

# New Path of Foreign-related Legal Talents Training in Universities under the "the Belt and Road" Initiative

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**Abstract:** China's "the Belt and Road" Initiative is a far-reaching globalization promotion strategy, which challenges the legal framework of countries along the line and the cultivation of legal talents. With the continuous deepening of international exchanges, legal talents who are proficient in handling international affairs have become particularly important in promoting cross-border cooperation and protecting national rights and interests. Such talents not only require solid legal literacy, but also cross-cultural communication skills and a broad international perspective. At present, higher education institutions are facing problems such as a single curriculum, scarce practical opportunities, and insufficient international cooperation in cultivating such talents. In view of this, this study suggests creating a diversified curriculum structure, strengthening practical training, and expanding international exchanges and cooperation to cultivate high-level international legal talents, hoping to provide some reference for colleagues in the education field.

**Keywords:** "the Belt and Road" Initiative, foreign-related rule of law, talents training

## Introduction

The "the Belt and Road" initiative has now become a key bridge to promote world economic cooperation and progress. The spirit of the rule of law has played a crucial role in enhancing mutual trust and cooperation among countries. Professional talents engaged in international legal affairs not only need to have a solid foundation in law, but also possess cross-cultural communication skills and a global perspective, so that they can handle complex international legal affairs with ease. But currently, higher education institutions have encountered many difficulties in cultivating such talents, such as inappropriate course arrangements, lack of practical opportunities, and insufficient international exchange and cooperation. In view of this, it is urgent to find a new direction of talent cultivation that is compatible with the "the Belt and Road" initiative. This article will deeply explore the current situation of higher education institutions in cultivating international legal talents, and provide specific improvement suggestions, aiming to provide useful references for cultivating high-level international legal talents.

## 1. Overview of the theory of "the Belt and Road" initiative to cultivate foreign-related legal talents in colleges and universities

### 1.1 Legal background of the "the Belt and Road" Initiative

In 2013, General Secretary Xi Jinping proposed the grand blueprint of the "Land Silk Road Economic Corridor" and the "Marine Silk Road" - the "the Belt and Road" plan, with the purpose of promoting in-depth cooperation in economic and cultural exchanges between China and countries along the route. Under this strategic plan, the adaptability and

coordination of the legal system have become particularly crucial. Given that most participating countries are developing countries with significant differences in their legal frameworks and practices, it is crucial to establish a comprehensive legal framework to ensure investment security and promote cooperation.

In the legal framework of the "the Belt and Road" strategy, the docking of international law and national laws is the core link. Based on the fundamental principles of international law such as sovereign equality, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, and peaceful resolution of disputes, legal cooperation among participating countries can be carried out. At the same time, when countries engage in bilateral or multilateral cooperation, they must establish consensus legal norms through legal dialogue mechanisms to address potential legal risks. The management of legal risks has become an important task in the implementation of the the Belt and Road Initiative. Faced with the inconsistency in legal systems and environments among countries along the route, investors encounter many uncertain factors in international cooperation. Therefore, it is particularly important to establish a legal risk assessment and management mechanism. In addition, the establishment of a regional legal cooperation system is also the key to promoting the smooth implementation of the the Belt and Road Initiative. Countries can promote the coordination of legal norms, improve legal transparency and provide more solid legal support for the construction of the "the Belt and Road" by signing regional agreements, building multilateral legal cooperation platforms and other means<sup>[1]</sup>.

## **1.2 Characteristics and requirements of foreign-related legal talents**

In 2014, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China issued the "Decision on Several Major Issues Concerning the Comprehensive Promotion of the Rule of Law", which put forward requirements for foreign-related legal talents. The decision pointed out the need to "build a team of foreign-related legal talents who are familiar with international legal rules and good at handling foreign-related legal affairs". In the construction of the "the Belt and Road", these talents play an indispensable role and have relatively high requirements for their professional quality. The Opinions on the Establishment of the the Belt and Road International Commercial Dispute Settlement Mechanism and Institution, reviewed and passed in January 2018, pointed out that attention should be paid to the training and reserve of international legal talents, the establishment of the legal talent pool of participating countries in the the Belt and Road construction, and the encouragement of domestic and foreign legal experts who are proficient in international law, international trade rules and foreign languages to participate in dispute settlement. In international legal affairs, professional talents must possess profound legal literacy, especially a solid foundation in international regulations, comparisons between different legal systems, and commercial law. Meanwhile, cross-cultural communication skills are also one of the key qualities for such talents. With the continuous advancement of the "the Belt and Road" strategy, these talents must be able to carry out effective communication and collaboration with peers with different cultural backgrounds. This not only requires proficiency in legal terminology, but also the ability to respect and understand the cultural traditions of the other party in order to facilitate efficient cooperative relationships. In addition, practical operation ability is also an essential quality for these talents. Combining theoretical knowledge with practical operation can help them handle complex legal affairs more effectively. Therefore, in the process of cultivating talents, colleges and universities should attach importance to the setting of practical links to ensure that students have the opportunity to come into contact with and handle actual legal cases, thereby improving their comprehensive skills.

## **2. Analysis of the current situation of cultivating foreign-related legal talents in universities**

### **2.1 Curriculum design related to universities**

In the current situation, the cultivation of talents with international legal literacy in higher education institutions is increasingly valued, but there are still many shortcomings in the construction of the curriculum system. The curriculum arrangement of many law schools still focuses on domestic law, and there is a lack of teaching content on international law and comparative law. Although some universities have attempted to offer international law courses, these courses often focus too much on theoretical systems and lack practical training and case analysis, making it difficult for students to combine the theoretical knowledge they have learned with practical application. At the same time, the curriculum

involving interdisciplinary intersection also appears to be incomplete. Talents engaged in foreign-related legal work not only need to master professional legal knowledge, but also need to have knowledge in multiple fields such as economy, culture, and society. Therefore, adding courses that integrate international economic law, international trade law, and cultural exchange can greatly benefit students' comprehensive literacy. To cultivate talents more effectively, it is necessary to establish a solid bridge between theory and practice. However, the lack of practical experience in many domestic universities is a prominent problem, which directly leads to students lacking necessary practical experience when dealing with international legal affairs<sup>[2]</sup>.

