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Barriers to Students' Academic Mobility in Russia

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In the article, the concept of "academic Abstract mobility" is considered in the framework internationalization of higher education as a process of moving participants (students and teachers) of the higher education process from one scientific and educational institution to another in order to exchange experience and acquire additional educational opportunities for a limited period of time or for temporary training. Special attention is paid to students' mobility, which is represented by both internal and external movement of students from one country to another, either between regions of the world or within a region. Information illustrating the dynamics of changes in the quantitative characteristics of international mobility in the country context is presented. Attention is drawn to the factors that affect the academic mobility of undergraduate and graduate students. The study uses statistical, analytical, and sociological methods. The study identified the types of academic mobility preferred by University students. A comparative analysis of the attitude of undergraduate and graduate students to various forms of academic mobility is presented. Differences were found depending on the place of residence. The ratio of students living in students' dormitories and those living with families was compared. It turned out that students who live in dormitories tend to take a more active part in academic mobility programs. Barriers that prevent students from participating in academic mobility programs are analyzed. The role of academic mobility in the formation and development of academic careers and career growth in the country context is revealed.

Keywords Academic Mobility, Barriers, Programmes of Education, Types of Educational Mobility

1. Introduction

Academic mobility and exchanges are not new, but also

that for a long time they contributed to the internationalisation of higher education [1]. The global transition of higher education is characterized by increasing flows of institutions, programmes, students, and scholars as well as the changing relations between universities, governments, and the market. There are more than 2.5 million international students around the world, and this number is estimated to reach 7 million by 2020 [2].

The issue of students' mobility has been widely discussed as part of the internationalisation of higher education processes by many authors [3, 4]. The academic mobility became more frequent and even was considered as "a kind of professional standard in some disciplines, because it helps to diffuse the formal and informal rules prevailing in other countries.

The internationally mobile students were defined by Kelo, Teichler and Wachter as "students who cross national borders for the purpose of, or in the context of, their studies" [5]. Concerning the types of academic mobility, students' mobility can be both an inward and outward movement of students from one country to another either between regions of the world or within a region... Conceptualising students' mobility in higher education has been challenging as students' movement across national borders have sometimes been confused with other concepts like migration and 'brain drains'. But, the duration of stay of international students in the host country can be considered as a determining factor for understanding and using the terms related to students' mobility. Accordingly, students' mobility can be for a short period of time as within 'exchange programmes' or it can be for the whole programme as 'study abroad'. Thus, international students' mobility can be described as students that cross borders and stay in another country to take either short- or long-term training in higher education either within a region, intra-regional or among countries across different regions inter-regional [6].

Purpose of	Institutional form of mobility					
Mobility	Free-movers	State scholarship programmes	Inter-university co-operation programmes	Agent support		
Degree mobility	Degree mobility of all levels: bachelor, master, 5-year specialist programmers, PhD and post-doctoral programmes		2 1 2	Degree mobility of all levels: bachelor, master, 5-year specialist programmers, PhD and post-doctoral programmes		

Table 1. Integral classification of student long-term mobility forms [8]

Table 2. Integral classification of student short-term mobility forms [8]

Purpose of	Institutional form of mobility			
Mobility	Free-movers	State scholarship programmes	Inter-university co-operation programmes	Agent support
Credit mobility		Credit mobility in partner universities, network university programmes	Multilateral joint and double degree programmes of all levels	
Non-degree mobility	Summer/Winter schools, short trainings and internships, language courses	Summer/Winter schools, short trainings and internships, language courses	Summer/Winter schools, short trainings and internships, language courses based on inter-university partnership agreements	Internships and language courses

Students move from one country to another for a full degree, but also to a credit mobility, whereby students spend a period (in general between 3 and 12 months) of their study in another country and transfer their earned credits to their home degree [7].

Vatolkina, Starozhuk and Fedotkina described the integral classification forms of students' mobility (Table 1, Table 2) [8].

