



Voronezh N.N. Burdenko State Medical University,
Ministry of Healthcare of the Russian Federation

Internationalization of medical education: Voronezh medical university in the context of global trends and perspectives



Anna V. Karpova, Candidate of Sciences in Medicine, Director of
International Institute of Medical Education and Cooperation,
Associate Professor of the Department of Normal Physiology

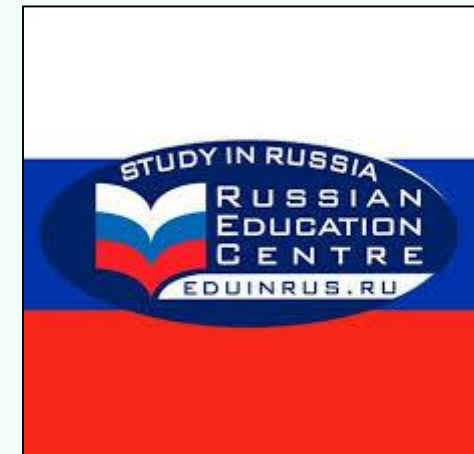
Kirill A. Riaskin, 6-year student of the Pediatric Faculty

Recently, education both in Russia and abroad has acquired an international character, which, according to experts, is due to objective reasons for the economic and political situation in the world. The development of the export potential of higher education is recognized as one of the most important strategic directions of the state policy of Russia.



The most important strategic directions

- increasing competitiveness of Russian specialists at the international level;
- improving quality of the Russian education and increasing its prestige;
- formation of a multicultural environment conducive to the development of peaceful relations between countries and the expansion of international cooperation.



There are objective reasons that education is becoming international in nature globally.

Academic and professional requirements for graduates of higher educational institutions increasingly reflect the processes of globalization of societies, economies and labor markets around the world, and higher education should ensure training of specialists to meet the requirements of the present-day situation.

Experts state that these requirements include not only academic and professional knowledge, but also multilingualism, as well as social and intercultural skills and attitudes.



It is reported in the “Internationalization of Higher Education: Study” published by European Parliament Directorate-General for Internal Policies that, despite the currently deepening challenges of an economic, social and cultural nature, such as the financial crisis, adverse demographic changes, immigration, ethnic and religious tensions, the internationalization of higher education has an “optimistic outlook”.

Improving, enhancing the international mobility of students, international research cooperation and strategic partnerships are recognized as priority areas of activity that have a definite advantage in the modern era.

Development of the export potential of higher education is recognized as one of the most important strategic directions of the state policy of Russia.

The main goal of exporting education is to implement measures to improve education marketing, increase the level of training and social adaptation of foreign students in Russia. The export of education provides interpersonal communications, allows expanding cultural contacts, attracts specialists with creative thinking to the national economy.

The Russian Federation has recently been able to expand its presence in the global market for educational services.

According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in 2016 the share of Russia in this sector amounted to about 7%, this is the sixth place after the United States, Great Britain, China, France, Australia.

Regarding the number of foreign students, the Russian Federation ranks fifth in the world as UNESCO has estimated.

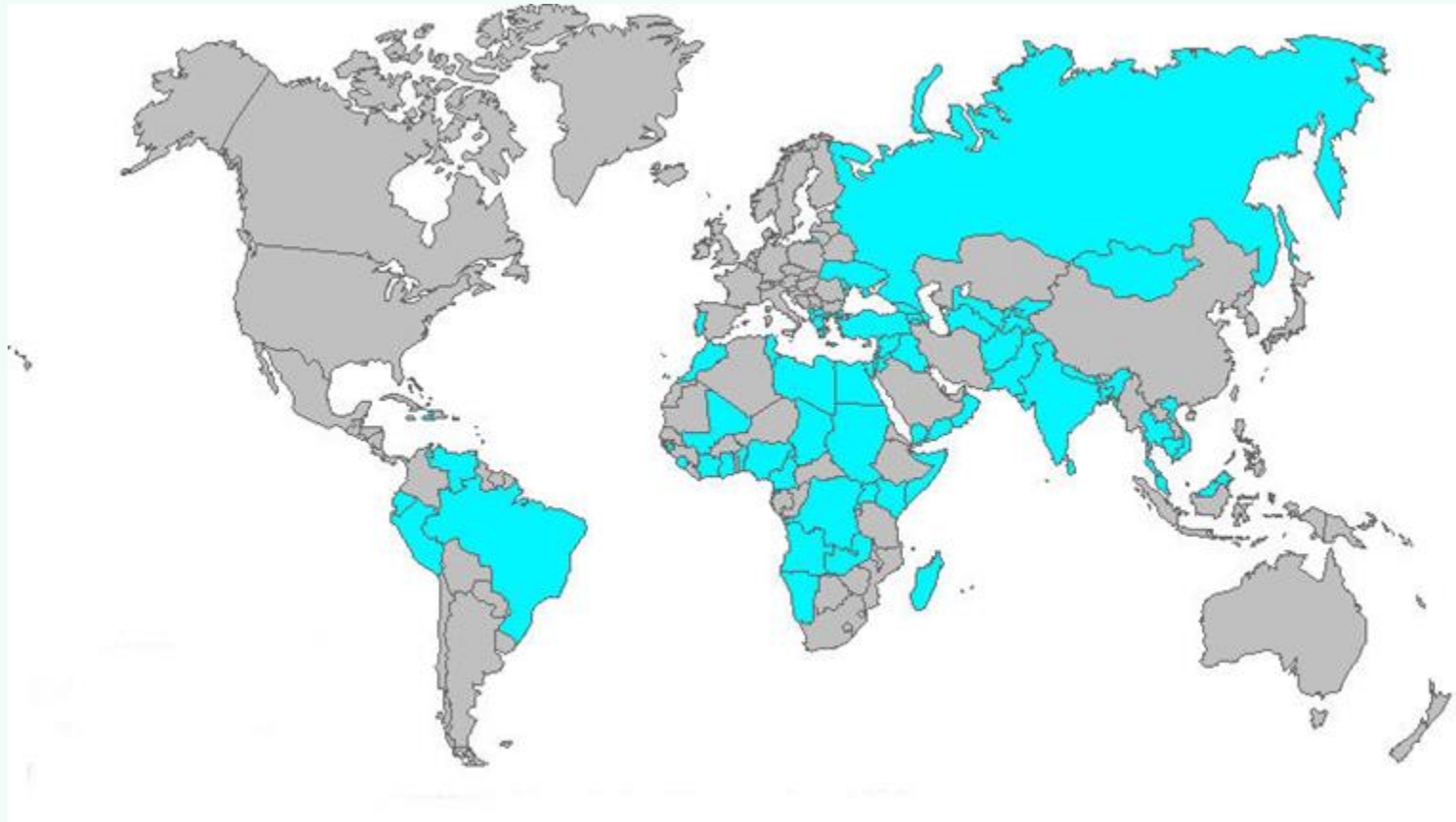
This is facilitated by a number of positive factors - low cost of training, high level of educational services and many years of training experience, which have favorably established themselves in the era of the USSR, as well as the fundamental nature of Russian education.

