

# Improvement path under the dilemma of cultivating foreign-related rule of law talents in local colleges and universities

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**Abstract:** The cultivation of foreign-related rule of law talents in the new era has become an important topic in the field of higher education in China, and local universities play an important role in building foreign-related rule of law construction and cultivating foreign-related talents in various regions. Cultivating foreign-related legal talents not only requires an international perspective and understanding of international rules, but also needs to be based on the needs of regional economic development and cultivate foreign-related legal talents that are suitable for local development. In order to achieve this goal, the first step is to consolidate people's spiritual foundations, make accurate academic planning, integrate the law and foreign languages, and connect domestic law and international law. We should also coordinate the theory and practice as the center of the scientific construction of the foreign-related curriculum system and set up a high-quality, highly educated, and capable team of foreign-related faculty, so as to integrate the educational resources and provide a strong guarantee for the cultivation of high-quality foreign-related rule of law personnel.

**Key words:** foreign-related rule of law talents; curriculum; faculty

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## 1 Introduction

With the increasing frequency of international exchanges and cooperation, the training of applied foreign-related rule of law personnel has become an urgent need of the times. The General Secretary made an important instruction to actively develop foreign-related legal services, requiring "adherence to the integrated promotion of the rule of law at home and foreign-related rule of law" and "adherence to the construction of high-quality rule of law workforce with both integrity and competence". *The Higher Education Department of the Ministry of Education 2021 Work Points* clearly proposed to accelerate the cultivation of foreign-related rule of law talents. But at present, the number of foreign-related rule of law talents trained in China is small, far from meeting the growing demand of foreign-related legal services. Local colleges and universities should find their own position, actively respond to the urgent demand for foreign-related legal talents in the construction of the "belt and road initiative", based in Shandong, facing the ASEAN 10+3 region, relying on their own location advantages, and actively exploring the cultivation of legal talents with international vision and knowledge of international rules who can participate in international legal affairs, safeguard national interests and provide foreign-related legal services.

## **2 Settling people's spiritual foundation: specialized training and full guidance**

The first dilemma in the training of foreign-related legal talents is the issue of "people". In reality, it is more realistic for both students and parents to consider employment in the process of choosing a major. Whether what has been learned can be "applied" is a topic that can not be avoided. The foreign law in real life is rarely mentioned, and beyond the cognitive scope of general students, giving students the illusion that they are learning something that is not useful. No matter in terms of further academic studies or future career choices, students will have a certain degree of difficult emotions in the choice of foreign law. Secondly, in addition to the difficulty, there is also the students' fear. The new era has put forward higher requirements for the cultivation of foreign-related rule of law personnel. Students not only need to understand domestic law, but also to master the international legal rules and foreign law, as well as be proficient in foreign languages. The goal is to become an applied, composite foreign-related rule of law personnel, giving students the impression that the subject has a mixed direction and is not specialized, and making learning and employment difficult.

In response to the above problems, the first step in building a foreign rule of law discipline should be to "reassure people". Students are concerned about the issues centered on the difficulties of "learning" and "application". In the "learning" aspect: although the cultivation of foreign rule of law talents has more comprehensive and composite requirements, local undergraduate universities should be based on the actual development of personnel training programs. The high-end characteristics of foreign-related rule of law talents themselves determine that cultivating talents cannot be achieved quickly, and the objective growth of talent cultivation law should be respected. Local colleges cannot increase or compress curricula as a way to cultivate distinctive features, which not only greatly increases the learning burden of students, but also cannot guarantee the quality and efficiency of their learning. Local colleges should first establish the teaching concept of basic training, in order to consolidate the knowledge base of foreign-related rule of law talents as the goal, and explore models that are connected with foreign-related work practice and master's and doctoral student training. That is, the core of training is not to try to train a comprehensive all-round talent within four years, but to cultivate talents with a solid foundation of knowledge related to the rule of law in foreign affairs known as "diamond in the rough", who can quickly adapt to foreign legal work or international law professional theory learning. Secondly, students are concerned about the issue of "application". It is necessary to clarify the direction of the discipline in advance, analyze the employment situation. While improving students' language skills and professional knowledge, we should pay more attention to practice orientation, establish a mechanism of collaborative cultivation between colleges and universities and practical departments, and introduce high-quality teaching resources of the actual foreign-related work departments into school. At the same time, we should provide targeted guidance for students' future needs as well as further study and employment, and help students carry out accurate academic planning, so as to build a bridge between the cultivation of foreign-related rule of law talents and the future of further study and employment, helping students to overcome obstacles and addressing their "difficulties" and "fears" [1].

