

International Activities of Federal State-funded Educational Establishment of Higher Professional Education “Voronezh State University”

Developing scientific and educational collaboration with foreign higher education institutions and organisations is one of the priority areas for Voronezh State University (VSU).

The main objectives of VSU in this sphere are: developing and implementing innovative educational programmes in collaboration with its international partner universities; encouraging foreign language learning among the VSU academic staff; developing a system for controlling the VSU international projects; promoting Russian language learning abroad by supporting the existing and creating new centres of Russian language and culture; encouraging academic mobility of students and academic staff; attracting a greater number of international students studying on a fee-paying basis.

VSU has 143 partnership agreements with the leading universities of Europe, the USA, and Asia, within which it conducts its international projects. Recently, VSU has begun to cooperate more actively with universities in Central Europe, Asia, CIS (Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia), Latin America (Cuba), and Eastern Europe (Macedonia, Croatia).

In June 2014, within the framework of TEMPUS project «InterEULawEast» the VSU Faculties of Law and Economics signed a memorandum of understanding with the Faculty of Economics at the University of Zagreb (Croatia). They are now working on two master's programmes: "International and European law" in Eastern Europe, and "Banking" - a specialized personnel training programme for Sberbank of Russia.

In 2013, Voronezh State University signed a partner contract with eight universities of neighbouring countries for creating the Network of universities of a border zone - the international consortium of educational institutions of Poland, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine and Russia. The contract enables the partner universities to apply for international grants together, conduct joint research projects and provide each other assistance with implementing the results into the education process. They can also use the infrastructure and the equipment while conducting joint projects or holding events.

Due to the pace of technological progress and innovative activities, the education system today, as well as academic staff training, needs to be diversified. Universities, therefore, should work in close collaboration with employers - both state and commercial enterprises.

For VSU such a collaboration resulted in corporate master's programme "Management and IT Consulting" implemented jointly with J&M Management Consulting (Germany).

Among the partners of Voronezh State University are such companies as KPMG (one of the largest professional services companies in the world providing audit, tax, and advisory services), and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC - one of the largest professional services networks in the world). VSU also hosts education centres of the leading IT companies such as «Siemens IT Solutions and Services», «NetCracker», and «T-Systems». Together with these companies the University trains top IT specialists who can work both in Russia and abroad.

On 26th February, a delegation of top managers of OTSL Inc (Japan) and Embedded-systems Software Technologies Training Centre, which had been created on the basis of VSU's Faculty of Computer Sciences with support and direct participation of OTSL Inc. and DSR Corporation (USA) visited Voronezh State University. From 2015 OTSL is planning to develop its cooperation with Russia and in particular offer employment in Japan to the most promising students of Voronezh State University.

In September 2014, Voronezh State University, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster (Munster, Germany), OAO Severstal-Infokom, OOO ASAPIO CIS and OOO SAP CIS signed the agreement stipulating foundation of the Department of ERP Systems and Business Processes Management on the basis of VSU's Faculty of Applied Mathematics, Informatics and Mechanics. Vice-Rector for strategic planning and a Quality Assurance Manager of Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster and Honorary Doctor of Voronezh State University, Jörg Becker will head the Department in the 2015-2016 academic year.

VSU also collaborates actively with foreign embassies and foreign representative offices in Russia.

The last two years saw visits of Ambassadors Extraordinary and other officials of such countries as Germany, France, Ethiopia, China, USA, Israel, and Ireland. All these visits resulted in academic and scientific partnership agreements between the embassies and VSU, which provides the University greater opportunity for developing contacts with foreign universities and conducting research and education projects.

In February 2015, at the meeting with the Ambassador of Ireland the parties agreed to organise a VSU-based Russian-Irish IT forum.

VSU actively encourages academic mobility of students and academic staff.

Over 120 contracts and agreements stipulate active and constant student and lecturer exchange programmes with international universities. Over the last few years about 1000 VSU students have completed exchange education at partner universities in Germany, France, Spain, Belgium, Austria, Ireland, Sweden, Poland, Estonia, the USA, China, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Belarus, etc.

VSU is also developing its contacts with China. In Particular it has signed partnership agreements with 13 Chinese universities. Every year over 20 VSU students can take part in exchange education programmes and study Chinese language and culture at one of the partner universities in China.

Every year about 500 VSU lecturers have an opportunity to take part in international conferences abroad, as well as conduct their research or improve their

professional competence at various foreign universities. The results can then be used both in academic and scientific activities.

