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### Features of Choice of Students at British Universities

The article discusses the features of selecting students from different countries of British education. The results of the survey of students of the University of Reading (United Kingdom), conducted during the period of language training in the internship program «Bolashak». Questions included the following subjects: benefits of learning, professional skills after graduation from the University, the quality of teaching, methods of teaching, employment opportunities, attractiveness and career prospects of British education. Conducting this survey authors defined the reasons for learning at a British University: innovative teaching founded on the latest research, to get a Master degree in a short time, improving English language representatives for other countries, to get skills such as communication, social, critical and logical thinking, also convenience of the country, wide range of courses to choose from and appointed request for highly qualified teachers.

**Keywords:** the British education, reasons for choice, University of Reading, Bolashak scholarship.

Е.С. Оналбеков, Н.С. Далабаева, К.А. Сарбасова  
**Британдық білімді таңдау ерекшеліктері**

Мақалада ҚР Президентінің «Болашак» бағдарламасы бойынша педагогтардың кәсіби мамандықтарын жетілдіру кезіндегі тілдік курстың өтілгені айтылған. Ғылыми тағылымдамадан өту барысында Ұлыбритания елінің Реддинг қаласынан тілдік курсты жетік игерумен қоса, өздігінен жасалған жұмыстың нәтижесі баяндалған. Студенттердің британдық университетті таңдаудың ерекшеліктері талқыланып, нәтижелері айқындалған. Сұрақтар келесі тақырыптарды қарастырады: оқудың мүмкіндіктері, университетті бітіру кезеңіндегі кәсіби құзыреттіліктері қалыптасуы, оқытудың сапасы, оқыту әдістері, британдық білім алған кездегі жұмысқа орналасу және мансапты өсу мүмкіндіктері.

**Түйін сөздер:** британдық білім, таңдау себептері, Реддинг университеті, Болашак бағдарламасы.

Е.С. Оналбеков, Н.С. Далабаева, К.А. Сарбасова  
**Особенности выбора студентами британского образования**

В статье рассматриваются особенности выбора студентами разных стран британского образования. В работе представлены результаты анкетирования студентов университета Реддинга (Великобритания), проведенного в период прохождения языковой подготовки в рамках научной стажировки по программе «Болашак». Вопросы охватывали следующие тематики: преимущества обучения, формирование профессиональных качеств после окончания университета, качество преподавания, методы преподавания, возможности трудоустройства и карьерного роста после получения британского образования. В ходе исследования авторами были обнаружены следующие причины для обучения студентов в британском университете: инновационное преподавание, основанное на новейших научных исследованиях, получение степени магистра наук за короткий промежуток времени, улучшение уровня английского языка для зарубежных студентов, формирование коммуникативных навыков общения и критического мышления, широкий выбор курсов для обучения, высокие требования к квалификации преподавателей, комфортные условия для проживания.

**Ключевые слова:** британское образование, причины для выбора, Университет Реддинга, программа «Болашак».

## Introduction

These days competitive professionals are required because of the developments of science in social life. Over the past 20 years, many talented young students have received knowledge of the program «Bolashak» International Scholarship of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan at elite universities in different countries such as the USA, UK, Germany, Japan, France and others, and they have used their skills in different areas.

This year many teachers from universities in Kazakhstan, such as Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, with the support of university leaders, have undertaken a 6 month research internship with the English Language Enhancement Programme in the University of Reading in the United Kingdom. Topics for the coursework were different and our team investigated features of choice of students at a British university.

Nowadays British universities occupy a leading position in the world ranking and the title is the most elite schools. The British system of education gives deep academic knowledge and at the same time allows you to gain practical skills for future jobs. Therefore, many foreign students choose to study in the UK rather than in the comparable universities and colleges in other countries.

The aim of the research presented in this project was to explore and identify the reasons why students chose to study at a British University.

Specifically, within the context of higher education in the UK, the objectives of this research were to know features and opportunities of education in a British University and to explore students views related to learning at a British University.

Every university in the world has to face the actual problem of increasing their skills in the education market and appeal to students. The tradition of British universities to attract foreign students has been around for a very long time. During the study we aimed to explore and identify the reasons for students who selected a British university. To achieve this goal, we conducted a survey among the students of the University of Reading, and did an analysis of their answers. The research involved using a questionnaire about education. It consisted of 10 questions. Our questions included the following subjects: benefits of learning, professional skills after graduation from the University, the quality of teaching, methods of

teaching, employment opportunities, attractiveness and career prospects of British education.

According to an analysis of the responses it can be concluded that UK universities attract a large number of foreign students because of the high demand for English-language education in the world and their excellent reputation for research and teaching. The survey shows that British universities are most popular choice for many foreign students.

The objective of this research set out to explore and identify the reasons for choosing a British University and this was implemented through the collection and analysis of empirical data.

The subject of the study was the higher education system in the example of the University of Reading.

The title of the course work was chosen to identify the advantages of British education.

Main body. The written survey was conducted in the capacity of questionnaires consisting of 10 questions. The main question was «Why do students choose British university»? Sample questionnaires are illustrated in the appendix at the end of the survey.