## **3 Building the system: constructing a scientific curriculum system**

The second dilemma in the training of foreign rule of law personnel is the issue of "curriculum". The cultivation of foreign-related rule of law personnel should follow the guidance of the socialist theory system with Chinese characteristics, with the goal of cultivating professional legal personnel with an international outlook, a good understanding of international rules, and the ability to actively participate in international legal affairs and defend the interests of the State. To realize this goal, the core task is to build a scientific curriculum system. In building the curriculum system for training foreign-related rule of law personnel, emphasis should be placed on coordinating the relationship between law and foreign

languages, domestic and international law, theory and practice. This requires in-depth exploration and research to form a core group of foreign-related law courses to meet the needs of cultivating complex and internationalized legal talents.

### 3.1 Integrating law and foreign languages

Foreign languages are an important foundation for the training of foreign-related rule of law personnel and a core carrier and tool for foreign-related legal affairs. The traditional foreign law is often understood as a simple superposition of law and foreign language, cutting the link between law and foreign language, and failing to make the two disciplines effectively integrated and give full play to their integrated role. The requirement of the society for foreign-related talents is not only to understand foreign languages, but also to be proficient in foreign languages as if they were proficient in their mother tongue, which places deeper demands on both quantity and quality in the cultivation of foreign-related legal talents. The existing professional hours and credits of law majors need to be tilted to the direction of foreign languages, which is a challenge to the quantity and quality of the courses. As a local undergraduate college in Shandong Province, the cultivation of foreign rule of law talents is more oriented to serve the local community, belonging to the grass-roots foreign-related legal services and auxiliary personnel. The countries including Japan, South Korea and Asian countries have close trade relations with Shandong, and there are at least more than 20 common languages and national languages in these regions, so it is difficult to provide accurate service and guarantee for the increasingly frequent exchanges and trade in the future purely in English. The important content of the legal service of "the belt and road initiative" is to carry out academic discussion and practical interaction with the legal colleagues of the countries along the route, and it is difficult to play a role in the face of some countries even with the most advanced English level [2]. Therefore, under the premise of proficiency in English and small languages, realizing the precise regional service has become the optimal choice for local universities to cultivate foreign-related rule of law specialists.

### 3.2 Bridging domestic and international law

In the current curriculum system for the training of foreign-related rule of law personnel, domestic law is still the main focus, and international law-related courses are not systematic and are not well integrated with domestic law. The problem at the macro level is that the link between domestic law and international law has not been properly dealt with, nor has the content of country-specific law been integrated; at the micro level, the disposition of domestic and international laws is similar to that of foreign languages and laws, which have not been promoted in a coordinated manner and have not been effectively integrated.

The construction of a curriculum for the training of foreign-related rule of law personnel must emphasize the construction of a curriculum centred on international law, taking into account the study of domestic law and country-specific law. In fact, international law and domestic law are not two separate systems, and the law of development of international law is also deeply influenced by the laws of various countries, with many links in the field of foreign-related rule of law. The rule of law at the national level is the basis for the rule of law in foreign affairs, and the rule of law in foreign affairs is the external extension of the rule of law at the national level [3]. Domestic law courses should be appropriately reduced, internationalized teaching content should be expanded, and internationalized courses should be reasonably increased in accordance with the objectives of cultivating foreign-related rule of law talents [4]. The quality of the courses should also be upgraded, and international politics, economics and cultural content should be fully integrated to serve as an adhesive, so as to present students with a more comprehensive and vivid ecology of foreign-related rule of law courses.

