

# **Progressive Internationalization: Nanjing University's Theory and Practice**

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As illustrated by the International Encyclopedia of Higher Education edited by Asa S. Knowles, the internationalization of higher education mainly embraces mobile faculty and students, educational aids and international cooperation, and curriculum internationalization. In other words, internationalization of higher education includes faculty and student exchange, joint teaching and research programs as well as curriculum internationalization. The exchange of faculty and students concentrates on sending faculty, scholars abroad for further study, encouraging scholars to attend or host international conferences and join international academic organizations, and so on. The joint teaching and research programs include jointly-operating teaching entities, jointly cultivating students, jointly setting up scientific research institutions, jointly conducting research, and so on. The curriculum internationalization contains foreign languages training, global and regional studies, international programs and inter-cultural programs, as well as disciplines with global visions. With respect of internationalization, Nanjing University boasts some advanced theories, successful experiences and fine blueprints.

## **I. Persistent Rationale of Internationalization**

Since its founding over one hundred years ago, Nanjing University has been adhering to an open and international school-running idea. Nanjing University traces back to two universities, one being China's National Central University run directly by the central government, the other being University of Nanking established by American missionaries. The former one, founded in the year of 1902, took shape from Japanese higher educational institutions with almost the whole of science faculty introduced from Japan. For instance, as shown from a diploma issued in 1910, there were 11 Japanese faculty members out of 14. Guo Bingwen, one of John Dewey's favorite students, returned to China in 1914 and soon took the office of presidency after he acquired his Ph. D from Columbia University. He put forward the "Four-Balance Principle" for university administration, i.e. balances between general

and professional, between science and humanity, staff and faculty, home and abroad. With internationalization as a main characteristic, sixty-five percent of teachers had Ph. D. or Master's degrees from abroad. President Guo invited a number of world well-known celebrities to give lectures in the University, such as the famous American educators Dewey and Monroe, British philosopher Rossetti, German philosopher Hans Driesch, Indian eminent writer and Nobel Prize winner Rabindranath Tagore.

The latter, as a missionary university, always used English as the teaching language. The teaching content, teaching style and administration method were all "Americanized." And even the degrees and certificates were issued jointly by University of Nanking and the University of the State of New York. During the consequent ten years after 1949, Nanjing University adopted the higher education modes from the former USSR. Having gone through the 10-year closed-door period caused by the Cultural Revolution, President Kuang Yaming led the first Chinese university presidents delegation to visit the United States in late 1970's, which broke the ice and started a fresh step toward internationalization. In 1992, the then PRC President Jiang Zemin inspected Nanjing University and hoped that Nanjing University would turn into a teaching and research center with international influence and its own characteristics.

#### **□. Regular Exchange of Staff and Students**

1. The international vision has been stressed in development of the faculty members. Teachers with international visions are critical to the process of internationalization. Nanjing University therefore keeps hiring new teachers from around the world, sending the teachers abroad for further study and employing foreign teachers. In 2003, Nanjing University took the lead in mainland China in employing 149 professors and 149 associate professors from around the world. In 2005, the University further decided that from the year of 2005 on all the new posts would be filled by the qualified applicants world-widely. Through the HwaYing Education and Culture Foundation and other public and private channels, Nanjing University annually sends groups of young teachers to foreign top universities for exchange or study. In recent years the number of teachers attending international conferences, doing cooperative research and lecturing is increasing year by year. The host countries surpass over 30 including US, Japan, UK, Germany and so on. The number of the

staff going abroad amounts to 2497 between 2003 and 2005. The year of 2006 saw more than 1,000 faculty and staff going abroad for academic purposes.

Meanwhile the university has been bringing international talents. The size of long-term (one semester or more) foreign experts increased from 40 to 81 between 2001 and 2006. What's more, the structure of experts has been optimized, e.g. the percentage for non-language subjects has improved from 32.5% to 50%, covering disciplines such as law, international relations, politics, economics, history, management, physics, chemistry, electronics, materials, geography, architecture, medicine and biology. The professionals with Ph.D. have increased from 34% to 62.4%. The size of short term visiting foreign experts increased from 100 to 450 each year. Currently the "Chien-Shiung Wu and Luke Chia-Liu Yuan Lecturing Fund" totaling over 1 million US dollars and the nationally-funded "World Famous Scholars Lecturing Program" have been put into operation. The visits of Nobel Prize laureates and world-renown celebrities have made it possible for NJU faculty and students to have face to face exchanges with people working on international scientific and technological frontiers.

