

Research on the Dilemma and Path of the Internationalization of Higher Education in China under the Background of the New Era

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Abstract: With the accelerated evolution of globalization, the internationalization of higher education has become an important topic of concern in the field of education worldwide today. The internationalization of higher education is not only the only way to improve the quality of education and cultivate talents with a global perspective, but also the key to adapting higher education to the trend of globalization and enhancing international competitiveness. Based on the background of the times, this paper aims to explore the development path of the internationalization of higher education in China in the new era, hoping to help Chinese universities better integrate into the process of globalization, improve the quality of education, and cultivate high-quality talents with international vision and competitiveness.

1. Introduction

The internationalization of higher education is simply the development process and general trend of a country's higher education towards internationalization.[1] Globally, domestic and foreign universities pay more and more attention to the internationalization of higher education. The trend of internationalization of higher education has become a key variable promoting the progress of higher education, and it is also one of the important evaluation indicators to enhance competitiveness.[2] The internationalization of higher education has moved from the periphery to the center. In recent years, the importance of the internationalization of higher education in China's higher education has become increasingly prominent. This is not only because the internationalization of higher education can bring advanced educational concepts, educational methods, and high-quality educational resources, but also because it can cultivate high-quality talents with an international perspective and cross-cultural communication skills, thus winning more development opportunities and international discourse power for our country in the wave of globalization. Therefore, China's higher education should unswervingly move towards internationalization on the basis of adhering to Chinese characteristics.[3]

2. The inevitable trend and multiple motivations of the internationalization of higher education in China in the new era

In the context of the new era, the internationalization of higher education in China has become

an inevitable trend. The internationalization of higher education not only adds new vitality to China's higher education but also has far-reaching significance in cultivating talents with an international perspective, enhancing exchanges and understanding between different cultures around the world, and promoting the progress of human civilization.

Firstly, the internationalization of higher education in China is influenced by globalization. With the development of a globalized society, exchanges and interoperability between different countries and regions have become an inevitable trend,[4] which has also brought unprecedented development opportunities to the field of higher education. Globalization has promoted the formation and development of the international education market, providing a material basis for the internationalization of higher education. This has led to an increase in cooperation projects and academic exchanges between universities around the world, enhancing the optimal allocation of educational resources on a global scale. In addition, globalization has facilitated cultural exchanges and integration between different cultures, enabling universities around the world to strengthen international cooperation and exchanges. This helps universities cultivate talents with an international perspective and enhances students' understanding and respect for different cultures. Furthermore, the development of globalization in science and technology has further strengthened international cooperation in academic research. By sharing scientific research resources and jointly conducting research projects, scientists from different countries can achieve scientific research results more quickly, thereby promoting the progress of human civilization.

Secondly, the internationalization of higher education in China has accelerated due to competition and cooperation in higher education both domestically and internationally. Top institutions in China's higher education system have long recognized the importance of aligning with international education standards and have actively established partnerships with renowned universities abroad to promote the development of higher education. Through international cooperation, domestic universities have introduced cutting-edge educational concepts and resources from abroad, while also learning from world-class teaching methods and advanced management experiences. This has injected new vitality into China's higher education system and laid a solid foundation for building China into a talent powerhouse. Meanwhile, with the deepening of globalization, higher education has transformed from being a national endeavor to being global in scope. By attracting outstanding students from around the world to study and exchange ideas in their respective countries, nations are promoting multicultural exchanges and integration in higher education, thereby enhancing the international influence of their higher education institutions. Driven by domestic and international competition and cooperation in higher education, China's higher education system has become more open and diverse, accelerating the internationalization of its higher education.

Finally, national strategic needs and policy guidance are the fundamental guarantees for the internationalization of higher education in China. As China's international status continues to rise, the strategic goal of building a talent powerhouse has become very clear, with increasingly high demands on the quantity and quality of talent. In particular, there is a great need for talents who can communicate across cultures and adapt to multicultural environments to provide advice and suggestions for national construction. To this end, in recent years, the Chinese government has placed greater emphasis on the internationalization of higher education and has issued a series of related policies: the "Overall Plan for Promoting World-Class Universities and First-Class Disciplines," "Several Opinions on Doing a Good Job in Opening Up Education to the Outside World in the New Era," "Promoting the Joint Construction of the 'Belt and Road' Education Initiative," and "Opinions on Accelerating and Expanding the Opening Up of Education to the Outside World in the New Era." These policies provide strong guarantees and development directions for the internationalization of higher education. Under the guidance of relevant policies,

exchanges between domestic and foreign universities have become increasingly frequent, cooperation projects have emerged endlessly, and academic seminars and cultural exchange activities have become more diverse, greatly promoting the dissemination of knowledge and cultural integration.

