







# NEWSPAPER - CONTRACTOR - CONTRA

KURSK STATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

The monthly corporate newspaper of Kursk Medical University has been published since February 2002

# 3 OF INTERNATIONAL YEARS COOPERATION



### TODAY AT KSMU:

**2200** international students from **47** countries are studying at the International Medical Institute

About 12 000 Students

More than **150** programs are implemented using simulation-based training on **6** levels of realism at the Federal Accreditation Center

There are **56** agreements with international universities, research centers, and clinics

KSMU offers over **500** educational programs at various levels of education, more than **60** programs for advanced training in residency and postgraduate studies, and over **400** additional programs for professional retraining and skill improvement.

### **DEAR FRIENDS!**

Kursk State Medical University has played an important role in training medical workers throughout its history. Graduates of our university work in medical and scientific institutions, healthcare organizations not only in our country but also abroad. Since 1935, the university has trained over 50,000 doctors, pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals. We are proud of each one of them! The university has provided them with a solid knowledge base - a foundation on which they successfully build their professional careers.



#### Victor Anatolyevich LAZARENKO,

Rector of Kursk State Medical University, Honored Doctor of the Russian Federation, Honored Scientist of the Russian Federation, Doctor of Medical Sciences, Professor, Deputy of the Kursk Regional Duma of the VII convocation, Honorary Citizen of Kursk

Confirmation of the high reputation and quality of specialist training at our university is evident in its leading positions in Russian and international rankings, as well as existing and new agreements on cooperation between our university and colleagues from CIS countries and other countries. Every year, more than 2,000 students, residents, and doctoral candidates from 47 countries study with us.

Since 2007, the university has implemented a quality management system. One of the priorities of KSMU's policy is to conduct university activities in accordance with the requirements of international and national quality management standards, directives of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education.

The high level of education at KSMU is confirmed by international accreditation and recognition in different countries around the world. In 2021, KSMU received international accreditation from the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME). In June 2023, recognition was granted by the South African Medical Council.

Educational programs at our university are accredited more than 30 countries. Today, we collaborate with more than 45 foreign educational organizations and medical clinics. We continuously work on the quality of educational services.

A diploma from KSMU is a gateway to the medical profession worldwide. International graduates of KSMU work in over 100 countries.

#### KSMU RATINGS

#### INTERNATIONAL RANKING **RUR 2023**



According to the **Round University** Ranking-2023, **Kursk State Medical** 

University has achieved the following rankings:

- 1st place among universities in Kursk;
- 5th place among Russian medical universities:
- 26th place among universities in Russia;
- 785th place among universities worldwide.

#### NATIONAL UNIVERSITY **RANKINGS-2023**



According to the National Rankings-2023,

in the "Internationalization" criterion, Kursk State Medical University has achieved the following rankings:

- 1st place among universities in Kursk;
- 11th place among medical universities in Russia.

#### SUBJECT NATIONAL AGGREGATED RANKING



In the Subject National Aggregated Ranking 2023, KSMU has earned distinguished positions in the following subject

clinical medicine, pharmacy, areas: psychological sciences - First League; health sciences and preventive medicine, economics, and management - Third League.

## INTERNATIONALIZATION OF MEDICAL **EDUCATION AND INTERNATIONAL** COOPERATION

International cooperation significantly enriches the activities of the university, expands the sphere of interests and practical results in science, educational and methodological work, personnel training, and contributes to the involvement of the collective in world culture.

The international activities of KSMU are aimed at increasing the authority in the system of higher education in Russia and further integration into the global educational space.

This work is carried out within the framework of cooperation programs with leading international universities, implementation of international educational programs and projects, joint research activities, organization of scientific and practical seminars and conferences, exchange of teaching staff, and development of student mobility.

KSMU maintains sustainable connections with many international universities and international organizations in Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America.

Agreements on cooperation have been concluded with universities in Sri Lanka, India, Arme-

nia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan.

Cooperation is carried out in the following main directions:

Export of educational services;

Development of academic mobility for students and professors;

■ Cooperation in the field of science, education, and practical healthcare with international universities and clinics;

- Cooperation with international organizations, medical associations, and medical councils of different countries;
- Participation in the network form of educational services implementation.

#### KSMU RATINGS



#### **RAEX-100**

Rating of the best universities in Russia is an integrated evaluation of the quality of graduates' training in the university, determined by quantitative parameters of their educational and research activities. KSMU occupies:

- 76th place in the overall ranking;
- 10th place among medical universities in Russia:
- 1st place among universities in the city of Kursk.