The table represents the two types of mobility: long-term mobility and short-term mobility. Degree mobility can be considered within long-term mobility; credit and non-degree mobility can be considered as short-term mobility.

In a broad sense, the term "academic mobility" means the process of moving of participants (students of teachers) in a higher education process from one research and educational institution to another, in order to exchange experience and acquire additional educational opportunities within some limited period of time or with the purpose of temporary teaching.

The definition of academic migration was completed over time. Academic mobility is usually perceived and discussed as a positive phenomenon - as a prerequisite for building a competitive and successful economy and quality science. Academic mobility has now become essential to building a successful academic career in many research domains.

Mobility is now regarded as a central feature of academic careers by research institutions, policies as well as individual researchers. It is usually discussed in positive terms, both at the policy and individual level. Often regarded as 'the fifth freedom' in the EU (together with the movement of people, capital, goods and services), academic mobility is seen as one of the prerequisites for building competitive science, and relatedly for building a knowledge - and innovation-based economy [9, 10].

At the individual level, academic mobility is associated

with improving qualifications, developing competences, 'broadening horizons' and building personal networks [10, 11]. In many fields, mobility has become a necessary precondition for the successful launch of an academic career and for career progression. This trend has slowly started to expand from the natural and technical sciences to the social sciences and humanities [12].

For higher education institutions, a high level of mobility among students—incoming and outgoing—is a sign of prestige and quality [13, 14], not in the least because internationalisation nowadays is an important indicator in global rankings [15].

Many countries have already successfully implemented many programmes to promote academic mobility, including such programmes as Erasmus Mundus, DAAD, Tempus, Fulbright Programme, etc. [16, 17]. As a rule, the implementation of such programmes allows participating countries to receive positive socio-economic, scientific and demographic effects. Taking into account the huge potential of Russian higher education, the formation and implementation of such a programme (with amendments to the realities of Russian society and the state of the Russian science) will expand the boundaries and create unique opportunities for the development of academic mobility in Russia [18].

In the European Union (EU), international students' mobility as part of the home degree has steadily increased in the past years [19]. Erasmus is the largest mobility student exchange scheme for higher education in Europe and the flagship programme of the EU [20].

Souto-Otero, Huisman, Beerkens, de Wit and Vujić highlighted the barriers that higher education students face in relation to studying abroad [20]. Most research has been carried out on the problems and barriers faced by those students who go abroad rather than on the problems of those who do not [21-23]. Neither has there been a sufficient focus in research on the differences in students'

achievements between participants and non-participants. Research has shown that many students, interested in and actually signing up for Erasmus, eventually do not participate [24-26].

The factors or barriers explored in the study of Souto-Otero, Huisman, Beerkens, de Wit and Vujić were of five types: financial barriers, barriers related to higher education system comparability, awareness and information barriers, personal background, and social background [20]. More than 20 individual barriers related to those five dimensions were highlighted by the research of Souto-Otero, Huisman, Beerkens, de Wit and Vujić [20].

The lack of participation in the Erasmus + academic mobility seems to be more a process of self-exclusion on the part of the students, than of selection on the part of the institutions, as suggested by Teichler [4]. Therefore, it is important to know the obstacles faced by students who decide not to participate, since it has been detected that the importance of these barriers seems to change from country to country [27].

In addition, there are important differences in participation depending on the scope of study, being the social sciences, business and law degrees, those that have a higher percentage of mobility, compared to health sciences and services, which would occupy the 4th place according to 2013-14 data [26].

The requirement to study in a language other than English can be a serious barrier [28]. Some researchers indicated that insufficiently good grades to study abroad can be a problem, as well as the lack of knowledge about what is involved in the exchange, lack of students' confidence, the inflexibility of degrees, and concerns about eligibility for loans and allowances. Sanchez, Fornerino and Zhang suggest that students had the following barriers to study abroad: family, financial, psychological (related to aspects such as feelings for students' own country and fear of new places), and social (related to friends and family)—although experienced these to varying degrees [29].

