Students’ exchange and recruiting school graduates from Ukraine: Existing programs and challenges

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International Summer School „Greifswalder Ukrainicum“, Germany

• Two weeks, August, annual
• Ukrainian language courses, seminars and public lectures on science and culture of Ukraine
• For Ukrainian participants: German language courses at „Greifswald Summer“
• Travel scholarships (Alfried Krupp von Bohlen and Halbach-Stiftung)
• Application requirements are good knowledge of English and status of student or PhD candidate
• https://slawistik.uni-greifswald.de/studium/angebot/ukrainicum/
„Viadrinicum“ Summer School, Frankfurt (Oder)

• Two weeks, August-September, annual
• summer school devoted to the countries of the Eastern Partnership region with a special focus on Ukraine
• Public lectures, seminars, workshops and excursions
• Students, PhD candidates, young NGO activists and artists (up to 35 years of age) from all fields
• The participation is free of charge, only the costs of the board (except from coffee breaks) and lodging (ca. 60 € for the whole period) have to be covered by the participant
• https://www.europa-uni.de/de/struktur/unileitung/projekte/viadrinicum/index.html
Benefits

• Familiar topics for Ukrainian participants (for instance, actual political domestic issues) with international established methods and approaches

• For Ukrainian participants: Possibility to participate in German language courses

• Travel scholarships are provided by own foundations (oriented on participants with Ukrainian interest or participants from Ukraine, open for participants from all fields)
Recruiting school graduates from Ukraine

- About 190 Ukrainian graduates per year take the DSD II (C1) exams (German language diploma) in order to verify the language knowledge required to apply for university entry in Germany.

  → The DSD (Deutsches Sprachdiplom) is the only educational program certifying levels of knowledge of the German language in schools worldwide.

- Plus occasionally graduates from courses offered by the „Goethe-Institut“
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However, only few graduates directly start their studies in Germany. Reasons are:

1. **Differences in educational systems:**
   - Ukraine: 11 years of school → therefore at least one year successfully completed at a Ukrainian university or a German Studienkolleg required for university admission in Germany.

   ! Many Ukrainians fail the Studienkolleg’s acceptance tests despite the acquired DSD-II (C1) level, as the C-test and the math test require a 90% score in order to pass.
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2. Finances:
   • Ukrainians are obliged to deposit about 9,000 Euro (= sum of subsistence for 1 year) at a German blocked account before starting their studies in order to prove liquidity.
   • Despite tuition free universities, life in Germany can be expensive
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Special paths to Germany:
• Some few achieve DAAD full-study scholarships (2018: 3 Ukrainians)
• A small number of students receive a college place combined with a scholarship at the Viadrina „Short track“ (Their preparatory courses in the summer holidays substitute a year at a Studienkolleg).

Desired degree courses: economy, law, medicine