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**ONLINE-EDUCATION – AS AN EFFECTIVE FORM OF UKRAINIAN AS A FOREIGN
LANGUAGE LEARNING AT MEDICAL HEI**

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Distance learning is a relevant form of education both in well-known world institutions of higher education (HEI) and in Ukrainian universities, in particular at the Bukovinian State Medical University (BSMU). This form of knowledge acquisition is often due to the need to study without separation from the main activity (full-time study, place of work, stay abroad, etc.), and today also the situation that has arisen in connection with the spread of COVID-19. Distance learning makes it possible to obtain distance education by accessing both traditional and non-traditional sources of information; application of the latest information and communication technologies; elaboration of educational materials developed by domestic and foreign scientists and teachers etc.

Distance learning of BSMU students is carried out through the following: 1) creation and functioning of the distance learning server on the free electronic learning platform Moodle, which contains all the necessary materials for the student (both special and other social sciences), including video and audio presentations, multimedia presentations, as well as developed tests to check the acquired knowledge on a particular topic, and indicative test tasks aimed at preparing students for the module control; 2) the use of the electronic gradebook, which was first created among the medical HEI of Ukraine in the BSMU (in addition to student assessment, all the results of missed classes are recorded in the electronic gradebook); 3) conduct online training using the Google Hangouts Meet video conferencing service. Free video conferencing with the help of the offered service is possible only if you use the accounts (e-mail address) of the teacher and students created in the domain bsmu.edu.ua. It is worth noting that a unique conference (web link) is created with each group of students for the lesson. During the lesson, the teacher has the opportunity to hold a discussion, interview students (interns), use text messages (chat), as well as demonstrate media content, such as PowerPoint presentations, graphics, and video files.

Online teaching of Ukrainian as a foreign language at BSMU started from the beginning of the implementation of quarantine measures in Ukraine to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among the population. This form of learning the Ukrainian language by foreign medical students ensures the educational process of all students without exception, regardless of where they are (in Ukraine or abroad), and also allows all teachers to teach both domestic and foreign students by conducting video conference in accordance with the schedule of classes created at the beginning of the second semester.

Assimilation of educational material in Ukrainian as a foreign language in this way is effective when providing the use of visual material (drawings, photos, audio, and video recordings, tables, diagrams, etc.), which the teacher demonstrates during the conference, explaining the topic and then interviewing students to consolidate or control knowledge. We consider the visual contact of the teacher and the student to be necessary during the online lesson as they exchange information not only audibly but also by other verbal and nonverbal means (facial expressions, gestures, etc.). The disadvantages of the above form of education are seen in the fact that 1) it is not possible to keep in view the entire audience and accordingly respond to the behavior of each student during the practical lesson; 2) the student can perform a written task only in chat, not on the screen, which complicates proper control by the teacher and, accordingly, the correction of mistakes, and learning any language, including Ukrainian as a foreign language, involves the formation of practical writing skills.

Thus, online learning as one of the newest educational technologies is relevant in today's higher education institution, as it provides distance learning of various disciplines. However, the full-time form of student education, in our opinion, remains more effective, and such that allows not just to teach but to carry out the educational process qualitatively, taking into account the psychological and mental characteristics of foreign medical students.