#### THE IMPACT RANKING 2023

KSMU has made a worthy showing in 7 categories:

- Ranked 401-601 out of 876 universities in the world SDG 1 No Poverty;
- Ranked 101-200 out of 1218 universities in the world SDG 3 Good Health and Well-Being:
- Ranked 301-400 out of 1304 universities in the world SDG 4 Quality Education;
- Ranked 401-600 out of 1081 universities in the world SDG 5 Gender Equality;
- Ranked 101-200 out of 960 universities in the world SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth;
- Ranked 63 out of 901 universities in the world SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities;
- Ranked 1001+ out of 1625 universities in the world SDG 17 Partnership for Sustainable Development. KSMU occupied: ■ 1st place in the region; ■ 1st place among medical universities in Russia in the overall ranking; 

  11th place among all universities in Russia in the overall ranking.

## **EXPANDING COOPERATION**

Today, KSMU carries out international cooperation with more than 47 international educational organizations and medical clinics. In 2022-2023, 14 international agreements, memoranda, and cooperation agreements were signed with the M. Nalbandyan State University Of Shirak, MATN University College, Perdana University, Bukhara State Medical University named after Abu Ali ibn Sina, Termez branch of the Tashkent Medical Academy, Sri Jayawardanapura University, Fergana Medical Institute of Public Health, Dr. M.G. Ramachandran Educational Institute, Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine, Tajik State Medical University named after Abu Ali ibn Sina, Osh State University, Information HAB of Myanmar Company Ltd, TRC EDU Limited, and established the Russian-Sri Lankan University Association of Medical and Related Sciences. The Association was created at the initiative and with the support of the Minister of Health of Russia, M.A. Murashko, and the Minister of Health of Sri Lanka, Keheliya Rambukwella. The main goal of the Association is the development of international cooperation in the field of educational, methodological, scientific research, and medical activities.

An International Consortium for the Development of Network Interaction between Kursk State Medical University and Fergana Medical Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan has been established. The aim of the Consortium is to enhance the global competitiveness of participants, their scientific and pedagogical staff,





and graduates by creating a joint space for obtaining international medical and pharmaceutical education and implementing international-level scientific projects based on cooperation between leading medical and pharmaceutical research and educational centers of Russia and Uzbekistan.

During 2022, as part of joint educational programs with Fergana Medical Institute of Public Health and Bukhara State Medical University named after Abu Ali ibn Sina of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the following specialties continue to operate using a network interaction format: Pediatrics, Biotechnology, Medicine, Dentistry, and Pharmacy, with subsequent issuance of dual diplomas.

Since September 2022, an agreement on the issuance of an additional master's degree in "Healthcare" has been implemented for KSMU graduates majoring in "Medicine" with the Charisma University of the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Republic of Uzbekistan in 5 directions.

The high level of education at KSMU in 2021 was confirmed by the receipt of international accreditation from the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME). In June 2023, recognition was received from the Medical Council of the Republic of South Africa.

During the 2022-2023 period, KSMU participated in International Education and Recruitment Exhibitions in Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Malaysia, and Myanmar.

Since 2022, the implementation of a new additional professional qualification program for the teaching staff of KSMU "Preparation for the International ESOL Certificate Exam, B2 Level" continues.

The training of highly qualified medical personnel and the increase in the competitiveness of the university are directly related to the accreditation of the university's educational programs abroad. Today, KSMU's educational programs are accredited in more than 30 foreign countries: Malaysia, India, South Africa, Botswana, Lebanon, Sri Lanka, Kazakhstan, Canada, Australia, Nigeria, Cameroon, Jordan, Thailand, Namibia, the United Kingdom, the Maldives, etc.

KSMU actively develops academic exchange for students and teaching staff.



## **EDUCATION RECOGNIZED WORLDWIDE**

Kursk State Medical University (KSMU) aims to expand the list of countries where its degree is recognized. Thanks to the international accreditation obtained according to the standards of the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME). in 2021, for the first time, KSMU began admitting students in the joint educational program "Medicine" with the University of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Since 1994, the educational program in Medicine has been implemented in English as well. KSMU pays special attention to the quality of teaching and English language proficiency. Currently, over two hundred scientific and pedagogical staff members of KSMU have confirmed their knowledge through international certificates. The number of International students studying at KSMU is actively growing. Russian education is in high demand in various countries. Among the leading partners in the field of educational services, KSMU cooperates with India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Brazil, Thailand, Maldives, Uzbekistan, Cyprus, Caribbean island, etc.



studying **2199** International students.

enrolled in 23/24 **350** International students

till today 6000 International students graduates.

IMI students represent **50** ethnics, **60** nationalities, and practice four traditional religions: Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism









For significant contributions to the development of medicine and strengthening friendship and cooperation with foreign countries, KSMU Rector Professor V.A. Lazarenko for excellent medical quality was awarded 8 honorary doctorates from international universities around the world, Malaysia, Cyprus, Lebanon, Uzbekistan and India.

Currently, over 2,200 foreign citizens from 47 countries are studying at KSMU. The geography of the foreign student body is as follows:

- 13% from neighboring coun-
- 87% from other international countries.