The working timetable conducting the survey was such: compiling the questionnaire and conducting the survey lasted for 5 days including re-consideration of issues. The survey was conducted among Master degree students of the University of Reading who came from different countries such as China, Japan, Korea, Ghana, Malaysia, Taiwan, Cyprus and local students too.

Most research work was conducted at the library. During the process there were a few problems. Students were sitting an exam when we conducted the research so they helped by answering in a short time and we could not get much information about their views.

Analysis of student's answers proved that a British university is one of the best centres of education in the world. The main advantage of learning at a British University was defined and reasons for choosing a British university is shown below: training in different areas, for example, to take a master degree, convenience of the country, sufficient bibliographical and literary sources, improving English language, excellent price for British students and support for research work [1].

Also after graduating from university students will expect a lot of skills in different areas of education. The students who helped by answering the questionnaires will expect such skills as:

the skill of working independently, good interpersonal communication skills, describing skills, critical and logical thinking, abilities of analyzing professional questions, thinking international vision, team working in future professional work, explaining different difficult problems in English and improving English language in specialist areas of educational terminology.

The quality of teaching at the University of Reading is based on students' responsibility for their own learning progress especially for those who learn in the business school [2].

The students prefer teaching methods such as: interactive method, analyzing questions by groups, coursework, discussions and dialogue [3].

Most of the students of the University of Reading think that the university gives the best education. Besides that, the tutorials during the sessions are very helpful to further their studies. Distinct from other countries in the field of education is the self-study of students at all levels and also the teaching mode and cultural difference. British universities recognize and respect qualifications of levels that are respected and valued all over the world and they offer a multicultural experience for the students. British Universities are very successful in offering one of the best educations including lots of tutorials, independent learning and a different teaching style.

The main reasons for students' attraction to British universities are the fees and a wide range of courses to choose. The fees are cheaper than the school fee in America. The English environment and culture attracted so many students interest and they have considered them to be full value. Therefore

England attracts students from Europe and abroad. Four attractions are defined as: fees, wide range of courses to choose, British culture and environment. In summary, referring to figure 1 and figure 2 the charts show the percentage of reasons for students choosing a British university and their preferred teaching methods.

The pie chart shows percentage of students who chose a British university in 2012. On the right illustrate 6 reasons for choosing a British university. Almost 50 per cent of learners chose University of Reading for their elite and popular education.

Another important reason for choosing is the skills given, nearly 25 per cent. The percentage of students who chose a wide range of courses is exactly 10 per cent. Less than 10 percent of students considered the opportunity for realization of research. The percentage of students who chose the University of Reading for convenience of the town was almost 5 per cent. Five per cent of students want to get a master degree after their bachelor's degree.

The bar chart shows learners prefer 4 learning methods in 2013. The vertical axis is amount of students and the horizontal axis are teaching methods at a British university. Similar number of students, exactly 50 per cent chose 3 teaching methods such as: interactive, group work and discussion. The lowest number of students just 10 per cent chose dialogue learning methods.

Almost all of the students who enrolled in the University of Reading are aware of independent work. Therefore, students from the first day persistently engaged with their subjects.

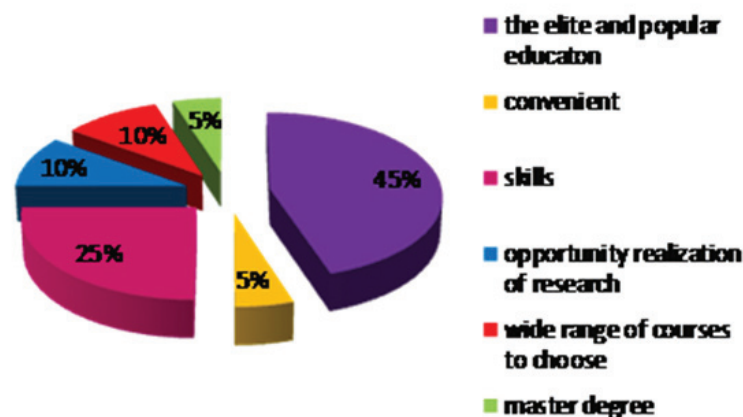


Figure 1 – The main reasons for choosing a British university (University of Reading), 2012-2013



Figure 2 – Students prefer teaching methods, 2013, (a British university)

### Conclusion

The students at the University of Reading believed in their skills. Learners will know their own experience and how to use the quality knowledge for their professional specialization after graduating from university. Therefore they evaluate the quality of teaching of British university very high and recommend it to other students.

Conducting this survey we defined the reasons for learning at a British University: innovative

teaching founded on the latest research, to get a Master degree in a short time, improving English language representatives for other countries, to get skills such as communication, social, critical and logical thinking, also convenience of the country, wide range of courses to choose from and appointed request for highly qualified teachers. Everybody, who graduated from an academic course successfully, can get a Master degree in 1 year instead of 2 years. It is one of the benefits for choosing a British university.

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