3. Multiple Challenges Faced by the Internationalization of Higher Education in China in the New Era

In the new era, the internationalization of higher education in China is not only related to the improvement of education quality but also carries the historical mission of cultivating talents with a global perspective and enhancing international competitiveness. Currently, the internationalization of higher education in China faces multiple challenges, which stem from the complex and changing international situation, inadequate teacher team building, and imbalanced allocation of funds and resources.

3.1. Challenges of higher education internationalization in the international situation

The complex and changing international situation has a profound impact on the internationalization of higher education in China. The international situation has become an important influencing factor in the internationalization of higher education in China. In the new international situation, as the world enters the post-epidemic era, the trend of "anti-globalization" has begun to emerge, impeding global circulation and affecting the internationalization of higher education. In addition, due to political tensions and conflicts between certain countries, some international cooperation projects have to be interrupted or hindered. Established cooperation projects may face the risk of dissolution, and new cooperation projects may be difficult to initiate. For example, Tsinghua University in China and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the United States used to have close cooperation in scientific research and academics. However, due to tensions in Sino-US relations, academic exchanges, teacher-student exchanges, and cooperation projects between the two universities have been restricted and hindered to some extent. Furthermore, changes in the international situation may also affect the stability and continuity of international cooperative education. The strategic planning for the internationalization of higher education in China needs to take into account changes in the international situation more, which undoubtedly increases the difficulty of overall strategic planning and implementation. Therefore, changes in the international situation not only have a direct impact on the internationalization of higher education in China but also trigger more potential and long-term problems.

3.2. Problems of teacher construction in the internationalization of higher education

The internationalization of higher education in China faces severe challenges in faculty development. Teacher team building is an important factor affecting education development, and it is equally important in the internationalization of higher education. In particular, there is a need for teachers with an international perspective and cross-cultural communication skills. However, in the current domestic universities, the number of teachers with such abilities is still insufficient to meet the needs of the internationalization of higher education. From the perspective of domestic teacher ability training, the past education system focused more on imparting professional knowledge, cultivating teachers with strong professional abilities, strong educational feelings, and high professional ethics. However, insufficient investment in cultivating teachers' international perspectives and cross-cultural communication skills has led to a lack of teachers for the internationalization of higher education. From the perspective of the introduction of foreign

teachers, the introduction of foreign teacher talents also faces many restrictions, which are reflected in language barriers, cultural differences, salary and benefits, etc. These factors jointly affect the introduction of talents, thus leading to difficulties in building a teaching staff for the internationalization of higher education. The lack of an international teaching staff will directly affect the quality and progress of the internationalization of higher education, restricting the competitiveness of China's higher education on the international stage. Therefore, how to cultivate educational talents through local education and strengthen the construction of an internationalized teaching staff for higher education through the introduction of educational talents is an urgent problem to be solved in the process of internationalization of higher education in the new era.

3.3. Uneven distribution of funds and resources hinders the internationalization of higher education

The imbalanced allocation of funds and resources affects the internationalization process of higher education in China. The internationalization of higher education requires substantial material support. Significant financial investment is necessary for introducing and cultivating excellent teachers, upgrading teaching facilities to improve the teaching environment, and organizing international academic exchanges. In reality, there are still disparities in the allocation of funds and resources among regions and universities. Factors such as geographical location, level of economic development, and local policy support have resulted in a relative scarcity of disposable funds and resources for some universities during their development phase, reflecting an imbalance in educational resource allocation. This has led to delays in the internationalization of education for some universities, further widening the educational gap between schools. For example, some local universities may be unable to hire excellent foreign teachers or provide sufficient international exchange opportunities for students due to lack of funds. In the long run, this may affect the overall improvement of China's higher education level and international competitiveness. Therefore, how to reasonably allocate funds and resources among universities to ensure the comprehensive promotion of the internationalization of higher education is an important challenge faced by the internationalization of higher education in China.

4. Diversified Paths for the Internationalization of China's Higher Education in the New Era

In the new era, China's higher education is facing unprecedented development opportunities. To seize these opportunities, it is necessary to actively explore development paths adapted to the internationalization of higher education. Accelerating the internationalization of China's higher education can be achieved by deepening international cooperation and exchanges, promoting international talent training models, building an international teaching team, optimizing educational resources, innovating cooperation formats, and establishing an evaluation system.

