

SOME ASPECTS OF EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS OF THE US AND KYRGYZSTAN

В течение последующих нескольких лет приоритетным направлением в нашей педагогической деятельности является стажировка в одном из аккредитованных университетов за рубежом и соответственно, изучения английского языка, так как основным требованием является сдача теста по языку. Статья касается темы, столь важной для привлечения студентов к изучению системы высшего образования в Америке и Кыргызстана в двух аспектах: роль административной системы и поступление в ВУЗ студентов, заинтересованных также в обучении в зарубежных университетах.

Education in the United States of America is different in form and content from what we have in Kyrgyzstan. This article will outline some aspects of education used to deeper understanding of US and Kyrgyzstan systems of education. It describes certain aspects as governing bodies and admission to university-level studies in both countries and will conclude by offering insights for students and teachers interested in differences and peculiarities of education system based on own experience.

University and colleges in US - University education begins at 18 years after secondary education for undergraduate study. In higher education universities have autonomy to design their programs, curriculum and standards for admission. There is no 'national university' or federal education ministry. Legal authority for the governance of most USA higher educational institutions rests with a Board of trustees who are honorary appointees. They generally delegate the day-to-day management to the administrative staff and faculty particularly for curriculum development, instruction and research. Generally the administrative organization of any university depends upon the number and size of schools or colleges on a campus. Many universities offer programs of professional preparation and hence have separate schools or colleges such as college of engineering, school of law, school of medicine. Each school has a chief executive officer known as 'Dean'. Schools have departments and administrative subdivisions, e.g., department of computer engineering, department of mathematics, economics and the like. Many universities have a general program called 'liberal' program which is a separate school and has departments of subjects such as philosophy, mathematics, history, psychology, etc. The executive officer of each department is addressed as 'chairperson' or 'head'. They aim to equip students with the necessary skills to take their places in a highly demanding, complex and multifaceted society. The courses have been designed for developing critical and practical skills for being useful contributors to society. They believe in placing greater emphasis on experiential learning through observation and measurement. Hence any student who plans to study in USA must be sure not to expect a directive 'spoon feeding' approach in teaching but an approach which demands active participation and a self-steering attitude.

Admission requirements for study in the USA

Following is the eligibility criteria for study in USA for MBA, engineering, bachelors, masters and Phd programs for getting admission into American universities. Compared to other countries, admission procedures of US universities, schools, colleges and institutes are highly competitive for international students. The procedure is even more competitive in the top educational institutes. To earn admission in the top and high-ranking schools in USA you must have good grades, adequate financial support either by achieving scholarships or merit based

financial aids, completed challenging coursework, and good command over the English language.

The academic requirements are as under: For undergraduate programs a student should have completed 10 + 2.bn

For Graduate programs the students must have completed 16 years of education i.e. 10+2+4. Some institutes accept 15 years of formal education into their Bridge or Masters program. The student must have good scores in entrance exams like SAT, GRE, GMAT, etc....

The language proficiency test scores should be --TOEFL score of 90 and above for Postgraduate and 80 above for Undergraduate studies. IELTS score of 6 and above for Undergraduates and 6.5 and above for Postgraduates studies.

Strong recommendation letters and Certificate of achievement and extra curricular activity participation proof.The statement of purpose i.e. the personal essay should be such that it stands out amongst the lot of students letter.

These eligibility parameters are what institutes in USA consider before admitting a student in a course. It is normal procedure for international students to apply directly to their chosen institution. Applications can usually be accessed via the institution website.

I was assigned as a visiting scholar by JFDP at University of Kansas,KS in America. I have a good experience of studying and researching there and I am providing info of an admission to KU.KU, the University of Kansas, is a public university located in Lawrence, Kansas. The university has several strong research centers, and its high level of research and instruction earned it membership in the Association of American Universities. KU frequently ranks among the top 50 public universities in the country, and it wins high marks for both academics and quality of student life. In athletics, the Kansas Jayhawks compete in the NCAA Division I Big 12 Conference.

