Open World." Additionally, they were involved in a project by the NGO "Kyiv School of Equal Opportunities," supported by the competition commission of the "Abilis" fund (Finland), titled "Learning to Protect Ourselves: Preparing Ambassadors of Change." In the 2023/2024 academic year, academic mobility in the forms of internships, research internships, and professional development was implemented by 28, 51, and 12 academic and teaching staff, respectively.

During the reporting period, the implementation of the project of 30 thematic summer schools for Ukrainian students, graduate students, and teachers at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań (Republic of Poland) continued under the project "BNI-UE-2023-23: Collaboration of Adam Mickiewicz University with Universities of Ukraine within the Alliance of European Universities." From Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University, 32 academic and teaching staff and higher education students participated in the summer schools.

The total number of academic and teaching staff and students pursuing educational and scientific degrees who participated in international events in the 2023/2024 academic year was 674 participants in the educational process. Among



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them: 135 from the Institute of Economics and Business Education, 31 from the Faculty of History, 42 from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Environmental Management, 27 from the Faculty of Preschool and Special Education, 5 from the Faculty of Foreign Languages, 72 from the Faculty of Engineering and Pedagogical Education; 107 from the Faculty of Arts, 35 from the Faculty of Primary Education, 42 from the Faculty of Social and Psychological Education, 1 from the Faculty of Physical Education, 97 from the Faculty of Philology and Journalism, and 80 from the Faculty of Physics, Mathematics and Informatics.

The activities of the Polish Cultural and Educational Center and the International Center of Cultural and Educational Integration were carried out in accordance with previously approved work plans and play a crucial role in promoting the university on an international level, as these centers serve as vital hubs for the development of international cooperation.

During the reporting period, more than 20 lectures and online meetings with scholars from Polish educational institutions were held for participants in the university's educational process at the Polish Cultural and Educational Center. These institutions included Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, the Institute of European Culture in Gniezno, the State Archives in Olsztyn, the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University (Warsaw), the Institute of History at Jan Kochanowski University (Kielce), the Academy of Physical Education in Gdańsk, and Pomeranian University in Słupsk.

Igor Kryvosheia, the Director of the Polish Cultural and Educational Center, acted as one of the organizers and coordinators of the Ukrainian-Polish Youth Exchange Project "From Uman to Poznań: Borders Are Not an Obstacle, Commonality Unites...". The leading specialist of the Center, Anton Tereshchuk, also played an active role in the organization, serving as a translator and moderator for the events of the project's second phase.



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The Polish Educational and Cultural Center coordinated and facilitated the Summer Schools held at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, funded by the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA). Additionally, the Center provided active consultations for students from our university who are studying under credit academic mobility programs at educational institutions in the Republic of Poland, including Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Pomeranian Academy in Słupsk, the Institute of European Culture in Gniezno, and the H. Cegielski Academy of Applied Sciences in Gniezno.

During the reporting period, the International Center of Cultural and Educational Integration organized and conducted a series of events aimed at familiarizing students and faculty of Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University with the history, culture, and traditions of the countries from which international students have come to study.

Throughout the academic year, online meetings were organized with international students who remained in Ukraine to ascertain their whereabouts and living conditions, as well as to conduct discussions on “How to Act in the Event of Explosions, Airstrikes, Artillery Shelling, etc.”

To disseminate relevant information regarding civilian safety in conflict zones and to prevent risks associated with explosive remnants of war among international students residing in Ukraine, the Center's director participated in a series of lectures organized by the Public Organization "Ukrainian Sappers Association."

On May 16, in celebration of the international holiday of Vyshyvanka Day, a meeting was organized at the Center in collaboration with specialists from the Foreign Students Department and the International Relations Department, aimed at introducing Chinese students to the cultural ethnic symbol of Ukrainians—the Vyshyvanka—and to Ukrainian culture as a whole.



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At the Center, in collaboration with the Foreign Students Department and specialists from the Faculty of Foreign Languages and the Faculty of Philology and Journalism, interviews were organized with potential applicants among foreign citizens to assess their proficiency in Ukrainian and English, as well as their motivation and interest in studying specifically at Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University.

During the reporting period, several events were held, which included receiving delegations and conducting a series of working meetings. This year, Magna Charta announced the winners of the essay competition on the topic "How Can Students Enhance the Impact of Their Universities to Make a More Effective Contribution to Society?" Among the winners was fourth-year student Diana Stefanova-Slobodian from the Faculty of Preschool and Special Education.

A total of 97 essays from students across 24 countries participated in the competition. The essays were independently evaluated by an international jury consisting of five judges representing student bodies and leadership from foreign educational institutions and organizations. The winners participated in the Jubilee Conference "MCO 2023," which took place from October 23 to 25 in Lodz, Poland, where they presented their essays and engaged in discussions on the topic "Universities and Re-Construction of Cities: the Role of Research and Education."

For the first time in the history of women's student football and Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University, the women's football team represented Ukraine at the 2023 FISU University World Cup Football, held in Chengdu, China, in October 2023. During their stay in China, a trilateral working meeting was conducted with Artem Pushkin, a representative of the General Consulate of Ukraine in Shanghai, and Li Xiaobin, Vice President of Jianghai College of Engineering and Technical Sciences in Yangzhou.

