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PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL SKILLS OF ENGINEERING STUDENTS AND GRADUATES REQUIRED FOR THE FIRST JOB INTERVIEW

Nowadays the rapid development of modern science and technology has led to the appearance of inconceivable quantity of engineering students and graduates. However, within the conditions of general economic situation, deficit of job vacancies, the candidates and potential employees of engineering professions are usually in the fierce labour competition and sometimes job hunting turns

into a great challenge for unexperienced and unconfident graduates. Today's employers would like to hire more than just a highly qualified specialist, but also a person who has multivarious transferable skills and personal characteristics.

Noticing the recent trends in the modern engineering labour market, we suggest that its boundaries expand throughout the entire world. On the one hand, this fact enormously increases chances to find a wanted job by means of communication with representatives of the international scientific and technical community. However, on the other hand it complicates a task for unexperienced employees, as most of the recent graduates of technical professions have not the strength as the ability to speak foreign languages fluently. Therefore, as a result the process of applying, sending a CV and / or a cover letter to the international engineering company, having an interview is impossible. It is notorious that a lot of European and American universities, colleges and even employers have different courses and programs to prepare students for the first job interview, which train them, teach how to pass the interview successfully and

finally to get an offer. However, we should also consider what we as educators can do to prepare students to crack the coding interview as well as to find ways to approach the learning goals [1, 171]. Therefore, we consider the foreign language teaching to become one of the main directions in training students of technical professions.

Today there are plenty of books, courses, guides, internet articles, which are able to prepare a recent graduate for an internship or a job interview. Each of them describes the ways of training and development students' professional and personal skills required for the first job interview, gives tips

and advice how to behave in different complicated situations, what to expect and how to show yourself at your best.

So, what employability skills are the most valued and highly demanding by today's employers when hiring fresh engineering graduates?

M.Y. Yuzainee, A. Zaharim and M. Z. Omar pointed out that employability relates to individual's ability of being employed and keeping the job [2, 80]. Obviously, engineering graduates need to have the transferable skills and personal characteristics, which will help them to be hired, and apply their knowledge effectively. Recent studies have shown that students, newly graduates, academic staff and employers have realized that possessing the set of employability skills is essential requirement needed by the graduates on top of excellent academic performance [2, 81]. The scientists describe that employers are looking for such employability skills as problem-solving initiative and enterprise, planning, scheduling and organizing, communication and teamwork. They also emphasize on the importance of learning skills and self-management. Whereas, we suggest that language skills are one the most important ones each candidate must possess [2, 84]. Talking about the engineering students, we would like to place emphasis on analytical skills and ability to adapt and work with a variety of situations, individuals and groups.

To satisfy the mentioned requirements students and graduates have to take them into a serious consideration preparing for their first job interview. The purpose of a job interview is to determine

whether there is a good accordance of skills, experience and attitude between the interviewee and the organization. Employers want to prove that a candidate can do the needed job as well as fit into the company.

Modern higher education plays an important role in students' professional and transferable skills formation. Therefore, we consider the developing of the course "The engineering graduate's guide to job interviews" to be the giant step of modernization and updating of the educational process. We are convinced that students will be able to identify their strengths, weaknesses and other personal information, will learn how to open up and increase their comfort zone, to improve his / her skills in speaking in front of the audience, to learn how to increase the influence and how to see from the point of view of another person. During the course, students will be able to minimize their nerves by sorting out the practicalities and to be confident. Without any doubts, they will improve their language skills, communicative, analytical and other employability skills. Moreover, we are absolutely certain, that students will get answers to many questions about the job interview process that would help them to succeed in job hunting.

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