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Internationalization of Students at Wuhan University

——Situation, Problems, Causes and Measures

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Location of Wuhan







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Information on Wuhan University

- **Founded in 1893, Wuhan University is one of the best universities in Chinese Mainland**
- **Around 53,000 students**
- **Campus of 344 hectares**
- **Over 2000 degree and non-degree foreign students from more than 100 countries and regions**
- **More than 600 domestic students study abroad during their study at Wuhan University, and over 700 graduates go abroad for further studies**



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1. Current Situation

1.1 A group of programs are being implemented to promote the internationalization of students in different ways.

- State-sponsored overseas study programs;
 - Self-supported overseas study;
 - Exchange programs with foreign institutions;
 - International joint education programs;
 - The International Summer Courses;
 - The Overseas Internship on Summer Vacation;
- and so on.



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**1.2 Around 90 exchange programs;
26 international joint education programs.**

1.3 These programs provide over 1000 students with the opportunity to study abroad per year.

In the past years, Wuhan University has been actively promoting the internationalization of students and has made recognized achievements.

E.g.

Although most partner institutions of Wuhan University is in Europe, according to the comprehensive report in *Ph D Degrees Granted by US Universities*, during 1999 to 2003, 340 undergraduates from Wuhan University obtained Ph D degrees from US universities;

The number is ranking top 8 among Chinese Mainland Universities.

2. Current Major Problems

2.1 Lack of Motivation for the Internationalization of Students

(1) Colleges, schools and departments are not active;

Programs for internationalization of students can not produce apparent benefits for colleges, schools and departments;
and even demand the colleges, schools and departments to spend more.

(2) Teachers are not supportive;

Teachers want to engage those excellent students in their own researches.

(3) Students themselves are not passionate;

- Students are concerned that they may miss opportunities in domestic job market (unpredictable and competitive) during their overseas study;
- High costs of studying abroad;
- Lacks of international vision.



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2.2 Not enough Capacity for Internationalization of Students

- (1) The faculty lacking of:
 - international consciousness,
 - ability to conduct international exchange,
 - necessary language skills.
- (2) Shortage of foreign teachers, especially those with high quality;
- (3) Not enough English-taught courses, especially courses of understanding the world;
- (4) Limited resources for students to study abroad and exchange;
- (5) Inefficient management of international affairs.

Mainly due to above-mentioned problems, the number of students participating in the programs is still small, and the ratio is less than **3%** of the total student population.



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3. Main Causes

3.1 Financial Causes

(1) Inadequate financial input by state and local governments, so WU is not able to supply enough money to implement more programs, especially high-level ones;

(2) Most students' families can not afford costs of internationalization programs;

Financial problems are the most important factor in preventing excellent students from participating in internationalization programs.





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3.2 Environment and Policy

- (1) The location of Wuhan University (Central China) which sees:
 - Relatively underdeveloped economy and,
 - Unfavorable weather condition.
- (2) International ideas are absent in making management policies, so colleges, schools and departments are not active in internationalization;
- (3) Teachers are not active in offering English-taught courses, because they will not get more benefits.

The above-mentioned three problems, and among other things, make WU less competitive in attracting quality education resources, such as high-quality foreign teachers and exchange students.



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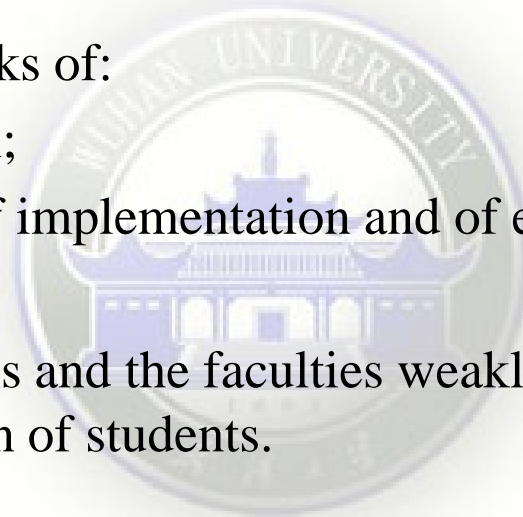
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3.3 Strategic Plan and Mechanism

(1) Wuhan University lacks of:

- A clear strategic plan;
- Efficient measures of implementation and of evaluation.