On November 23-24, 2023, a series of meetings took place at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, involving 56 vice rectors for international cooperation from the



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Union of Rectors of Ukraine, including Volodymyr Mykolaiko, Vice-Rector for International Relations and Strategic Development. The meetings addressed several organizational and procedural matters concerning the Rectors' Union of Ukraine, strategies for internationalization (including tools, priorities, project management, challenges, risk management, and academic mobility), as well as international education. Key topics included attracting foreign students to study at Ukrainian educational institutions and the development of Ukrainian studies.

The participation of our educational institution in international summer schools in 2024 at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań (Republic of Poland), funded by the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA), was discussed during a series of working meetings between the Vice-Rector for International Relations and Strategic Development of Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University, Volodymyr Mykolaiko, and the Vice-Rector for International Cooperation of Adam Mickiewicz University, Rafał Witkowski, which took place in February 2024.

During the European Year of Science in Katowice (Republic of Poland) in June 2024, a session on academic cooperation with Ukraine was held, during which four important thematic areas were discussed:

- Organizing the reception of Ukrainian students and researchers;
- Building close partnerships with Ukraine for its integration with the EU through cross-border knowledge and the European Research Area;
- Supporting the reconstruction of the Ukrainian scientific system to overcome the consequences of war, increasing capacities, and creating better frameworks for research and innovation;
- Deepening scientific cooperation to jointly address global challenges in the fields of climate, energy, and health.

Representing Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University at the aforementioned event was Volodymyr Mykolaiko.



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In the 2023/2024 academic year, Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University organized a total of 35 international-level events.

The university is featured in two prestigious global rankings:

- QS World University Rankings;
- Times Higher Education (THE), in two categories: World University Rankings (as a reporter) and Impact Rankings (sustainable development goals).

The university continues its affiliation with the Magna Charta Universitatum, which bolsters the integrity of intellectual and scientific endeavors, thereby enhancing trust among global higher education institutions.

To strengthen the linguistic capabilities of academic staff, doctoral candidates, employees, and students, the International Relations Department initiated and implemented English and Polish language courses, spanning seven months (from November 2023 to May 2024), across the relevant faculties.

It should also be noted that during the 2023/2024 academic year, 11 academic staff members confirmed their foreign language proficiency at the B2 level.

In the reporting academic year, the university enrolled 106 students pursuing higher education degrees, including bachelor's, master's, and Doctor of Philosophy degrees.

Geographically, the international students represent five countries: Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of Moldova. Specifically, foreign students are studying across eight faculties: the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Environmental Management, Faculty of Physical Education, Faculty of Physics, Mathematics and Informatics, Faculty of Engineering and Pedagogical Education, Faculty of Foreign Languages, Faculty of Arts, Faculty of History and the Faculty of Social and Psychological Education, as well as the Institute of Economics and Business Education.



Conclusions and Prospects for the Development of the University's International Cooperation

In the 2023/2024 academic year, the university actively promoted the development of international cooperation in the following areas:

- 1) Ensuring the participation of higher education students and academic staff in international academic mobility programs.
- 2.) Strengthening partnerships with foreign universities to conduct joint research, implement projects, and exchange resources.
- 3.) Organizing international events to facilitate the exchange of scientific and educational achievements.
- 4) Increasing efforts to engage the university's structural units in the implementation of international educational and scientific projects.
- 5) Ensuring participation in associations and international unions of higher education institutions.

The prospects for the development of international cooperation at our university align with its development strategy for 2021-2025 and include the following tasks:

- 1) Continuing to enhance the work of the university's academic staff in developing scientific projects, research, and innovation programs, as well as obtaining grants funded by international organizations. This year, eight international projects were submitted for consideration by the European Executive Agency for Education and Culture: one project under the "Foundation for the Development of the Education System" (GRACE project - Green Alliance for Climate Education), 1 under the "Jean Monnet" program (EU-UA Resilience), and 6 projects under the "Capacity Building for Higher Education" program (PAST TENSE, RESPOND, LECTURE, AMUSE, CORRECTED, UKREDU).



2) Expanding the range of academic mobility programs for academic staff and higher education students in foreign educational institutions, research centers, and organizations.

3) Initiating the implementation of joint educational programs with foreign universities to establish double-degree programs.

4) Conducting international marketing positioning to enhance the university's appeal to talented students and scholars from around the world.

5) Continuously monitoring and updating international cooperation strategies to help the university remain competitive in the global educational landscape.

Conclusions. Summarizing the results of the analysis of the university's international activities over the specified period, it can be concluded that this aspect is a vital component of the development strategy for a modern higher education institution. By actively engaging in international cooperation, the university significantly expands its opportunities in education and science, increases academic mobility, and enhances its reputation on the global stage.

During the period under review, the university made significant strides toward internationalization: several partnership agreements were signed with foreign universities and research centers, the number of students and faculty participating in exchange programs increased, and the level of involvement in international research projects and grants noticeably grew. Additionally, participation in international conferences, symposiums, and the publication of scientific articles in prestigious international journals strengthened the university's academic standing.

It is important to note that international activities not only enhance the academic and scientific reputation of the institution but also open up new opportunities for students and researchers. They gain access to unique experiences in a global context, become familiar with cutting-edge teaching and research methods, and develop intercultural communication skills. In turn, the university becomes more attractive to



international partners and students, which fosters its development as a key player in the global academic arena.

Thus, international activities are one of the key factors in the successful modernization and development of the university. They drive innovation, enrich the educational process, and strengthen international connections, ultimately increasing the university's competitiveness both nationally and internationally.

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