### 3.3 Coordinating theory with practice

In the process of cultivating foreign-related rule of law talents, what is more difficult to solve is to deal with the

relationship between theoretical teaching and practical teaching, especially the cultivation of practical ability. The practice of foreign-related rule of law is foreign-related legal capacity. At present, foreign-related legal education has shortcomings in theoretical development, making it difficult to adapt to the development of foreign-related rule of law, and there is a general disconnect between theory and practice.

It is difficult to rely on theoretical teaching to make up for the shortcomings of practice, and practical teaching should be actively carried out, such as moot court, foreign-related legal writing and other courses. In addition, students can also be organized to participate in international legal exchange activities, foreign-related legal internships or volunteer services, so that students can have a more in-depth understanding of foreign-related legal practice and the actual operation process of international legal affairs. At the same time, it is also necessary to maximize the participation of more teaching subjects in practical teaching units, coordinate the resources of practical departments, government departments and foreign-related enterprises with foreign-related factors, establish a working mechanism of departmental collaboration and information sharing [5], build platforms and provide opportunities for students to practice and internship, and strengthen the orientation, pertinence and international competitiveness of talent cultivation [6], so as to form a consortium for the cultivation of foreign-related rule of law talents and give full play to the advantages. Each of them has its own advantages and is empowered to enhance students' practical abilities in foreign-related legal affairs.

#### **4 Stabilizing the foundation: strengthening teachers and integrating resources**

Teachers in colleges and universities are the fundamental guarantee for the training of talents, which is also a major problem in the process of cultivating foreign-related rule of law talents, who cannot be cultivated without an internationalized faculty. However, at this stage, most of the teachers in local universities generally specialize in domestic law, lack of research on international law, country law. Therefore, it is difficult to cultivate students' international vision and cross-cultural communication skills in the teaching process. At the same time, the cultivation of foreign-related rule of law talents is still in the primary stage, and the corresponding teaching materials and curriculum resources are also relatively scarce, making it difficult to meet the needs of high-standard teaching.

Therefore, local colleges and universities should strengthen the cultivation of foreign-related rule of law talents in the following two aspects. First, strengthen the construction of teachers. Colleges and universities should actively introduce teachers with an international legal background and encourage their teachers to go abroad for further studies to improve their internationalization. In addition, colleges and universities can hire foreign experts and scholars to teach in their schools and organize lectures or seminars on foreign law, so that students can understand the latest international legal developments and progress. At the same time, they can also combine their own advantages and school-running characteristics to explore the cultivation mode of cross-discipline and professional integration [7], establish bilingual teaching teams for joint teaching among colleges, and realize the transformation to the dual-degree cultivation mode system under the professional composite mode. Secondly, improve the construction of teaching materials and curriculum resources. Colleges and universities should prepare corresponding teaching materials and case databases according to the needs of the cultivation of foreign-related rule of law talents, and offer relevant elective courses throughout the university, so that students can freely choose the courses of their own interest. In addition, colleges and universities can improve the quality and level of their teaching by introducing high-quality foreign-related legal course resources through cooperation with foreign universities or institutions.

#### **5 Conclusion**

At present, the training of foreign-related rule of law talents with both composite and applied skills has become one of the important missions of legal education. This mission has far-reaching significance, because foreign-related rule of law

talents play a crucial role in the country's foreign relations and international cooperation. In order to achieve this goal, we must start from the selection and cultivation of talents, the comprehensive construction of foreign-related curriculum system and improve the guarantee system of teachers and resources, in order to lay a solid foundation for the cultivation of foreign-related rule of law talents. Only on this basis can we cultivate outstanding rule of law talents with solid legal background, international vision and cross-cultural communication skills.

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### **Conflicts of interest**

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