

Examination of employer's opinions

Summary analysis (2013-2018)

(Significance of alumni competencies and satisfaction of employers with the level of alumni competencies)

This analysis is aimed at representation of existing situation in BNTU into a whole on the basis of summarization of survey findings conducted during several years

The purpose of employer survey (period: 2013-2018; method: questionnaire survey, opinion poll; number of those surveyed – 28, including representatives of 10 crewing companies and 5 logistics companies) was determination of significance of alumni competencies in general for employers, and satisfaction of employers with the level of competencies of BNTU alumni employed by them.

Summary analysis of survey findings of several years showed priorities of employers from various fields (evaluations "Significant" and "absolutely significant") as follows: practical skills (100%); quick adoption skills of organization/company specificity (99%); responsibility, professional advancement motivation (97%); IT skills (99%); independent learning and working skills (94%); team-working skills (97%); foreign language proficiency (effortless communication with native speakers and field experts in foreign language, receipt and delivery of information) (95%); skills in application of information and communication technologies (93%); ability to use obtained theoretical knowledge in practice (91%); ability to solve specialty-related tasks (89%); knowledge of special software (92%); analytical skills (82%); ability to understand specialty-related new information (79%); specialty-related (cognate) knowledge (76%); leadership (54%); communication and negotiation skills (69%); other (3%).

Moreover, employers have evaluated competencies of BNTU alumni employed by them (evaluations: "Satisfied" and "Absolutely satisfied"): Practical skills– 99%; presence of personal development motivation - 95%; improvement of professional knowledge independently – 95%; discipline and responsibility – 94%; level of fundamental specialty knowledge – 95%; skills in state-of-the-art information and communication technologies – 95%; foreign language proficiency– 96%; skill in application of specialty-related software - 82%; general intellectual competencies - 72%; communication skills – 81 (abovementioned figures are arithmetic average and are rounded up to whole number in accordance with the rounding rule: 0.5 and less – rounded down, 0.5 and more – rounded up).

During fall semester of the academic year 2017-18, meeting with employers was arranged within the preparation process of re-accreditation, for the purpose of representation and review of modified educational programmes (24.02.2018 – Logistics Faculty, 10.03.2018 – Marine-Engineering Faculty). Employers expressed their opinions, evaluated importance, offering purpose, objectives and competencies of programme by means of one-time questionnaires prepared for meeting, and took favorable view of changes made in programmes. 100% of meeting participants gave the highest rating (5 points) to the significance and objectives of programmes of both, Marine-Engineering and Logistics faculties; during evaluation of competencies, points were distributed as follows: Knowledge and understanding - 5 points - 90%; 4 points - 10%; Ability to use knowledge in practice - 5 points - 96%; 4 points - 6%; Ability to make conclusion - 5 points 91%, 4 points - 9%; Communication skills - 5 points - 92%, 4 points - 8%; Learning ability - 5 points - 96%, 4 points - 4%; Values - 5 points - 89%; 4 points - 11%; evaluation points like 3, 2, 1 were not applied.

Conclusion:

On the basis of analysis of survey findings it was determined that not only special knowledge and skills of alumni are important for employers from various fields but employers think that personal qualities and potential of

alumni, professional advancement motivation, ability to independently solve various tasks etc. are also very important aspect. Employers pay special attention to the qualities of alumni such as sense of responsibility, team-work, professional advancement motivation etc. Knowledge of foreign language, state-of-the-art information and communication technologies and special software and ability to use them in professional activity, and generally ability of alumni to fully apply competencies corresponding to their official duties are critical for employers. Employers think that skills, such as negotiation, communication with experts and non-experts, personal leadership, usage of special literature etc. are especially noteworthy.

Based on abovementioned, theoretical knowledge and practical skills acquired only in specialty are not sufficient for employers; it is necessary for alumni to have personal development, study continuation and skill improvement motivation to be able to improve the quality of fulfillment of duties assigned to them with no additional expenses to employers.

On the basis of analysis of survey findings it may be concluded: information obtained as a result of survey, which allows reasoning on the expectations of employers and areas of improvement o alumni competencies must be used for the purpose of improvement of educational programmes generally and their components, formation of competencies of alumni during teaching and learning process that comply with labor market requirements, as well as for the formation and development of important personal qualities that eventually provide competitiveness of BNTU.

Note:

For the purpose of more active involvement of employers in BNTU activity and direct participation in educational and organizational activities, it was planned to form adviser council in BNTU composed of representatives of employers and BNTU alumni. This approach will improve the level of monitoring of processes in the Teaching University and continuous evaluation by employers and alumni.

Quality Assurance Service