

# Exploring the Cultivation Path of Internationalized Talents in Universities under the Background of the "Double First Class" Construction

## -- Taking Southwest Petroleum University as an Example

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### Abstract

**Taking the construction of "Double First Class" as the background, this article elaborates on the significance and goals of international talent cultivation in universities. Based on the analysis of the current situation of international talent cultivation in Southwest Petroleum University, it identifies problems in the process of international talent cultivation, explores targeted solutions, and focuses on building a new system that conforms to the "Double First Class" international talent cultivation in universities, providing useful reference for the connotation construction of international talent cultivation in universities.**

### Keywords

**"Double First Class" construction; Internationalization; Talent cultivation.**

## 1. Definition of Internationalized Talents

With the progress of science and technology and the rapid development of economic globalization, the interdependence of economic relations among countries is gradually increasing. The globalized social division of labor requires more outstanding international talents. The internationalization of higher education is an inevitable trend in current higher education and an important path to improve the comprehensive strength of higher education. In order to enhance China's education development level and enhance the country's international core competitiveness, the State Council issued the "Overall Plan for Promoting the Construction of World-Class Universities and First Class Disciplines" in 2015, and international cooperation and exchange were listed as one of the top ten key tasks for the construction of "Double First Class"[1]. This marks that the core task of higher education - talent cultivation - has been given new requirements for internationalization, and universities need to cultivate international talents with certain international competitiveness.

According to the Outline of the National Medium - and Long Term Education Reform and Development Plan (2010-2020), international talents should have an international perspective, be familiar with international rules, and be able to participate in international affairs and competition, that is, high-quality talents with international knowledge, vision, awareness, and cooperation capabilities[2].

## 2. Construction of "Double First Class"

Building world-class universities and disciplines is a major strategic decision made by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council. It is also another national strategy in the field of higher education in China, following the "211 Project" and "985 Project". It is conducive to enhancing the comprehensive strength and international

competitiveness of China's higher education, and provides strong support for achieving the "Two Centenary Goals" and realizing the Chinese Dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. In recent years, with the gradual increase of internationalization indicators in the internationally recognized world ranking system for higher education, as well as the specific requirements for the construction of "Double First Class", Chinese universities have included international talent cultivation in one of their major development strategies. How to explore a path for international talent cultivation that is in line with the characteristics of the school, How to cultivate more competitive international talents for society in the new era has become a key focus of exploration for various "Double First Class" universities.

### **3. The Importance of Cultivating Internationalized Talents at Southwest Petroleum University**

With the continuous expansion of the country's opening-up and the implementation of the "the Belt and Road" education initiative, the demand for international talents is growing. As the first batch of "double first-class" construction universities, Southwest Petroleum University should actively serve and integrate into the national "the Belt and Road" construction, and cultivate more outstanding international talents to invest in the construction and development of various industries. As the fundamental undergraduate education of a university, international development and talent cultivation are inevitable trends to maintain its development vitality. They are the only way to enhance the comprehensive strength of education in the "Double First Class" construction of Southwest Petroleum University, and strive to promote the construction of world-class disciplines, first-class energy universities, and century old prestigious universities.

### **4. The Current Situation of Internationalized Talent Cultivation at Southwest Petroleum University**

At present, the internationalization work of Southwest Petroleum University is still in its infancy and growth stage, with incomplete mechanisms and systems, insufficient faculty, weak disciplines, and insufficient financial support. As a result, the university lacks an atmosphere for cultivating international talents and students lack an international perspective. To a certain extent, it greatly restricts the practice and exploration of the path for international talent cultivation in schools. This has directly led to a small number of students studying abroad and participating in international academic conferences in recent years, a lack of students holding positions in international organizations, and even a weak awareness of applying for internationally recognized English proficiency exams such as TOEFL and IELTS.

### **5. Exploring the Path of Internationalized Talent Cultivation at Southwest Petroleum University**

In response to the current situation of international talent cultivation in our school and the key issues in international talent cultivation, it is urgent to comprehensively improve the internationalization level of student cultivation and explore a sustainable and distinctive path for our school to cultivate first-class talents with international perspectives and competitiveness.

