

DOUBLE DEGREE PROGRAMS AS A TOOL FOR INTERNATIONALIZATION OF ENGINEERING EDUCATION

Prytychenko H., Meshkov D.

National Technical University “Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute”, Kharkiv

The internationalization of technical education remains a key strategic goal for modern universities, particularly in the context of increasing global academic integration. By integrating elements of international study, curriculum harmonization, and intercultural experience, double degree programs have emerged as a powerful pathway for fostering globally oriented engineering education. They not only open doors to academic exchange but also cultivate the adaptability and cross-border competencies essential for today's professionals.

In the last twenty years, institutions of higher education across Europe, Asia, North America, and—more recently—Ukraine have actively integrated double degree initiatives into their international development agendas, recognizing their value in expanding academic cooperation and student mobility. These programs enable students to study at two universities simultaneously, obtain two official diplomas, follow harmonized curricula, gain practical academic and cultural experience abroad. In engineering education, such programs support not only academic mobility but also the alignment of technical standards, innovation ecosystems, assessment formats, and qualification requirements. In addition, they foster professional growth for teaching staff, stimulate joint research, contribute to the modernization of curricula and teaching methodologies.

The DSG2 program (Deutschsprachige Studiengänge 2), implemented jointly by NTU “KhPI” and Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg (Germany), is a strong example of a sustainable and content-rich international double degree initiative. The DSG2 program has proven particularly valuable under martial law in Ukraine, when many academic initiatives are under threat. Thanks to its flexibility and strong institutional support, DSG2 allows students to continue their education abroad while maintaining academic ties with their home university and preparing to return and apply their knowledge in Ukraine. The program serves not only an educational role, but also a social and integrative one, helping to preserve and develop the country's intellectual capital.

The experience of implementing double degree programs such as DSG2 clearly demonstrates that they are not only a tool of internationalization, but also a mechanism for building resilience in higher education systems during times of crisis and instability. Looking ahead, these educational models have the potential to shape a new cohort of Ukrainian specialists—professionals with a global outlook, strong competitiveness, and meaningful engagement in both national and European academic and research ecosystems.

References

1. URL: <https://www.duz.de/beitrag/!/id/1518/von-der-stange-passt-nicht> (дата звернення: 17.04.2023).
2. URL: <https://doi.org/10.6017/ihe.2011.62.8533> (дата звернення: 26.04.2025).