4.1. Consolidate and Deepen International Cooperation and Exchanges

With the advancement of globalization, the importance of international cooperation and exchanges in higher education has become increasingly prominent. Chinese higher education institutions need to actively seek international partners in the process of exchanges and cooperation, establish long-term and stable cooperative relationships with foreign universities, international organizations, research institutions, and related enterprises, introduce more high-quality educational resources, and promote education and teaching reform and innovation through in-depth exchanges and learning. When establishing cooperative relationships with various institutions, we must always adhere to the principles of equality, mutual benefit, and mutual respect. At the same time, by signing

long-term cooperation agreements, clarifying the rights and obligations of both parties, and regulating cooperation behavior, legal protection is provided for future cooperation to ensure the stability and sustainability of the cooperative relationship.

4.2. Build a Teaching Model that Matches International Talents

The key to building a teaching model that matches the cultivation of international talents in the context of globalization lies in the correct selection and application of modern teaching methods. This includes using modern teaching methods such as Problem-Based Learning (PBL) and Project-Based Learning to construct student-centered teaching models that guide students to deepen their understanding of knowledge in the process of solving practical problems and exercise practical skills. In the process of using modern methods to construct teaching models, teachers are required to carefully select and design international teaching cases, global related topics, and other content when preparing lessons to ensure that the teaching content is closely connected with the curriculum. This can stimulate students' interest in active learning and deep thinking through actual cases, cultivate students' ability to learn independently, and achieve optimal teaching effects.

4.3. Build a Teaching Team that Combines Internationalization and Localization

The construction of the teaching team is very important. The internationalization of higher education in China requires a teaching team that not only has an international perspective but also has a deep understanding of local education needs. By regularly organizing university teachers to participate in international academic conferences, study tours, and training programs, teachers will have more opportunities to come into contact with and learn from international cutting-edge educational concepts and teaching methods. In addition, internationally renowned scholars can be invited to conduct academic exchanges and guidance in China, and through interactive learning with foreign experts, improve the international teaching level and cross-cultural communication skills of local teachers.

4.4. Optimize Resource Allocation to Ensure the Rational use of Educational and Material Resources

The internationalization of higher education in China requires the support of educational and material resources, both of which are indispensable. However, imbalances in resource allocation can lead to reduced resource efficiency, thereby inhibiting the development of higher education internationalization. To improve the efficiency of educational resource utilization, a sharing platform for internationalized educational resources in higher education can be constructed. Through the platform, teaching materials, courseware, and online courses can be shared, allowing universities in different regions to share educational resources and create and optimize them based on this, forming educational resources with their own style and characteristics. In addition to sharing educational resources, universities can actively seek cooperation with enterprises and attract enterprise investment through school-enterprise cooperation projects to increase funding sources and material resource support.

4.5. Innovate International Cooperation Forms and Enhance Cooperation Levels

The international cooperation forms of higher education in China should not only focus on traditional teaching and scientific research cooperation but also continuously expand new cooperation approaches and forms. Specifically, there are several aspects: establishing multiple

cooperation models, conducting international cooperation in online education, and promoting the deep integration of industry, education, and research. At the same time, higher education in China needs to strive to enhance the level of cooperation. By selecting high-quality international projects, strengthening teacher-student exchanges and visits, building an international curriculum system, and strengthening international cooperative research, the international influence and competitiveness of higher education in China will be comprehensively improved. In addition, it is necessary to continuously improve the cooperation mechanism to provide strong support for ensuring the smooth development of international cooperation.

4.6. Improve the Evaluation System for the Internationalization of Higher Education

The setting of internationalization evaluation indicators is the key to building an evaluation system for the internationalization of higher education in China. The setting of indicators should be targeted and able to clearly reflect all aspects of the internationalization of higher education in China. It is also necessary to have insight into the development trend of the internationalization of higher education and adjust evaluation strategies and methods through regular evaluation and feedback. This can not only ensure the quality and effectiveness of the internationalization of higher education in China but also provide powerful decision support for Chinese universities through these evaluation results. As a result, Chinese universities can formulate more practical, scientific, and reasonable internationalization development strategies. At the same time, it is also conducive to Chinese universities recognizing their own strengths and weaknesses in the process of internationalization.

5. Conclusion

In the context of the new era, the internationalization of China's higher education needs to adapt to the development of the times, continuously innovate, expand and improve the educational path. To deal with the current difficulties in the development process, consolidating and deepening international cooperation and exchanges can achieve win-win cooperation. Constructing a teaching model that matches the training of international talents can cultivate talents needed for the development of the times. Building a teaching staff that combines internationalization and localization is the key to improving teaching. Optimizing resource allocation can meet the material needs of the internationalization of higher education. Innovating the form of international cooperation to keep pace with the times, improving the evaluation system of higher education internationalization, and formulating a more optimized development strategy, all of the above can promote the internationalization of China's higher education and cultivate more international talents for the future. Therefore, in the context of the new era, while seizing the development opportunities of the times, the internationalization of China's higher education should also fully respond to various challenges to promote the sustainable development of the internationalization of China's higher education.

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