

# ACADEMIC EXCHANGE AS A TOOL OF MOTIVATION FOR STUDYING FOREIGN LANGUAGES

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Nowadays there are a lot of ways to go abroad and get education in a foreign country. It is a good opportunity for students to see and try completely different methods studying and training systems, to know the character and culture of foreign people, and, moreover, to improve language skills. Tomsk polytechnic university (TPU) provides such opportunity for almost every student and offers a great variety of exchange programs.

Academic exchange program is a program that allows a student to go and study abroad. At the same time he remains a student of the university of his native country. You will also be able to pass the exams, and the results will be transferred into the grade book. Furthermore, the price of the program is acceptable for the majority of students. Students are offered a lot of countries (many of which are located in the European part of the world) where they can study, and the number of these countries is constantly increasing. Now we have a chance to study in Australia, Japan, Taiwan, etc. If to consider this question from economical point of view, we should mention that the university of the native country (in our case TPU) pays a student a scholarship. But if he wishes he can win a scholarship from the host university as well. Of course it is not enough for a living there, but it can help greatly. Before the trip, you have to prepare a set of documents, to choose a suitable course which you will study in a foreign country and get a certificate showing that your knowledge of the English language is good enough to study there.

On the TPU web-site there are a lot of advertisements offering such programs. Before deciding to go and study abroad you should read reviews of the students who have already tried this program, i.e. you should find out from the firsthand what the program is. You should not be embarrassed when you are told that the required knowledge of English is B2 level according to the European scale. If you are not very good at English yet and the level of your knowledge of the language can be compared with the level of knowledge of the language of a child at school, you are provided an opportunity to attend special language courses. After finishing this course, you will pass an exam easily. Although the test is quite difficult, you are able to get B2 level of English and be satisfied with the result. This step is not easy, but it is one of the most important steps on the way for the trip, because without a basic level of language it is impossible to understand people in a foreign country.

If to look back at what has been done, we can say for sure that to do it again will be very hard. A great desire to go abroad, which gives so much energy for studying the language, has great moving power. It is very hard to study, because in addition to all that, you should attend all the lectures and practical lessons at the university. A motivation of being a participant of an academic exchange program will help in overcoming difficulties.

Having spent a year in Czech Republic (or some other country), you will have a great desire to learn more languages. The reason is there are a lot of friends from different countries who speak completely different dialects. If you are able to understand them as well as you understand people who speak Russian and English you will improve not only language skills but also extend your personality.

The fact that the students who know more than one foreign language study at the University, only raises the international level of this university. The development of such programs as academic exchange programs allows improving not only the students' potential, but giving a chance for the university to receive money from the government.

The inexplicable desire to touch something that you have never seen, to see the beauty of the world itself, to discover what is hidden – all of this is a huge motivation for learning a foreign language. Foreign language allows you to find a prestigious job and become a truly citizen in every corner of the Earth. Once you meet people who know 4-5 languages, foreign languages will just become a part of your life.

To conclude, participating in academic exchange programs is a great motivation power for students to study foreign languages, to continue their studying at university and an opportunity for realizing their personality in foreign and native countries.