A sense of the place in which we live is often related to our sense of personal identity since much of what we are depends upon where we live and the experiences that we have had there [30, 31]. Consequently, individuals usually develop very strong sentimental and emotional attachments to the places in which they spend their lives [32]. This attachment has also been referred to as "Place Identity" [31]; this term describes the relationship between people and places by emphasising the role of place in moulding the individual's sense of self-identity.

Community sentiments of attachment and identity increase with years of residence [33, 34], and vary at different times of life. A general finding is that people who have resided in the community the longest tend to have higher scores of attachment and Place Identity [35]. This seems to be entirely logical.

In this sense, residential mobility (particularly voluntary mobility) may represent an adaptive strategy for modifying some aspects of one's life and identity. Moreover, residential mobility during late adolescence and young adulthood may be a contributing factor to the development of autonomy from the family [36, 37].

In the context of increasing globalization, national education and science systems are becoming more open to the world and contacts with foreign partners. The Russian system of education and science is no exception [38-40].

Russian universities develop different forms of co-operation with foreign universities, the students can take part in exchange programmes between universities, take part in international educational projects, or join a Russian mobility programme of the Ministry of Education. The legal basis for the functioning of this academic mobility programme are bilateral agreements on scientific and educational co-operation of Russia.

The Russian government supports the outgoing mobility in the following forms:

- 1. "Global education" is a project started in 2014 and is aimed at the development of outbound student mobility. The list of foreign partner universities of the programme includes more than 288 of the best universities from 32 countries. Participants of the programme receive financial support from the state for the full payment for the entire course of study, accommodation and living costs.
- 2. The programme of scholarships of the President of the Russian Federation to study abroad offers 40 scholarships to bachelor and master degree students and 60 scholarships to PhD students to study abroad for 12 months at a foreign University.
- The Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation provides scholarships for students, postgraduates, university research and teaching staff annually for short courses or internships at the foreign universities in the framework of inter-governmental agreements of the Russian Federation.
- 4. The Academic Mobility Project of the Mikhail Prokhorov Foundation offers the opportunity for senior students, postgraduate students and young teachers under 35 years to take part in scientific conferences and seminars, work in archives and libraries, internships in scientific institutions abroad for a period of not more than 2 weeks. The fund supports the participants from the Ural, Siberian and far Eastern Federal districts, Voronezh, Lipetsk, Tambov, Ryazan region, Perm Krai and Togliatti.
- Student mobility can be supported by those network universities that implement joint educational programmes with Russian universities.

The objectives of this article are:

 determination of the types of academic mobility preferred by university students;

- analysis of the current situation of academic mobility in the Russian Federation based on the implementation of the programme of academic mobility (data from the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation);
- Identifying barriers to academic mobility among undergraduate and graduate students at technical university (Moscow State University of Food Production).
- Identifying the differences according to Place Identity (PI) residential conditions (native vs. temporary residents).

2. Method

2.1. Background Information

The results of the implementation of the programme of outgoing academic mobility on the basis of information were provided on the website of the Ministry of Education of the Russian Federation. The programmes of academic mobility provided by the Ministry of Education together with exchange programmes of partner Universities are the main forms of the educational mobility at the university.

The experiment was conducted at Moscow State University of Food Production. Information on academic mobility was presented on the university website, but it was obvious that not all students were familiar with this information. For first-year students, this information was new, and older students were already fully or partially aware of it. Some of the students were native students born in Moscow or the surroundings, the other students came from different areas of Russia and were currently resident in Moscow during their period of study.

Place Identity was assessed by the item developed by Pretty, Chipuer and Bramston [41]. The confirmation was used to identify the identity for the home place.

