

**МІНІСТЕРСТВО ОСВІТИ І НАУКИ УКРАЇНИ
СУМСЬКИЙ ДЕРЖАВНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ
КАФЕДРА ІНОЗЕМНИХ МОВ
ЛІНГВІСТИЧНИЙ НАВЧАЛЬНО-МЕТОДИЧНИЙ
ЦЕНТР**

**МАТЕРІАЛИ
X ВСЕУКРАЇНСЬКОЇ НАУКОВО-ПРАКТИЧНОЇ
КОНФЕРЕНЦІЇ СТУДЕНТІВ, АСПІРАНТІВ ТА
ВИКЛАДАЧІВ
ЛІНГВІСТИЧНОГО НАВЧАЛЬНО-МЕТОДИЧНОГО
ЦЕНТРУ КАФЕДРИ ІНОЗЕМНИХ МОВ**

**“WITH FOREIGN LANGUAGES TO MUTUAL
UNDERSTANDING, BETTER TECHNOLOGIES AND
ECOLOGICALLY SAFER ENVIRONMENT”**

**(Суми, 24 березня 2016 року)
The tenth all Ukrainian scientific practical student`s,
postgraduate`s and teacher`s conference**

STUDYING IN EUROPE – WHAT IS IT LIKE?

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The author of the paper is a student at the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga, as well as the Sumy State University. The Stockholm School of Economics in Riga (SSER) is a Swedish higher education enterprise, which is based in Stockholm (Sweden), Riga (Latvia), and St. Petersburg (Russia).

Students at SSER are conducted no more than 3 courses at once, which enables making trainings in each very intensive. The language of instruction at the school is English. Some disciplines are tutored by more than one lecturer; many lecturers are practitioners: some own their businesses or work in real economic sector.

Seminars, in contrast to lectures, are held by students – teaching assistants (TA's). For Year 1 students, Year 2's or Year 3's lead seminars. There is no material remuneration for this type of work; it is entirely voluntarily. What TA's gain is experience, better expertise in a particular course, and good reputation in the eyes of the lecturer. Regardless absence of material incentive, teaching assistants take their job seriously, and they put much effort so that students deliver the best academic results possible.

Another distinctive feature of studying at SSER is intensive adoption of online systems. The e-learning platform is an integral part of education at the school. Most of tasks are submitted online; lecture slides, additional information regarding readings, etc. is available on the platform, as well. The submission of tasks online implies a significant strictness of deadlines – up to seconds.

Students at SSER do not pick courses for their curriculum. Nonetheless, there is such a concept as “electives” – those are courses that a student can choose according to his will. The range for choice is represented by a broad variety of courses – from languages and philosophy to Excel Advanced and Business Correspondence.

What is more, the bachelor's degree program lasts 3 years, and most of the disciplines are related to what is actually pursued by students – the BSc in Economics and Business. In other words, there

are no such subjects as History or Culture of Tibetan tribes (just as example) in the curriculum. Hence, students have an opportunity to really concentrate on relevant courses. Majority of the papers (research and reports) that have to be submitted are closely related to what is studied and are helpful in deepening knowledge in specific areas and modern trends in the today world economy.

It is not only the way of education that makes the school and learning at it special; it is the rigorous rules and dedication to high standards. How is it achieved? On the first place, benchmarks are never compromised: if half of the student body fails an extremely harsh course, it means that those 50% will be re-taking the exam at specifically assigned time for it; however, it by no means suggests that the exam might be too tough, and the course, as well as the exam, will be reconsidered for the next year. Additionally, plagiarism is frowned upon and rigidly punished here extending to considerable fees and dismissal from school!

What makes the school special is tight cooperation among its organizational parts: administration is an intermediary between students and lecturers. To avoid any corruption, lecturers are not even present at the exams; there are supervisors in examination rooms. Students come for tests only with their student ID's; they also have to put their signature on sign-up sheets on entering and leaving the auditorium. Students are preliminary randomly divided into groups of 10-15 people for each exam separately, and each group is assigned to a specific room. The system is designed to avoid cheating and plagiarism, as well as any possible bias in supervising the examination process.

In conclusion, several points should be stressed. It is the discipline that makes education here special. In this paper, only a particle of the educational system in the school has been revealed. It takes hard work, transparency, and regulation to achieve such results; nevertheless, in some time in the future, Ukraine will be able to compete with prominent European schools, implementing straightforward and candid educational system.