Russian medical universities are no exception. Most of them have organized and successfully run international institutes and faculties whose main areas of activity are participation in international educational programs, training of foreign citizens, exchange of scientific and educational experience, development and implementation of international projects.

Voronezh N.N. Burdenko State Medical University is such an example. Training of foreign citizens has been conducted here since 1991. Since 2004, the English-language groups have been organized at the International Faculty of Medical Education, VSMU. This has provided an opportunity for 1-3-year foreign students to be taught in English.

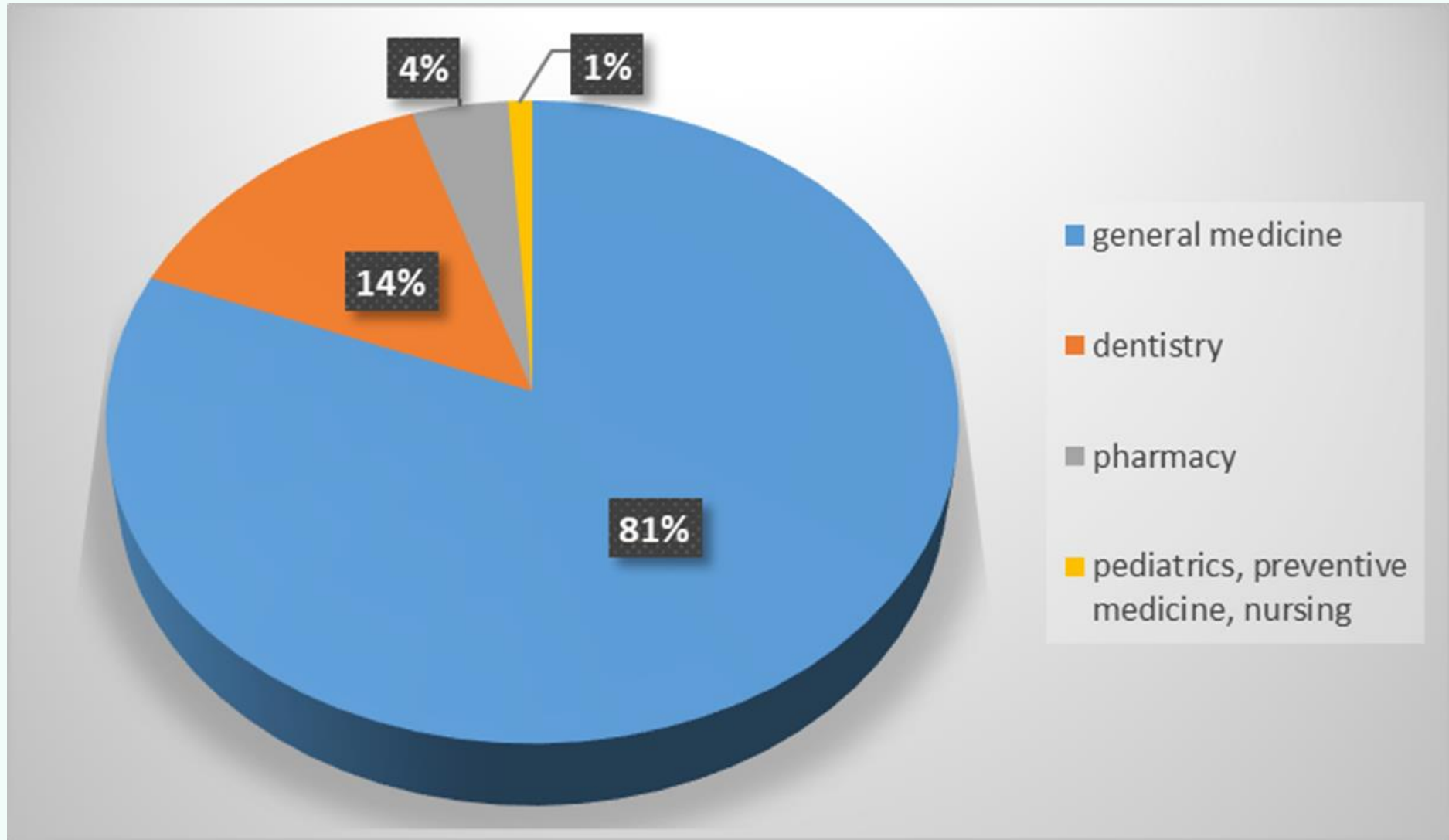
In 2008, the International Faculty of Medical Education was reorganized into the International Institute of Medical Education and Cooperation (IIMEC).