2.2. Participants

291 students of Moscow State University of Food Production were surveyed, 183 of them are the students of a Bachelor programme of study (111 – females, 72 – males) and 108 students are on their Master Programme (50 females, 58 males). The directions of study of the students related to food technology and service. All the students agreed to answer the questions voluntarily and anonymously.

2.3. Materials

The participants were asked to answer the questions about their age, gender, degree course and year of university without indicating their names:

1) Please, indicate the information about yourself:

- You are a student of a Bachelor programme, the year of study 1, 2, 3, 4 (please, underline)
- You are a student of a Master Programme, year of study 1, 2 (please, underline)

Gender – male, female (please, underline)

- Is Moscow your native city? Yes, No (please, underline)
- Do you live in a hostel?
- 2) Do you know about academic mobility programmes?
- 3) Are you interested in a short-term foreign language study programme? (language study course)
- 4) Are you interested in a short-term programme of study in the specialty? (credit mobility programme)
- 5) Are you interested in the programme of long-term training in the specialty? (a full degree course)
- 6) Do you know about the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System ECTS?
- 7) Do you think that your level of English will be relevant for study abroad?

Do you have the international certificate confirming the level of your English language?

What other languages, apart of English, can you use effectively? (i.e. fluent)

- 8) Would you like to participate in the academic mobility programme?
- 9) Indicate which factors of studying overseas are important for you to make a decision on studying abroad. The degree of importance of the factor:
- 1 Not at all important, 2 low importance, 3 moderately important, 4 –very important, 5 –extremely important.

Items were constructed on the basis of a literature review and items in earlier surveys.

10) Think about your native home residence and please indicate your agreement with the following statement:

"I would rather live in a different town / city. This is not the best place for me" using five levels of agreement, that the statement is truthful: 1 = definitely untrue; 2 = untrue; 3 = undecided; 4 = true; 5 = very true

The investigations concerning the effect of gender on the students' answers were not conducted.

2.4. Analysis

Arithmetical mean is counted for each question, standard deviation and standard error are written in brackets.

$$t = \frac{M_1 - M_2}{\sqrt{m_1^2 + m_2^2}}$$

 M_1 is an arithmetical mean for the first group. M_2 is an arithmetical mean for the second group.

 m_1 is a standard error for the first group. m_2 is a standard error for the second group.

If 't' is small, the null hypothesis (of no difference between the participants' performance in the two conditions) is accepted.

If 't' is large, the null hypothesis is rejected (two sets of data only partially overlap which means that the independent variable had a noticeable effect on the participants).

Critical value of 't' for 183 participants is 1.973. Critical value of 't' for 108 participants is 1.984. Critical

value of probability is 0.05.

3. Results

In 2016, the Ministry of Education and Science of Russia sent 528 people for training and short-term internships (50% more than in 2015) to 21 countries. Table 3 presents information illustrating the dynamics of changes in the quantitative characteristics of international mobility.

Table 4 represents the attitude of the students to different forms of participation in educational programmes of mobility.

Table 3. The distribution of the approved number of applications by country (the data is from http://im.interphysica.su/)

No	Country	Applications approved in 2014 г.	Applications approved in 2015 Γ.	Applications approved in 2016 г.	Total amounts
1	China	129	141	175	445
2	Hungary	7	8	103	118
3	Serbia	23	31	27	81
4	Czech	11	22	45	78
5	Norway	25	13	34	72
6	Slovakia	12	30	30	72
7	Vietnam	12	18	22	52
8	Romania	13	16	18	47
9	Italy	16	13	16	45
10	Bulgaria	15	13	11	39
11	Denmark	14	12	8	34
12	Belgium	11	6	6	23
13	Mongolia	6	3	14	23
14	Austria	3	5	6	14
15	France	3	3	6	12
16	Turkey	0	10	0	10
17	Kuwait	2	3	4	9
18	Poland	3	0	0	3
19	Brunei Darussalam	0	1	1	2
20	Mexico	0	1	0	1
21	Slovenia	0	1	0	1

