

“Lectures given in English and Learning Chinese Synchronously”

—— A New Education Model of Chinese Medicine for Training Overseas Students

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At the present, more and more countries pay attention to TCM, resulting in increased market demands of TCM education. TCM also makes great contribution to realizing the aim of ‘health for all’ of WHO. The Ministry of Education of China and China Scholarship Council (CSC) initiated the principle of developing overseas students education with major efforts. Beijing municipality also put forward a concrete aim of striving for the realization of double of overseas students (about 80000 students). In order to cater to the needs of the circumstances and expand the new education model of TCM for overseas students, Beijing University of Chinese Medicine (BUCM) responds to the guiding principles of ‘expanding the scales, improving the levels, ensuring the quality, and standardizing the administration’, which is initiated by the Ministry of Education of China for overseas students education.

Therefore, a new education model of ‘lectures given in English and learning Chinese synchronically’ is developed by the International school of BUCM. In September 2006, a fundamental five-year program of TCM taught in English was firstly offered in the whole China. It is developed also according to the general education principle of BUCM, which includes four aspects of ‘wide entrance’, ‘solid foundation’, ‘multiple levels’ and ‘high quality’.

Since 2002, the International School of BUCM has deliberated on the fundamental program of TCM taught in English. The final formation of the program is based on the following five aspects. First, BUCM has mature teaching plans of five-year fundamental programs taught in Chinese for overseas students. Second, we have successful experiences in joint TCM program with Middlesex University and PhD TCM program for Iranian medical doctors (taught in English). Third, some feedback from graduates also supports to develop this program, especially for the English-speaking overseas students. Forth, the International School has accumulated rich experiences of international training of TCM in English for non-degree programs. Finally, we have strong supports from the BUCM and CSC.

The characteristics of the program:

- ❖ Lectures of TCM given in English and learning Chinese synchronically. Improving of Chinese level of the students will help them in their further self study of TCM and induce better understanding of Chinese culture and medicine.
- ❖ Emphasizing characteristics of TCM
- ❖ Studying TCM in native China with rich clinical cases and better practicing opportunities in later clinical practice
- ❖ Reflecting human-oriented thought

As a new education model of TCM, it is necessary to perfect the teaching and management level with the supports of the leaders and experts. Therefore, strict supervising and controlling systems on teaching are carried out, including pretest system of teaching, regular visiting on a class, and collecting the students' feedback.

Special Textbooks Construction

A series of university textbooks (the first edition) of TCM for overseas students in both Chinese and English were edited by the International Exchange and Cooperation Association of Higher Education of TCM, International School of BUCM and the Planed Textbooks Office of Ministry of Health, and published by People's Medical Publishing House. The second edition will be published in the coming August.

Qualified Teaching Faculty

The teaching faculty for the five-year fundamental program is strong and qualified. 90% of the teachers are associated professors or professors with master degree or above. They have a good reception among the students and experts.

Problems should be Improved in the Practice

- ❖ More introduction to the knowledge of traditional Chinese culture for the better understanding of TCM
- ❖ Perfect the individual guidance
- ❖ Strengthen and stabilize the students' studying aim of TCM

Improving Measures

- ❖ Lay stress on training teachers, increase the communication between the teachers and students
- ❖ Create harmonious studying atmosphere, improve studying effect
- ❖ Trigger the confidence of the students
- ❖ Offer regular specialized lectures given by famous domestic and overseas experts
- ❖ Bring the initiative of the students into full play
- ❖ Strengthen after-school tutoring, consolidate the specialized knowledge
- ❖ Establish practical technique training center for TCM overseas students

Future Developing Plan for Foreign Language Department

- ❖ Actively propagating to widen the influence of the program
- ❖ Laying stress on training of teaching faculty, ensuring the teaching quality
- ❖ Activating the initiative of the teachers who teach TCM in English

The five-year fundamental program of TCM taught in English for overseas students in China is not only a breakthrough in TCM education, but also a innovation in education model of TCM. In the process of development, spirit of being scrupulous about every detail and keeping improving are our persistent principle. We are trying to make the new model of 'lectures given in English and leaning Chinese synchronically' form a top-quality program in TCM education.