

EVALUATING THE OUTCOMES AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE 2025 “CHINESE BRIDGE” GROUP EXCHANGE PROGRAM FOR UKRAINIAN PARTICIPANTS

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Анотація

У роботі проаналізовано результати реалізації програми міжнародного обміну «Китайський міст – 2025», спрямованої на розвиток мовних компетенцій та соціокультурну адаптацію студентів ВНТУ в Ланьчжоуському технологічному університеті. Доведено, що застосування модульної системи навчання «4+1» ефективно сприяє зміцненню міжкультурного діалогу та розширенню стратегічного академічного партнерства між Україною та КНР.

Ключові слова: Китай, Україна, міжнародна академічна мобільність, міжкультурна комунікація, модульна система навчання, українсько-китайське освітнє співробітництво, культура, традиції, можливості.

Abstract

This paper analyses the outcomes of the 2025 "Chinese Bridge" group exchange program aimed at enhancing the language proficiency and sociocultural adaptation of VNTU students at Lanzhou University of Technology. It demonstrates how the "4+1" modular educational system effectively fosters intercultural dialogue and strengthens strategic academic partnerships between Ukraine and China.

Keywords: China, Ukraine, international academic mobility, intercultural communication, modular educational system, Sino-Ukrainian educational cooperation, culture, traditions, opportunities.

Introduction

In today's globalized world, international academic mobility and cultural and educational exchanges play an important role in the development of intercultural communication and the dissemination of knowledge about the languages and cultures of different peoples. One of the effective tools for such cooperation is international educational programs aimed at promoting Chinese language and culture among foreign youth. Such initiatives not only contribute to the improvement of language skills, but also form a broader understanding of the historical, cultural, and social characteristics of China.

Research results

In order to continuously inspire young people from abroad to learn Chinese, deepen their understanding of Chinese language and culture, and promote international Chinese language education and cultural exchange between China and other countries, our university received funding from the China Foreign Language Exchange and Cooperation Centre to conduct the “Chinese Bridge” group exchange program in 2025. Ten teachers and students from the Confucius Institute at Vinnitsa National Technical University in Ukraine visited China on a study tour from September 15 to 28, 2025.

The program aimed to help Ukrainian youth immerse themselves in Chinese culture and customs by systematically exploring the outstanding achievements, profound cultural heritage, and distinctive academic disciplines of Lanzhou University of Technology. It also aimed to promote mutual understanding and friendship between Chinese and Ukrainian youth, expand the university's international influence, and contribute to China's openness strategy and the Belt and Road Initiative.

Significance of the project

1. Serving national strategy

Aligned with China's Belt and Road cultural exchange objectives, the project leverages Gansu's unique geographical and cultural advantages. Through a “language + culture” approach, it presents Ukrainian youth with an authentic, multidimensional, and evolving perspective of China's western regions, forging new bonds of mutual understanding between the two nations.

2. Serving local society

Using language and culture as entry points, the project cultivates Ukrainian youth proficient in Chinese and knowledgeable about China's development. This lays a solid social foundation for deepening bilateral cooperation and establishes a "Gansu Model" for Belt and Road educational collaboration.

3. Deepening inter-university cooperation

Humanistic exchanges will catalyse scientific research collaboration, advancing cooperation between the two universities in fields such as new energy, mechanical engineering, and artificial intelligence.

The research results are based on the participation in the international cultural and educational exchange program "Chinese Bridge" (汉语桥, Hànyǔ Qiáo – Chinese Language Bridge), organized for students from Ukraine. The program was aimed at strengthening cultural and educational cooperation, improving Chinese language proficiency, and deepening participants' understanding of Chinese history and culture.

The project titled "The Yellow River and the Dnipro River: Chinese Language as a Bridge for Dialogue along the Silk Road" was implemented from September 15 to September 28, 2025 and included visits to Beijing, Lanzhou, and Dunhuang. The program combined language learning with cultural immersion and practical activities.

A special feature of the program was the "4+1" modular educational system, which integrated language learning with cultural experience. The modules included: introduction to Lanzhou University of Technology, Chinese language courses, cultural lectures, practical workshops, and cultural excursions.

During the program participants attended Chinese language classes devoted to topics such as travel planning, shopping, Chinese history and geography, and Chinese music. The educational process also included one-to-one communication with Chinese students, which significantly improved speaking skills and intercultural communication.

The program also provided cultural and practical activities, including Chinese martial arts classes, Chinese opera workshops, and traditional dance elements related to Dunhuang culture. Participants had the opportunity to learn how to cook Lanzhou beef noodles, which is an important element of local culinary culture.

A significant part of the program consisted of educational excursions and cultural visits. In Beijing participants visited important historical and cultural sites such as the Forbidden City (故宫, Gùgōng), Tiananmen Square (天安门广场, Tiān'ānmén Guǎngchǎng), the Summer Palace (颐和园, Yíhéyuán) and the Great Wall (长城, Chángchéng). In Lanzhou they explored local landmarks including Zhongshan Bridge (中山桥, Zhōngshān Qiáo) and the Yellow River Mother Sculpture (黄河母亲, Huánghé Mǔqīn). In Dunhuang the group visited historically significant locations such as Mogao Caves (莫高窟, Mògāo Kū), Yangguan Pass (阳关, Yángguān) and Mingsha Mountain and Crescent Spring (鸣沙山月牙泉, Míngshā Shān Yuèyá Quán).

The program concluded with a final presentation titled "China Through My Eyes", where participants shared their impressions and demonstrated the knowledge gained during the program.

Overall, participation in the program contributed to the improvement of Chinese language skills, broadened cultural knowledge, and strengthened intercultural dialogue between Ukrainian and Chinese students.

Conclusions

The program provided participants with opportunities to improve their Chinese language communication skills, expand their knowledge of Chinese history, geography, and cultural traditions, and gain direct experience of Chinese social and academic environments. Interaction with Chinese students and participation in practical cultural activities significantly contributed to the development of intercultural communication and mutual understanding.

Educational excursions to historically and culturally significant locations in Beijing, Lanzhou, and Dunhuang allowed participants to observe important elements of Chinese civilization and cultural heritage in real contexts. This experiential learning strengthened participants' motivation to continue studying the Chinese language and culture.

Overall, the results of the program confirm that international educational exchange initiatives play an important role in strengthening cultural dialogue, expanding academic cooperation, and fostering long-term partnerships between Chinese and Ukrainian educational institutions. Such programs also contribute to the formation of a new generation of young specialists with global outlooks and intercultural competencies.

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