Table 4. The preferable forms of participation in the forms of academic migration (it was possible to indicate more than one option)

	Students of the	Students of the	Students of the	Students of the
	Bachelor programme,	Bachelor programme,	Master programme,	Master programme, 2
	1-2 year of study, %	3-4 year of study, %	1 year of study, %	year of study, %
The number of students interested				
in a short-term foreign language	33	15	16	11
study course				
The number of students interested				
in a short-term credit mobility	54	43	31	22
programme (up to a year)				
The number of students interested	32	47	53	22
in a full degree course)	32	47	33	22
The number of students who are	4	27	39	42
aware about ECTS	4	21	39	42
The number of students				
considering participation in the	86	83	73	56
programme				

The language	Bachelor students, %/ The number of students with international Certificate	Master students, %/ The number of students with international Certificate	
English	15/5	22 /3	
German	6 /1	6 /-	
French	3/-	2/-	
Italian	2 /-	1 /-	

Table 5. The answers of the students of Bachelor and Master programme about their knowledge of the foreign languages (Do you think that your level of English will be relevant for study abroad?)

The different factors of attitude to obstacles and barriers considered by the students of Bachelor programme are represented in Table 5.

4. Discussion

The table 3 shows different countries offering different amount of places for Russian students.

Table 3 shows the distribution of quantitative indicators of international exchanges by country. China is leading by a large margin (175 internships), Hungary is in second place (103 approved internships). The following 6 places are occupied by the rest of Europe (136 internships). The third place is occupied by the Czech Republic (45 internships), the fourth - Norway (34 internships), the fifth - Slovakia (29 internships + one extension), the sixth - Serbia (27 internships). In total across the countries of Europe - 312 internships. In the European countries of the former socialist camp 236 internships were conducted.

According to the Ministry of Education, the largest competition is in France (4.75), in Italy (3.38), Austria (2.8), Belgium (2.17), Norway (1.87). A competition for more than 1 person per seat took place only for two European former socialist countries: Slovakia (1.88) and Serbia (1.2). Separate situation with China: the largest number of applications submitted (158) and the competition of 1.22 people per seat. The last 4 places divided as follows: Mongolia (0.25), Hungary (0.24), Vietnam (0.22), Poland (0.08) - all former socialist countries.

Thus, it can be concluded that the co-operation programmes are offered mainly by the countries of the former socialist camp, at the same time as the social need is applicable to internships in the countries of Western Europe. An entirely separate situation exists in China: a large number of proposed places and applications are combined here.

There is an imbalance between the proposals in the framework of the sectoral programme of academic mobility and demand from the educational community of Russia.

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation provides opportunities for the citizens of the Russian Federation to receive educational services (undergo short-term internships) in foreign countries. The purpose is to gain teaching and research experience in foreign countries.

The growing number of students worldwide is the main trend in higher education in recent decades, which has proven that it is public good. In the 70s of the last century, there were 28.5 million students in the three-level education system in the world, of which about 62% were men. By 2000, the number of students had grown to 100 million. Since the beginning of the 21st century, education in the world has been experiencing the most noticeable period of growth in popularity in its history. By 2005, the number of students had grown to 139 million people, by 2010 to 181 million people, and in 2012 there were already 196 million students. According to the forecasts of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, by 2025 the number of students of the three-tier education system will increase to 263 million people [42].

The internationalisation of higher education is a political task of the governments of the countries concerned. Internationalisation stimulates the quality of education, the diversity of education and the free exchange of educational resources. This, in turn, generates opportunities for students to experience the 'global village' together with an appreciation for other cultures – one of the many 'hidden' benefits [43].

As in the case of higher education, scientific work is also undergoing a process of internationalisation. This is facilitated by the creation of regional research clusters and international competition for funding research activities. Many global challenges, such as climate change and epidemic diseases, require global solutions. Therefore, scientists around the world are expanding co-operation in an attempt to create a knowledge-based society.