For example, the Department of Solid-State Physics and Nanostructures of the Faculty of Physics (one of the pioneers of nanostructure research in Russia) suggested signing contracts with two prominent scientific and educational centres - Institute of Photonic Technology (Jena, Germany) and Belarus State University. Joint research with German colleagues was launched over a year ago and resulted in joint publications in Web of Science. The research is carried out using VSU unique equipment, some German institutions research equipment, Helmholtz Zentrum Berlin BESSY II megafacilities and Wisconsin-Madison University's SRC.

Another measure aimed at improving English-language skills for academic and scientific activity, was to open a special programme at the Faculty of Romance and Germanic Philology "Academic English", where teachers from other faculties can learn English language and academic communication principles.

VSU is also quite experienced in preparing and implementing double-degree programmes. Currently, the University is running 6 education programmes in co-operation with its foreign partners. 7 new programmes are being actively developed.

Among the innovative projects is a distance learning programme "Regional Studies in Russia", worked on by the Faculty of International Relations in collaboration with Spanish colleagues from the University of San Carlos (Madrid, Spain) and Liceus education centre (Madrid, Spain).

Joint educational programmes of VSU in 2014

№	Programme	Study option	VSU Faculty	Partner-university
1.	Business Administration	Bachelor's degree	Faculty of International Relations	Hochschule Harz (Wernigerode, Germany)
2.	Linguistics. Teaching Italian as a foreign language.	Specialist's degree	Faculty of Romance and Germanic Philology	University for Foreigners of Perugia (Italy)
3.	Tourism Management	Master's degree	Faculty of International Relations Faculty of Romance and Germanic Philology	The University Paris-Est Marne-la-Vallée (France)
4.	Business in the Emerging Markets	Master's degree	Faculty of International Relations	FH Joanneum University of Applied Sciences (Graz, Austria)

5.	Contrastive philology	Master's degree	Faculty of Romance and Germanic Philology	University of Leon (Spain)
6.	Business Communication in Economics: the German Language	Master's degree	Faculty of Romance and Germanic Philology	Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg, (Germany)

Joint programmes being developed at the moment

№	Programme	Study option	VSU Faculty	Partner-university
1.	"International and European law" in Eastern Europe	Master's degree	Faculty of Law, Faculty of Economics	The University of Zagreb (Croatia), The University of Maribor (Slovenia)
2.	Corporate management	Master's degree	Faculty of Law Faculty of Economics	The University of Zagreb (Croatia),
3.	World economy	Bachelor's degree	Faculty of International Relations	University of Leon (Spain)
4.	Commercial network management	Master's degree	Faculty of International Relations	University Lille I (France)
5.	Regional Studies in Russia Distance learning programme	Master's degree	Faculty of International Relations	The University of Alcalá (Spain) Liceus company
6.	Mathematics / Applied mathematics	Master's degree	Faculty of Mathematics Faculty of Applied Mathematics, Informatics and Mechanics	The University of Texas at Brownsville (USA)
7.	Physics	Master's degree	Faculty of Physics	The University of Texas at Brownsville (USA)
8.	Russian as a Foreign Language		International Education Institute	Educational Group ABY (Madrid, Spain)

One of the priority areas for VSU's international activity is the development of scientific and educational collaboration, as well as academic mobility within the scope of international projects.

Since 2014, VSU has been running 11 projects: six TEMPUS projects, three projects of the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Union (FP7), an

Erasmus Mundus project, and a Scientific Cooperation between Eastern Europe and Switzerland programme.

In the current year, the International Project and Programme Centre of VSU's International Cooperation Department, in collaboration with the university departments, prepared 20 project proposals within major educational and scientific programmes: TEMPUS, Erasmus, the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Union.

Following the results of a competitive selection, VSU had 5 of its projects sponsored. The VSU's index of successful project management, thus, reached 25%, which is higher than the average performance of other Russian universities.

This can be clearly seen from the European Union's TEMPUS programme. Of 171 projects, the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency selected 28 projects involving Russian universities, 3 of which will be implemented by the academic staff of Voronezh State University.

VSU admits international students on both a free and fee-paying basis, and helps them to adapt to the new culture and society.

Following the results of a competitive selection, Voronezh State University is third in the country by the number of international students allowed to be admitted on a free basis, with only the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia and Saint Petersburg State Polytechnic University ahead.

Total number of international students studying at VSU in 2014-2015 is 1026.

Total number of international students studying at VSU in 2014-2015 (by degrees)

Bachelor's degree

Master's degree

Specialist's degree

Postgraduates

Interns

Pre-university programme