2. Emphasis has been laid upon the student exchange. As one of the earliest universities welcoming international students, NJU enroll overseas students at all the graduate or postgraduate programs. According to incomplete statistics, Nanjing University has hosted over 10,000 international students from more than 70 countries and regions since 1955. At present, 1,500 international students have registered, making up 6% of the whole enrollment. And half of them are reading for degrees, with undergraduate and graduate students matching up. There exists a credit transfer system between Nanjing University and overseas counterparts. Some courses of traditional Chinese culture are delivered in English e.g. China's Foreign Relations, Chinese Arts, China's Economy and Reform, Chinese Philosophy, etc. In addition, Nanjing University has become a mandarin Chinese training base for the officials of the United Nations with support of the Chinese government. In order to satisfy the need of Chinese language and culture promotion, Nanjing University has been quite active in training Chinese language teachers working abroad and has been offering unique curricula for the Chinese teachers who come from such countries as US, Germany, Australia and Malaysia.

In the meanwhile, Nanjing University is sending its own students to the outside world. So far the university has established long relationship with over 20 foreign

universities in exchange of students. And annually about 1% of the students are sent abroad. Students are encouraged to take part in international academic or technological contests and other kinds of activities.

3. International academic exchange platforms are put up in order to let the world here Nanjing University's voice. Nanjing University has turned into one of the most active institutions engaged in international academic activities. Between 2001 and 2006, Nanjing University hosted more than 100 international conferences in areas such as transnational business management, science and social progress, physics, chemistry, geology, information science, with 8,000 attendants from home and abroad. Those conferences not only demonstrate Nanjing University's academic achievements but also facilitate the University's dialogue with the world.

#### **□. Continuous Innovative International Cooperation**

Nanjing University has signed exchange and cooperation agreements with more than 200 foreign universities. Among them, 50 institutions have close relationship with Nanjing University, including 13 universities in North America such as Johns Hopkins University, Cornell University, UC Berkeley, the State University of New York, the University of Waterloo and so on. There are 16 major sister universities in Europe such as the University of Southampton, the University of Bristol, University of London, the University of Sheffield, the University of Leeds, Georg-August-University of Goettingen, Ecole Normale Supérieure, ParisTech, the University of Paris XII and St Petersburg State University. There are two major partner universities in the Oceania, i.e. University of Melbourne, Auckland University of Technology. Our 12 major partner universities in Asia include the University of Tokyo, Waseda University, the University of Kyoto, Keio University, Hokkaido University, the University of Osaka, Nagoya University, the University of Seoul, National University of Singapore. Meanwhile, as a member of the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN), Nanjing University carries on close cooperation with other WUN members in the academic realms of public sanitation, higher education, chemistry and atmospheric sciences, etc.

Johns Hopkins University-Nanjing University Center for Chinese and American Studies has already cultivated more than 1,700 students, most of whom have become senior human resources in the fields of business and diplomacy and so on. In 2000, the Center set up the Institute of International Research, which combines teaching and

researching. This is the first institute invested and managed by a Chinese and a foreign university. Now, Nanjing University and Johns Hopkins University have decided to join hands to offer graduate degree education. The Center has been widely acclaimed as “a study garden without going abroad.”

Established in 2002, the Sino-German Institute of Law Studies has harvested in the teaching and research of economic law, civil law and comparative laws. It has cultivated more than 100 masters and doctors. The graduates can get the diplomas and degrees from both Nanjing University and Georg-August-University of Goettingen.

In addition, Nanjing University has set up a Sino-Dutch International MBA Education Center. Working with the University of Texas and Pennsylvania State University, Nanjing University has established a Public Health Study Center. With the University of Paris XII, Nanjing University has set up an Urban and Regional Development Study Center, which has also been listed as an international cooperation program supported by the second phase national “Project 985.” In 2006, Nanjing University and the University of Southampton jointly established a research center in the fields of coast and ocean development, infectious disease and public health, and higher education studies.

Based on the Chinese and Japanese Culture Research Center, Nanjing University jointly set up a branch center of general education with the University of Tokyo, which mainly serves the undergraduates. Meanwhile, the International MBA program with the University of Missouri-Louis, the Sino-Canadian College with the University of Waterloo, the SUNY-NJU International Higher Education Institution, among others, have greatly pushed Nanjing University forward in the cooperation of joint education programs with foreign universities.

All kinds of international cooperation have shown the strengths and features of Nanjing University in internationalization. Joint research centers such as NJU-IBM Bio-informatics Lab, NJU-IBM Technology Center, NJU-Fujitsu Software Company Ltd., together with the cooperation with BASF and Motorola, have all yielded remarkable achievements.

At the same time, Nanjing University also goes abroad to operate education programs, being the first of its kind in main China. The past and ongoing classes have been offering master’s programs in Chinese language and literature, business administration, translation, philosophy, and history mainly in Singapore and Malaysia. The overseas education programs will go further to Europe and America in the future

as attempts of open and international education.

#### **IV. Emerging Curriculum Internationalization**

Curriculum Internationalization includes foreign language training, global and regional studies, and internationalized curricula.