Admissions Data (2010): Percent of Applicants Admitted: 91%.ACT comparison for Kansas colleges Enrollment (2009):total Enrollment: 29,242 (21,066 undergraduates),Gender Breakdown: 50% Male / 50% Female,Tuition and Fees: \$8,733 (in-state); \$21,538 (out-of-state) Books: \$800 (why so much?) Room and Board: \$7,070 Other Expenses: \$4,226 Total Cost: \$20,829 (in-state); \$33,634 (out-of-state)

Education system structure in Kyrgyzstan.

The higher education system of Kyrgyzstan represents a network of 50 higher education institutions, including 34 public and 16 private institutions. Private higher education institutions (HEIs) accordingly increased their role and in 2008-2009 they educated 10.5 % of the total amount of students. The higher education system of Kyrgyzstan consists of four types of HEIs: universities, academies, specialized HEIs (for example, Kyrgyz National Conservatory, Bishkek Higher military specialized schools , institutes).

Governing bodies of Higher Education Institutes.

The MOES(Ministry of Education and Science) has responsibility for defining policy, standards and programs, determining priorities, conducting strategic planning and regulating the operation of the 34 public HEIs.

The MOES also allocates financial resources. The State Examination Board awards professional qualifications or academic degrees and issues a state education certificate based on final examination results. The Council of Rectors links many institutional managers together and cooperates to develop quality, internationalization and a research agenda across the education system. Rectors of public HEIs are appointed for five years by the MOES following election by secret ballot at a general meeting of the faculty. Rectors of private HEIs are appointed by the

founders according to the institutional charter [Law: Article 38].

Each HEI has a Governing Board which is responsible for human resources policies at institutional level, including staff recruitment. The Law is silent about the composition of the Board and, consequently, it is not possible to determine the amount of employer participation. The Academic Council manages academic and research programs. The State determines the number of scholarship (budget funded) students while the institution determines the number of fee-paying students. The Financial Committee is responsible for institutional budgets together with the management of extra budgetary (private) funds. HEIs evaluate student performance and are responsible for the organization and delivery of distance education courses. The forms of university governance are the general meetings, trustees, academics and other councils or committees. The institutions' selection procedure and their competences, distribution of authorities between the council and the head of the educational institution are determined by the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Charter of the university. The direct management of the university is carried out by the Rector. The heads of higher education institution having 'national' status are appointed and dismissed by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic. Upon the expiry of the term of a head of a public higher education institution, the head retains the right to fill the position from an executive position (or equivalent title) out-of competition for a period of three years, as long as the nominee worked in that institution before the nomination. The heads of non-government higher education institutions and their departments are appointed by academic experts with academic degrees of related expertise and qualifications.

Admission

At present, the number of students in higher education amounts to 243 000. The number of students enrolled in private universities has nearly doubled compared with 2002 and reached 25 600 in 2009. Although the number of private universities has hardly changed, the attractiveness of private universities has considerably increased in recent years.

The State guarantees equal access to higher education. The national testing is conducted yearly at the end of May, selection and admission to grant positions takes place between 10-23 July. There are more than 32 000 school-leavers annually. A grants commission draws up a list of recommended school-leavers based on the selection results. These are grouped according to social categories of school-leavers as follows: 1. School-leavers from Bishkek; 2. School-leavers from regional centres and towns, 3. School-leavers from villages; 4. School-leavers from schools in high mountain areas of the country; 5. School-leavers who have rights to benefits (invalids of different categories, orphans, discharged military personnel).

The experience gained studying in the university of Kansas in America was helpful to deeper understanding of US higher education system. Staying there for one semester I had presentations of higher education system of Kyrgyzstan and Kyrgyzstan itself. And I was able to describe the aspects, analyze the peculiarities and varieties of teaching styles and learning. I think it's possible to implement some structures and governing bodies as Down-top model. It will help to improve international education and better preparedness of learners to study in one of appropriate universities and share the experience of abroad practice.

Additionally, teachers and students are encouraged to apply to American universities to exchange skills obtained or updated expertise to educate new technology generation.

References

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