(1) Breaking through ideological barriers and strengthening the concept of international education

After the Ministry of Education issued the "Opinions on Accelerating and Expanding the Opening up of Education in the New Era", cultivating high-level international talents with a global perspective has become a sacred mission and historical responsibility entrusted to

universities by the times. At present, there is a lack of understanding and a weak concept in international education and talent cultivation among various parties in the school. Through project implementation, we aim to break through the school's ideological barriers and create an open educational environment. Based on the open thinking of "bringing in" and "going out", we will focus on the core goal of international talent cultivation and provide overall conceptual and scientific design for the concept of international education, providing direction and guidance for the effective implementation of internationalization and talent cultivation strategies.

#### (2) Highlighting the Characteristics of Education and Promoting International Exchange and Cooperation

The distinct educational characteristics have always been the core competitiveness of Southwest Petroleum University, which has flourished in the past few decades. To improve the quality of international talent cultivation at Southwest Petroleum University, it is necessary to continuously highlight and improve the school's energy education characteristics, cultivate characteristic professional talents that the country needs, and continuously enhance the influence and visibility of the school's brand. We should highlight the characteristics of Southwest Petroleum University's education in petroleum, natural gas, and related disciplines, promote exchanges and cooperation with high-level energy universities abroad, strive to achieve new breakthroughs in cooperative education, student joint training, and other fields, build a high-quality platform for students to participate in international exchange and cooperation and enhance their abilities, and provide strong guarantees for effectively improving students' international literacy.

#### (3) Make up for the shortcomings of the mechanism and improve the management system for international talent cultivation

A scientific education and management system is an important guarantee and basic prerequisite for cultivating international talents with an international perspective. At present, the school has not achieved much in the education and management mechanism construction of international talent cultivation, and the effectiveness is relatively small. The role it plays in promoting the development of international talent cultivation needs to be further improved. We need to establish and improve the teaching management system and incentive system for the cultivation of international talents in schools, strengthen policy guidance and supervision, play the role of rewards and incentives, establish and make good use of evaluation systems, and guide students to actively participate in international literacy improvement projects such as overseas study abroad, overseas exchange and learning, international organization internship and training, and international conference reports.

#### (4) Strengthen the faculty and enhance the internationalization level of the teaching staff

The construction of "Double First Class" requires a world-class teaching staff, and the internationalization of the teaching staff is a strong guarantee for the cultivation of international talents. At present, the overall internationalization level of the school's teaching staff is not high, and there is a certain gap between the introduction of international talents and the current efforts to cultivate international teachers compared to first-class universities at home and abroad. Through the implementation of the project, we strive to optimize the international environment for the development of our school's teaching staff, introduce scholars of different nationalities to teach or give lectures, promote teachers' participation in international exchange activities, and enhance the international perspective and level of the teaching staff.

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(5) Using the "Double First Class" discipline construction as a template to radiate international talent cultivation in more disciplines

As the "Double First Class" construction discipline of Southwest Petroleum University - Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering, both in terms of student source quality, international teaching staff, and student management mechanism belong to the top configuration of the school. Southwest Petroleum University should bravely practice and innovate the international talent training model in the "Double First Class" discipline: establish a first-class all English curriculum system; Cultivate an international teaching staff; Establish a sound quality assurance system; Enrich overseas exchange projects; Develop strict student management mechanisms; Graduation requirements for setting internationalization indicators. Taking the discipline of petroleum and natural gas engineering as a pilot project, it radiates plateau disciplines and drives other disciplines to jointly build an international talent training system.

## 6. Conclusion

The construction of "Double First Class" is a major educational strategy in China's higher education and an important pillar for enhancing the comprehensive strength and international competitiveness of China's higher education. In today's complex international situation, the more international talents you have, the stronger your international competitiveness to some extent. Therefore, cultivating internationally competitive talents in universities has become one of the important tasks of talent cultivation. In the context of the "Double First Class" construction, each university should, based on its own educational conditions and training objectives, designate a distinctive international talent training plan suitable for each university, accurately implement training plans, and cultivate more outstanding new era college students with international perspectives for society.

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- [2] Information on: [http://www.moe.gov.cn/jyb\\_xwfb/gzdt\\_gzdt/201008/t20100802\\_93704.html](http://www.moe.gov.cn/jyb_xwfb/gzdt_gzdt/201008/t20100802_93704.html)