

Bachelor of Medicine Degree of International Students from the "the Belt and Road" Countries--Analysis of Strategies for Improving Education Quality

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Abstract: Based on our 11 years of medical bachelor's degree education practice for international students in China, combined with the national "the Belt and Road" strategic background and the "Quality Standards of Higher Education for International Students in China (Trial)" issued by the Ministry of Education, this paper explores the strategies to improve the quality of medical education in China. Specifically, it includes: 1) optimizing the enrollment standards of students from countries along the "the Belt and Road"; 2) Improve the quality assurance system for medical bachelor's degree education in China; 3) Innovate the management concept of "convergence"; 4) Establish a comprehensive education system for the cultivation of international students in China; 5) Strengthen the process monitoring role of awarding standards for medical bachelor's degrees in China. To provide theoretical support and reference for our school and sister universities to improve the quality of medical bachelor's degree education in China.

Keywords: "The Belt and Road"; International Students Studying in China; Education Quality

Introduction

According to statistics from the Ministry of Education, in 2018, a total of 492185 foreign students from 196 countries and regions studied in 1004 higher education institutions in 31 provinces (districts, cities) across the country. ^[1] Among them, the number of international students coming to China along the "the Belt and Road" totaled 260600, accounting for 52.95% of the total number. The number of medical international students coming to China continues to grow, ranking second among all disciplines, only second to liberal arts majors, which poses a huge challenge for medical education in higher education institutions in China.

The current internationalization development of higher education in China is facing the problem of a disconnect between the scale and quality of international student enrollment, which may lead to various problems such as a decrease in the quality of student sources, a decrease in academic achievement expectations, and an imbalance in the quality of international students from different countries. ^[2] Our school has started to recruit and train medical undergraduate students since 2009. The main source of students is self funded students from countries along the "the Belt and Road". After more than ten years of struggling in the education of studying abroad in China, we have experienced the initial stage of quantity oriented education and are now in the transition period of seeking to improve quality education. Improving the quality of education is the lifeline for ensuring the long-term development of education for international students in China. Exploring ways to improve the quality of medical bachelor's degree education for international students in China is an urgent task for our school and related sister universities.

1. Improve the quality of students from countries along the "the Belt and Road" and optimize enrollment standards

Compared with the western developed countries, the medical education cycle is long and the price is high. China's medical education resources are the ideal choice for countries along the "the Belt and Road". ^[3] At the same time, it is undeniable that international students studying in China can bring significant short-term benefits and significant improvement in internationalization

indicators to universities. This has led some universities to rush towards it and blindly pursue quantity, gradually reducing the recruitment requirements for international students studying in China, and even having no requirements for applicants' past grades and other qualifications. At present, some universities have inconsistent enrollment standards, lack of systems, and low thresholds for medical bachelor's degrees for international students coming to China, resulting in uneven quality of students. This inevitably leads to a difficult process of education and uneven quality of medical bachelor's degrees for international students coming to China. As a result, in the final stage of talent cultivation, when awarding their degrees, they have to compromise and compromise, infinitely reducing graduation requirements, This has led to the non-existent standards for degree awarding, seriously affecting the quality of medical education in China and damaging the international reputation of medical education in China.

Therefore, if Chinese international students want to pursue a high-quality development path in medical bachelor's degree education, they need to objectively analyze the successful practices of traditional study destination countries, learn their enrollment methods and screening mechanisms. [4] At the same time, through a rational analysis of the current situation of the academic background, academic level, language ability, identity qualification, economic ability and other current situations of the foreign students from the source countries of the "the Belt and Road Initiative" in recent years, as well as the impact of university admissions officers, foreign students, lecturers, administrators and medical organizations of major source countries on the quality of education and teaching of the access standards for foreign students to study medical bachelor's degrees in China, Reasonable regulations should be made for the minimum educational requirements, language proficiency requirements, proof of family economic ability, and entrance examination assessment of applicants for undergraduate medical majors studying abroad in China, in order to establish admission and admission thresholds, optimize admission standards, and focus on quality from the source of talent cultivation.

2. Strengthen the quality of medical bachelor's education in China and improve the teaching quality assurance system

The international students admitted by various universities in China are mainly divided into two categories: government scholarship students and self funded students. As a private university, our school mainly receives self funded students, and most of them come from countries along the "the Belt and Road". The quality of students is generally inferior to that of government scholarship students from other universities. How to improve the teaching quality assurance system from the system, personnel, materials and other aspects in this situation, and ensure the quality of medical bachelor's degree education for international students in China is a problem that many universities need to solve together in the process of cultivating international students.

In order to achieve comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable development of education for international students studying in China, the Ministry of Education has proposed a 16 character policy of "expanding scale, improving levels, ensuring quality, and standardizing management", with the core of "ensuring quality". Universities should make great efforts in innovating the cultivation mode of medical bachelor's degrees for international students studying in China, building a teaching staff, and developing teaching resources. At the same time, routine self-evaluation departments and mechanisms should be established to fully leverage the role of medical committees and international students in the quality control process, and improve the education quality assurance system.

3. Drawing on international management experience and innovating the "assimilation" education management model

At present, most of the management models for international students coming to China in major universities in China still adopt an independent management model, that is, to establish specialized teaching and administrative departments for international students for independent management. This management model is beneficial for the centralized management of international students, but it makes it difficult for the teaching and management departments of international students to coordinate in their daily work, reduce work efficiency, and make it difficult to share various educational and teaching information with other departments, making it difficult to carry out educational and teaching work. For this reason, some universities are also exploring assimilation management, transitioning from independent management mode to assimilation management mode. However, the establishment of the traditional "assimilation" education management model requires higher language and cross-cultural communication abilities of university teachers and administrative personnel, as well as higher requirements for the school's own hardware, software, and other aspects. This is not

feasible for ordinary undergraduate colleges, especially private colleges.

Therefore, it is necessary to learn from the management experience of major countries studying abroad and explore a "assimilation" management model for international students with Chinese characteristics. The "convergence" is not limited to the consistency of management forms with Chinese students. Blindly merging all management departments of international students and Chinese students, and unifying management methods, it should be more about the "convergence" of management concepts and standards. On the premise of continuously improving the quality of international student education, in various management work on campus, management personnel should gradually unify management concepts with the concept of managing Chinese students, Improve one's cross-cultural communication skills; Based on the school's own situation, gradually align with the management requirements and standards of Chinese students in daily teaching, attendance and performance evaluation, teaching evaluation, and student status management; In the process of international student education and management, we still need to maintain an open attitude towards the differences in religious beliefs, customs, cultural backgrounds, and other aspects of international students coming to China, and "seek common ground while reserving differences".

As an important component of China's education industry, studying abroad in China has made positive contributions in strengthening the internationalization process of education, enhancing friendship between Chinese and foreign people, and cultivating international talents who are knowledgeable, friendly, and pro China. The quality of education always depends on the quality of the target audience. The level of education and the effectiveness of education for international students studying in China still require in-depth research, which is a challenge and an opportunity for higher education in China.

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