Since 1990, more than 6,000 foreign citizens from 74 countries have successfully completed their education at KSMU and received a specialist diploma. The KSMU degree serves as a gateway to a medical profession worldwide, which is confirmed by the employment geography of KSMU graduates, which is not limited to their home countries. International KSMU graduates work in more than 100 countries, including the Russian Federation.

The university creates attractive conditions for foreign citizens to work. Annually, the number of scientific and pedagogical staff members at KSMU is increasing. In 2022, eight foreign citizens from Malaysia, Lebanon, Nigeria, and Sri Lanka became part of the scientific and pedagogical staff at KSMU.



**PRIORITIES OF KSMU'S INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES** 

Development of cooperation in the field of scientific research

Expansion of the geography of academic mobility

Search for establishment of relationships with international universities and international organizations

Development of contacts and signing of collaboration agreements with educational institutions in foreign countries



## WE ARE UNITED BY KSMU!

Young people from different parts of the world became friends in Kursk: their common goal was to receive a high-quality medical education confirmed by an international diploma. Such diverse geographical locations, cultures, and temperaments came together within the walls of Kursk State Medical University.

Ponnamperruma Arachchige Kavindu (Sri Lanka)

Mv mother healthcare worker, and since my early childhood, I have often been in the hospital where she works. Choosing a profession was never a question for me. Why Russia? In our country, there are many doctors who have received education in Russia, and I have seen how high their professional level is. Why specifically Kursk? The good quality of education provided in English, the long-standing fruitful connections KSMU has with our country at the highest level.

#### Husna Kaem (Thailand)

I really like Russians! Many tourists from Russia come to Thailand, and often they need medical assistance while on vacation. Since most of them do not understand our language and do not speak English, I decided to learn Russian! I am convinced that combining a medical education

with knowledge of the Russian language offers excellent prospects for me in my homeland.



Nurul Liyana Bintli Ramzi (Malaysia)

What brought me to Kursk from a distant Asian country? Firstly, it is the opportunity to receive a quality medical education. My parents have their own medical clinic, and I would like to continue the dynasty in a worthy manner. And besides, Russia has four seasons – they are so different! Many impressions, many new friends, the prospect of a respected and wellpaid job – that's what brought me to KSMU!



#### Farrukh Khabibov (Uzbekistan)

There are good medical universities in Uzbekistan. But I made a clear decision: I will study in Russia. There was a choice: Moscow, St. Petersburg, or Kursk. But I don't like bustling megacities,

so I chose Kursk.
Moreover, Kursk
Medical University
is in no way inferior
to the major cities'
universities.

#### Karabo Mapupha (South Africa)

I am studying in the 4th year at Kursk State Medical University. Like most foreign students, I chose this university because good education can be obtained at a lower cost. I tell all my compatriots that Russia is a huge, beautiful, and hospitable country!

#### Franka Feietas Eduardo Gomez (Brazil)

Education in my country is very expensive. For example, the cost of studying at a Brazilian university for one semester is equivalent to studying at KSMU for a whole year! Initially, my parents were against me studying in Russia, as it is a very distant and cold country. But my friend Gabriel, who received education at KSMU, sent us the warmest photos and videos from Kursk. And that determined my fate: five years ago, I came to Russia and became a student at Kursk State Medical University. For some time, I lived in a dormitory. I learned to cook and do laundry by myself. I couldn't do any of these things before! Studying away from home has been beneficial for me!

## Ramakrishnan Ramamurthy (India)

I lead the Indian community at KSMU, which consists of over 1000 young men and women aged 17 to 25. I deal with organizational issues and help fellow countrymen, especially first-year students, adapt to Russian conditions. For me, Kursk has become a second home, and I have been living here for eight years! I like that the people of Kursk are friendly towards foreigners, including those with darker skin. Winter does not scare us: for the first couple of years, it is seen as an exotic novelty. And then we get used to it - dress warmer and continue studying! We are

> very grateful to the university for providing quality and affordable education!





"Hello, I came for an interview," said Sar-Desai Rishikesh Savanta with a radiant smile and in fairly good Russian. Rishikesh is a former student and now a resident at KSMU from India (city of Mumbai). Rishikesh has been living in Kursk since 2013 and has already completed his undergraduate studies at KSMU. Currently, he is refining his knowledge and skills in surgery under the guidance of our university. Rishikesh Savanta gladly shared why he chose Kursk State Medical University, the difficulties of studying, and much more.

#### - Rishikesh, why did you choose KSMU?

– My parents decided that I wouldn't study in an Indian institute. Before choosing Kursk State Medical University, we considered 38 universities from around the world. I decided to study here because the education at KSMU is conducted in English, and, as it turned out, it is of high quality.