## **2.2 Talent cultivation mode**

At present, higher education institutions generally rely on outdated classroom teaching methods in cultivating talents with international legal literacy, lacking a comprehensive and diversified cultivation mechanism. This educational method often leads to a significant gap between students' theoretical mastery and practical operational skills. On the one hand, the current cultivation system focuses more on academic research and emphasizes knowledge teaching, but neglects the cultivation of students' practical skills. As a result, students often feel helpless when dealing with complex legal affairs. On the other hand, due to the lack of internships and practical activities, students have a severe lack of practical experience in international legal affairs when they leave school.

## **2.3 Achievements and shortcomings in talent cultivation**

With the in-depth implementation of the "the Belt and Road" strategy, many colleges and universities have made great achievements in cultivating talents with international legal literacy. For example, some universities have offered courses related to international law and implemented cross-border exchange activities, gradually cultivating students with a global perspective and cross-cultural communication skills. However, these achievements are still preliminary, and the problems exposed cannot be ignored. Firstly, the abilities of these students are mostly limited to theoretical understanding, with weaker practical skills. Although they have acquired the necessary legal knowledge, they often struggle to adapt to their job positions due to a lack of practical experience when dealing with international legal affairs. Secondly, the singularity of course content limits students' knowledge breadth, making it difficult for them to fully grasp the diversity of the international legal environment. In addition, the opportunities for international exchange and cooperation are not sufficient, which directly affects students' improvement in cross-cultural communication and understanding.

# **3. Exploration of new paths for cultivating foreign-related legal talents in universities**

## **3.1 Construction of a diversified curriculum system**

In the process of responding to the strategic layout of the "the Belt and Road", higher education institutions need to create a wide range of educational curriculum structures, so as to cultivate compound rule of law talents who both understand legal expertise and have a broad international perspective. Universities can help students gain a deeper understanding of the international legal field by adding courses such as international economic and trade law, international commercial law, and international human rights regulations. At the same time, promote interdisciplinary integration, combining law with multiple disciplines such as economics, political science, and cultural studies to shape students' comprehensive knowledge structure. Furthermore, the emphasis should be placed on the proportion of applied courses. By analyzing specific cases, students can understand the complexity of international legal affairs and master the ability to apply legal knowledge to deal with specific problems. Additionally, encourage students to take diverse courses. Through this diversified curriculum strategy, students will become more proficient in practical skills for handling international legal affairs<sup>[3]</sup>.

## **3.2 Optimizing school enterprise cooperation and internship mechanism**

Promoting deep cooperation between higher education institutions and the industry, strengthening the internship system, is of decisive significance for enhancing the cultivation level of foreign-related legal professionals. Higher education institutions need to build solid collaborative bridges with legal service agencies, multinational corporations, and international organizations both domestically and internationally, in order to create diverse practical platforms for students.

Higher education institutions can work together with enterprises to establish a school enterprise cooperation model for educating students, jointly plan curriculum settings, and enable students to closely follow the current industry situation while learning. For example, companies can incorporate course planning and propose specific legal cases in their work for students to explore and analyze. This integration helps to enhance students' competitiveness in the workplace<sup>[4]</sup>. Meanwhile, expanding internship opportunities is also crucial. Higher education institutions should actively seek internship resources in the field of foreign-related law, collaborate with foreign-related law firms, international organizations, and multinational corporations to create authentic legal practice scenarios for students.

### **3.3 Strengthening international exchange and cooperation**

With the in-depth implementation of the "the Belt and Road" strategy, it is particularly critical to improve the talent cultivation of colleges and universities in the field of international law. Through deep collaboration with overseas universities, research institutions, and legal practice departments, it helps broaden students' international perspectives and enrich their practical experience. Universities in China can cooperate with partner universities in countries along the "the Belt and Road" to implement joint training plans and student exchange programs. At the same time, providing students with opportunities for cross-border internships, for example, universities can collaborate with law schools of overseas universities to offer dual degree programs, allowing students to learn from each other and gain a deeper understanding of their respective legal systems between the two countries. While broadening their international perspective, students can also deepen their understanding of diverse legal systems and enhance their international literacy. In addition, holding international legal academic seminars and forums is also a feasible path, and universities can invite domestic and foreign legal experts to exchange research results and practical experience<sup>[5]</sup>. This interaction provides students with the opportunity to be exposed to the latest legal issues, broaden their academic horizons, enhance their international communication skills, and motivate them to join the ranks of international legal internships and volunteer services.

## **4. Conclusion**

Under the promotion of the "the Belt and Road" initiative, the cultivation of foreign-related legal talents in colleges and universities faces new opportunities and challenges. With the deepening of international cooperation, the complexity and diversity of the legal environment require talents to possess higher professional qualities and practical abilities. The construction of a diversified curriculum system, optimization of internship mechanisms, and strengthening of international exchange and cooperation have laid the foundation for its future important role in international legal affairs. Looking forward to the future, colleges and universities should follow the steps of the "the Belt and Road" initiative, constantly optimize the training mode and mechanism, and cultivate high-quality legal talents to meet international needs.

### **Conflicts of interest**

The author declares no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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