The Institute is managed by the Academic Council of IIMEC, which includes 6 candidates of science. Issues related to the quality of training of foreign citizens, organization and optimization of the educational process and international activities of the university are discussed at the meetings of the Academic Council. More than 1,500 medical specialists from 63 foreign countries of the world have been trained at the Institute for the entire period.



As estimated on February 1, 2020 there are 759 total students in higher education programs (specialty), 5 students enrolled in secondary vocational education programs, 42 students enrolled in post graduate education programs (residency).

IIMEC curricula are designed to provide the study of humanitarian and socio-economic, natural sciences, mathematics, biomedical and clinical disciplines in accordance with the requirements of the Federal State Educational Standard for the relevant specialty. Particular attention is paid to ensuring the individualization of the educational process taking into account national, religious and psychological attitudes of the student population, as well as overcoming the language barrier.



Distribution of students depending on their specialties

Meetings with Indian medical students, “Together Against Extremism and Terrorism”, meetings with the Uzbek national-cultural autonomy of the Voronezh region are just a few of the events in which MIMOS students actively participate, and the scientific conference “Doctor's profession in my country: yesterday, today, tomorrow” and meetings of IIMEC Dean Anna Karpova with foreign students who passed exams “excellently” have become traditional events.



Study of the history of Russia, Russian customs and traditions is an important part of the educational process aimed at introducing foreign students to Russian culture. Curators of educational groups organize cultural trips to city theaters, to concerts of K.I. Massalitinov State Academic Voronezh Russian Folk Choir, which is a kind of a "visiting card" of the region, tour guides to the most famous cultural, historical and natural sites of Voronezh and Voronezh region.



International students are offered a sports club with sections in various sports, as well as a sports and fitness complex with a pool and a gym. The IIMEC futsal team constantly represents the university at inter-faculty and inter-university competitions.





Much attention is paid to the leisure time activity of foreign students and their adaptation to the Russian socio-cultural environment. Students have an opportunity to celebrate national and religious holidays. They actively participate in amateur festivals “Student Spring”, “Let's Hold Hands, Friends!”, “Miss VSMU”, in the Days of National Cuisine, Drama Club and the club of Russian folk song lovers.



Thus, Russian universities, medical as well, have sufficient potential. Despite this, the imperfection of educational programs impedes its full development. It is necessary to stimulate university staff to academic mobility and the study of foreign languages, to improve international professional qualifications.

The attractiveness of Russian higher education and individual universities is enhanced by powerful information and advertising campaigns and a single concept of increasing international prestige of Russian universities.

References

1. Sustainable Development Goals. – [electronic source]. – URL: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/ru/sustainable-development-goals/> (accessed May 23, 2019). (In Russian).
2. Zha Qiang. Internationalization of Higher Education: Towards a Conceptual Framework // Policy Futures in Education, Vol. 1, Issue 2, pp. 248-270.
3. Internationalization of Higher Education // Study. – European Union, 2015. – 326 p. – [electronic source]. – URL: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/540370/IPOL_STU%282015%29540370_EN.pdf (accessed May 23, 2019).
4. Rating of countries in the world by education // Humanitarian technologies: analytical portal. 2018. 25 Aug. URL: <https://gtmarket.ru/ratings/education-index/education-index-info> (accessed 02.09.2018). (In Russian)
6. Russia in numbers: 2017. - [electronic source] : brief stat. review. / Rosstat. M., 2017. 511 p. URL: http://www.gks.ru/free_doc/doc_2017/rusfig/rus17.pdf (accessed 02.09.2018). (In Russian).
7. Export of the Russian educational services: stat. review. Issue. 6 / Ministry of education and science, RF. M.: Sociotsentr, 2016. 408 p. (In Russian)