For the effective implementation of plans for the scientific integration of the world community, an important factor is the availability of conditions for the implementation and development of academic mobility. After all, it becomes possible to create a single scientific space and efficient use of educational resources [44].

The results of the Table 4 show that short-term language courses are more popular among students of the Bachelor programme of the 1 and 2 years of study (33%). These students study English during the first two years of education, they are interested in the English language and are looking for an opportunity to improve it. There is a rather sharp decrease in the amount who wish to practice

their language proficiency abroad while the other forms of academic mobility became more popular. A short-term credit mobility programme (up to a year) attracts the students of the Bachelor programme more than students of the students of Master programme (54% and 43%). This type of mobility is popular, because it allows the students to continue the education in the home institute while taking part in the programme of educational mobility. The students indicated that short-time programmes (from 3 months to a year) are more interesting. Such programmes are offered by foreign universities, sometimes the period of study varies from one term to a year. The latter is true for Master programmes in foreign universities that offer the students to take one year of an educational programme.

A full degree course is less popular among the students of the years 1 and 2 of study on the Bachelor programme, because the programme means the transfer to a different country and the students have not yet developed new circles of friends. Usually the first year of study is a very challenging time and students are less eager to consider education abroad especially for any education programme needing a long period of time.

The data show that the students have very little information about the credit system and ECTS.

The system of credits is used in Russian universities but very few students, especially at their first years of study, know about the purpose of the system. The students of the first year are less aware about it (14%), while the Master students have more information about it (42%).

The young people are curious and wish to take different opportunities in life.

A huge number of students (86%) indicated their interest in the programmes of educational mobility. Their interest keeps relatively high through the course of study and only the students of the 2nd year of the Master level of study showed their lower intention to pursue the programme of mobility.

The table 5 shows the results of self-assessment of the levels of foreign language and the expectancy that this level will be relevant for education abroad. The majority of students of Bachelor and Master levels of education indicated that they knew English well (15% and 22%), German (6% and 6%), French (3% and 2%) and Italian (2% and 1%). Very few students had the international Certificate.

Table 6 shows the factors that are important for undergraduate students (native students and students-

resident in Moscow) for education abroad. The data showed that the most important factor for all students is the financial issue (4.82 and 4.89). Also, important factors are a requirement to study in a language other than English (4.73 and 4.32), the level of mastering English (4.71 and 4.73), information about the programme and the university (4.61 and 4.62).

However, there is a difference in attitude towards learning from native students and students - resident in Moscow. The separation from the family and friends and requirement to study in a language other than English were more important for visiting students. The existing work in Russia is more important for non-Muscovites than citizens of Moscow.

Table 7 shows the factors of importance students of the Master program. The most important factors are integration of programmes at home and abroad (4,94 and 4,95), financial issues (4,86 and 4,82), information about the programme and the university (4,90 and 4,92), the level of mastering English (4,92 and 4,94) and requirement to study in a language other than English (4,76 and 4,35). There is a different attitude of the students to any requirement to study in a language other than English (T=2,066). It shows that mobile students from other regions look at this barrier as not so difficult. They indeed agree to study to start a Master course in China with a special pre-programme language course. A Master's degree programme in China usually involves learning Chinese for one year, and such instructions are in Chinese.

Undergraduate education is also possible with knowledge of Chinese, and, as China continues to develop, fluency of the two major languages will be a valuable asset to those students who successfully gain fluency.

The non-resident students highlighted the importance to the quality of education and the university's rating, but at the same time, they are ready to choose a programme from the range of programmes offered. A number of training programmes are designed to study the national language (Norwegian, Mongolian, Vietnamese) and provide for the continuation of the training programme that had been started in Russia.

The Place Identity related to the home town was higher among non-native students than native (Table 8). It means that non-resident students are more mobile, they are less attached to their families, because they developed their independence when they left home for a new place of living in Russia.