1. Foreign language training is critical for cultivating “globalized talents.” Nanjing University has been paying much attention to the foreign language teaching and research. Now it boasts two teaching branches for foreign language teaching, i.e. School of Foreign Studies (SFS) and the Department of Applied Foreign Language Studies (DAFLS). The SFS offers English, Russian, Japanese, French, German, Spanish, and Korean languages and undertakes studies of related countries. The DAFLS is mainly in charge of foreign language teaching to non-foreign language majors. In teaching, FLS on the one hand intensifies students’ language skills, and on the other hand implements teaching modes of “language + qualifications courses”, “language + second classroom” and “language + major”. “Qualifications Courses” include International Business Law, Securities and Investment, Western Accounting, Business Economics, etc. “The Second Classroom” has a complete scheme of activities. “The Majors” are mainly law, journalism, foreign trade, adopting a “2+4” model. Two years of intensified foreign language training plus 4 years of discipline learning will result in a Master’s degree. The DAFLS offers the above-mentioned languages as well as Esperanto and Italian.

2. Global and regional studies are the supportive point for cultivating “globalized talents.” Launching global and regional studies is a key link in the efforts of universities to cultivate talents who have knowledge of international communities and capacity in dealing with international affairs easily. Nanjing University boasts Research Center of Economic Globalization and International Relations, Institute of International Relations, Research Center of Religions and Cultures, Institute of International Media, Institute of European Union, Institute of Asia-Pacific Laws, Institute of Foreign Literature, Institute of Comparative Literature and Culture, Center of Chinese and American Studies, Sino-German Institute for Legal Studies, Research Center of UK and the Commonwealth, Canadian Studies Center, Australian Studies Center, Irish Studies Center, Institute of Korean Studies, Institute of Jewish Studies, American Literature and Culture Center, Center of Cervantes Studies and the China Society of African Studies and the China Association for the Study of American

Literature, among others.

3. Internationalized curricula or cross-culture curricula are the structural element for the cultivation of “globalized talents.” In addition to the courses of world literature, history, law, economics, philosophy and arts, available for students to choose are also dozens of courses such as Introduction to UN Security Mechanism, Globalization and Regional Cooperation, World Civilizations, Intercultural Communication, Contemporary International Relations, Development of Chinese and Foreign Universities, Operation Philosophy and Cultural Features of World-class Universities, Appreciation of Classical Operas. For example, the course “the development of Chinese and foreign universities” views the world as a “village”, respectively taking “time” and “representative universities” established in different era as the coordinates to draw universities’ development orbits, successful experience and lessons to learn. Courses of this nature have one thing in common -- international perspectives.

Also worth mentioning is that Nanjing University has successively organized students from some departments to go abroad to do their field trips. For instance, it organized dozens of students from Department of Earth Sciences, School of Geography and Ocean Sciences, School of Life Sciences, and the Department of Atmospheric Sciences to do scientific investigations for over 20 days at Lake Baikal in the Russian Federation.

## **V. New Measures Worth Attention**

1. Nanjing University International College - an Establishment at NJU International Education Garden. The College will eventually develop into a multi-level, multi-disciplinary and multi-scope international higher education garden centered on the NJU-SUNY International College and the NJU-UWaterloo Canadian College, among others. The College will offer under and post-graduate education and international training. Strength disciplines will be brought in from the partner universities, such as electro-information, chemistry and chemical engineering, new energy, environmental science, life science, material science, computer science, international law and international trade. The cultivation of talents will be geared to the national and local demands and therefore promote the close collaboration among the industry, academia and research. With a couple of year’s efforts, the higher education garden will have about 3,000 teachers of different nationalities and 25,000-30,000 Chinese and international students, among whom 15% will be

international students.

2. Confucius Institutes. Cultural transmission is one of the university functions. Facing globalization, universities should not only transmit and develop the cultures of their own nationalities, but also promote the communication and exchanges among different cultures. Nanjing University has therefore established three Confucius Institutes respectively with University of Melbourne, University of Sheffield, and University of Waterloo. The Confucius Institutes are mainly focused on Chinese language teaching, training of Chinese language teachers, providing information on Chinese society, economy and education, as well as undertaking China studies. The Institutes will serve as centers of China activities, research centers for language teaching and testing, training bases for Chinese language teachers, and windows and bridges to understand China.

3. More partnerships with world-renown universities. Nanjing University strives to establish high-level cooperative education institutions and projects with its international counterparts. Hopefully, 5-8 platforms and bases will be jointly set up to promote “strong-to-strong collaboration.” Series of influential international conferences will be held. “Outstanding Academics Program” will be strengthened, to invite more Nobel Prize laureates, world-class specialists, academicians from the developed countries and the Third World Academy of Sciences. More faculty members will be motivated to publish abroad, especially in the first-class journals. “The International Evaluation of Academic Achievements” mechanism will be developed. The University will seek to join top international academic organizations. Researches, especially the basic research, will deal with the international frontiers to catch up with the world-class ones.

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