(2) Management Divisions and the faculties weakly coordinate in promoting the internationalization of students.





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4. Measures

With regard to above-mentioned problems, Wuhan University is making a strategic plan, making full use of domestic and international resources to efficiently promote the internationalization of students.

4.1 Intensifying the Capacity of International Education of Students

4.2 Making the Most of Quality International Education Resources



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4.1 Intensifying the capacity of international education of students

- (1) A clear objective and efficient measures of internationalization of students will be defined in the *Strategic Plan of Internationalization*.
- (2) To ensure the efficient implementation of the strategy and measures, WU will:
 - set up an initiative for the evaluation of international exchange and cooperation by reforming and perfecting institutions and mechanisms of international exchange and cooperation, and
 - intensify and improve the coordination between management divisions and the faculties.
- (3) By improving facilities and making favorable policies:
 - to employ more foreign teachers and returned talents from overseas;
 - to improve teachers' ability to engage in internationalization.



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(4) By learning advanced education ideas and experience, introducing advanced curriculum system and teaching materials, and adapting them into its education, Wuhan University aspires to:

- Offering a batch of internationalized undergraduate and master programs;
- Offering a batch of English-taught major courses;
- Offering a batch of English-taught courses of 'International Understanding and Cross-culture'.

To internationalize the curriculum and improve its content.



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(5) By establishing more cooperative programs,
to provide students with more opportunity to be involved in
internationalization.

By innovating and exploring new cooperative models,
to create a better international environment.

(6) On the base of international joint research platforms,
to intensify the internationalization of high-level talents like Ph D
candidates.

(7) To improve its hardware facilities and soft environment for
internationalization of students.





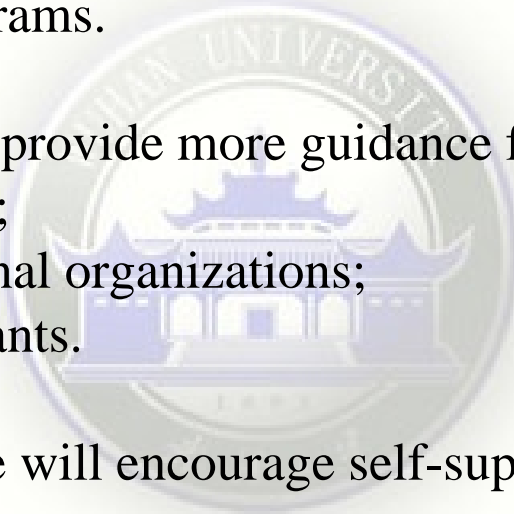
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4.2 Making the most of quality international education resources

- (1) We aspire to send more students to study abroad through state-sponsored overseas study programs.
- (2) On one hand, we will provide more guidance for students in applying for:
overseas scholarships;
funds from international organizations;
other international grants.

On the other hand, we will encourage self-supported overseas study.

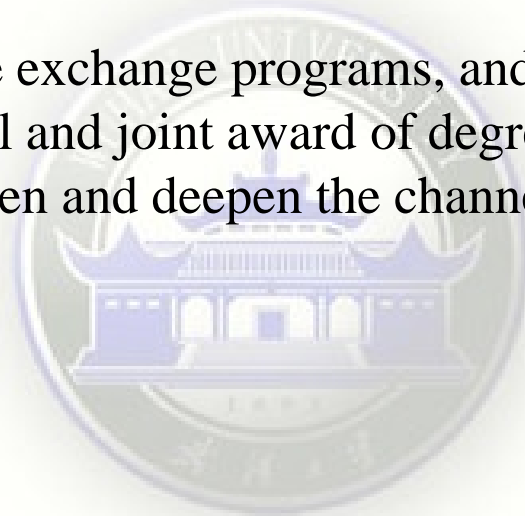




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- (3) We will set up specific funds to sponsor students in studying abroad and exchanging every year;
- (4) We will establish more exchange programs, and expand credit accreditation, mutual and joint award of degrees with overseas universities to broaden and deepen the channel for internationalization of students.





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- I believe we are facing similar problems in the internationalization of students, however, we have to take different measure to address these problems because we are in different atmospheres.
- Finally, I sincerely wish all of the universities can make great achievements in the internationalization of students.



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Thanks for your attention!