Table 6. The factors of importance for the students of Bachelor programme (Home students vs. Students of residential mobility)

		The factor of importance (bachelor programme) Students from home town (n=109)	Students of residential mobility (n=74)	Student's t-test p=0,05
1	Financial issues	4,82 (1,06; 0,10)	4,89 (1,03; 0,12)	0,448<1,973
2	The county of study	4,42 (1,11; 0,11)	4,38 (1,02; 0,12)	0,246<1,973
3	Integration of programmes at home and abroad	4,35 (1,07; 0,10)	4,37 (1,12; 0,13)	0,122<1,973
4	Accommodation abroad	4,32 (0,99; 0,09)	4,36 (1,05; 0,12)	0,267<1,973
5	Information about the programme and the university	4,61 (1,12; 0,11)	4,62 (0,97; 0,11)	0,064<1,973
6	Requirement to study in a language other than English	4,73 (1,03; 0,10)	4,32 (1,06; 0,12)	2,625>1,973
7	Personal reasons:			
	The existing work in Russia	2,43 (1,07; 0,10)	4,37 (0,97; 0,11)	13,049>1,973
	Family (separation from the family)	4,56 (1,10; 0,11)	3,14 (1,07; 0,12)	8,723>1,973
	Separation from friends	3,21 (1,02; 0,10)	2,82 (0,99; 0,12)	3,905>1,973
8	The level of mastering English	4,71 (0,98; 0,09)	4,73 (1,06; 0,12)	0,133<1,973

Table 7. The factors of importance for the students of Master programme (Home students vs. Students of residential mobility)

	The factor of importance (master programme) Students from home town (n=64)	Students of residential mobility (n=44)	Student's t-test p=0,05
Financial issues	4,86 (1,01; 0,13)	4,82 (0,98; 0,15)	0,202<1,984
The county of study	4,11 (1,12; 0,14)	4,02 (1,06; 0,16)	0,423<1,984
Integration of programmes at home and abroad	4,94 (1,05; 0,13)	4,95 (1,02; 0,15)	0,050<1,984
Accommodation abroad	4,31 (1,07; 0,13)	4,30 (1,01; 0,15)	0,050<1,984
Information about the programme and the university	4,90 (0,99; 0,12)	4,92 (1,05; 0,16)	0,100<1,984
Requirement to study in a language other than English	4,76 (1,03; 0,13)	4,35 (1,01; 0,15)	2,066>1,984
Personal reasons:			
The existing work in Russia	4,51 (1,01; 0,13)	4,92 (1,07; 0,16)	1,989>1,984
Family (separation from the family)	3,49 (1,09; 0,14)	3,06 (0,97; 0,15)	2,096>1,984
Separation from friends	4,83 (1,08; 0,14)	4,38 (1,12; 0,17)	2,043>1,984
The level of mastering English	4,92 (1,03; 0,13)	4,94 (1,10; 0,17)	0,093<1,984

Table 8. The index of Place Identity between Bachelor and Master students

The change of the place of Identity between Bachelor students						
Place Identity (PI)	The factor of importance (bachelor programme) Students from home town (n=109)	Students of residential mobility (n=74)	Student's t-test p=0,05			
	2,28 (0,93; 0,09)	2,61 (0,95; 0,11)	2,322>1,973			
The change of the place	The change of the place of Identity between Master students					
Place Identity (PI)	The factor of importance (bachelor programme) Students from home town (n=109)	Students of residential mobility (n=74)	Student's t-test p=0,05			
	1,68 (0,98; 0,12)	2,85 (0,96; 0,14)	6,345>1,984			

It was important to look at the fears and apprehension of students, which influence their decision to take, or/not to take, part in the educational programme abroad. The main reasons hindering the development of international educational co-operation in this area are the lack of information, their lack of confidence about the level of the English language that will be relevant for academic purposes, and the need for knowledge of national languages.

To increase participation, the focus should be on improving information about the international programmes and about the different sides, concerning education abroad.

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