#### - Rishikesh, why did you decide to become a doctor?

– My father is a surgeon. Our family has its own clinic, so I used to visit my dad's workplace since childhood and saw how people communicate and treat patients. Therefore, the question of choosing a profession did not arise. My wife is also studying medicine, but in our homeland. That's what our medical family is like.

#### - What surprised you in Russia?

– People here are very hospitable, and there are beautiful girls. And the cuisine is also unusual. My favorite dish is pancakes.

#### - How were you received in Kursk?

 Excellent! I arrived in 2013. I was accommodated in a dormitory on Lomonosova Street, where all the necessary conditions are provided: warmth, cleanliness, and



# RISHIKESH SAVANTA: «I CHOSE KSMU OUT OF **38** UNIVERSITIES»

everything you need. My compatriots, students from higher courses, told me about how to dress here in winter, what traditions exist in Russia, what dishes are prepared and eaten here. They even explained that learning the Russian language is initially very difficult, but if you study diligently, it's not that hard. I admit that at first, I didn't pay much attention to studying Russian and often missed classes, frequently failing assignments in the first and second years. But when I was already in my third year, the chairwoman of the Russian language department, Irina Anatolyevna Kovynova, told me that I wouldn't become a good doctor with poor Russian. So I started studying more diligently, attended classes more often, and as Russian people tell me, I have learned your language quite well. So now, in addition to Sanskrit, I know Russian, English, and Latin.

#### - Was it difficult for you to study at KSMU?

 Acquiring education is never easy. But our university has very good teachers. I am very grateful to the rector of KSMU, Professor Viktor Anatolievich Lazarenko, for assembling such a team!

## - What were your favorite subjects when you were studying at KSMU?

- "Disaster Medicine" and "Pharmacology."
- And the teachers?

– Associate Professor of the Department of Pharmacology, Lexo Lorikovich Kvachakhia. Extremely talented and knowledgeable teacher. He explained his subject so fascinatingly that I wanted to study, and it was very easy to do so. By the way, Lexo Lorikovich and I also share the same birthday.

#### - Rishikesh, do you plan to stay in Russia?

- No, after my residency, I will return home to my wife, who will also finish her education by then.
- What would you like to wish for the students and the rector of KSMU?
- Health, happiness, kindness, and I invite everyone for tea – after all, you also love this drink in Russia!



## «KSMU PRODUCES PROFESSIONALS»

In one of the classrooms of the Department of Internal Medicine No.1 at KSMU in the Kursk Regional Clinical Hospital, a class is in full swing for the 5th-year students of the International Medical Institute. The desks are arranged in a "P" shape, and English speech can be heard. The students have ECG indicators in their hands, attempting to "interpret" them, occasionally seeking guidance from their supervisor – Assistant of the Department of Internal Medicine No.1, Kakarama Isah. Kakarama came to Russia from Nigeria, completed six years of university and two years of residency. During this time, he made the decision to stay and work at the university on the clinical department.



#### - Kakarama, tell us a bit about your family and why you decided to become a doctor?

– My father dreamed of becoming a doctor, but for personal reasons, he never did. He is a journalist, and my mother works as an administrator in one of the hospitals. I became a doctor in place of my father. As for my family, my parents have five children. They have provided all of us with a good education. My eldest brother is a lawyer, followed by my sister

who is a journalist, like my father. Then there's me – a doctor. My sister who was born after me will soon become an engineer, and the youngest one – also a sister – lives in Nigeria and dreams of becoming a programmer. I love my family very much!

## - What medical specialty did you choose?

– I completed my clinical residency in therapy. I aspire to obtain an additional specialization in rheumatology. Overall, I am proud to have been hired as an assistant at the Department of Internal Medicine No. 1.

## - Kakarama, why did you choose to study in Russia?

 Honestly, it was based on the recommendation of a friend of my father. You see, his son studied at the Kursk Medical University. So, my father decided to send me here as well, so that I would have support.

- What surprised you about Russia?



– The snow. I immediately understood that it gets very cold here during winter. When I arrived in Moscow, it was already that time of the year, and I was wearing slippers. I had never experienced such cold as in Russia. It was not easy to adapt to your climate and the changing seasons. But it has been eight years now, and I have adapted.

## - As far as I understand, you plan to stay here... Why?

– Yes, of course. Initially, I had the same plans as most international students: to obtain an education and return home. However, when I was already in my final year of study, the director of the International Medical Institute, Mohammad Toufic Chahine, advised me to stay in Russia and build my career here. I followed that advice, and I have no regrets. First, Russia provides quality education, and secondly, in the process of acquiring a specialization, there is excellent clinical practice. For

everything I have achieved in my career thus far, I am grateful to Kursk State Medical University. In this university, everyone is interested in producing not just good doctors, but professionals in their field. It sincerely impresses me. Special thanks to the rector of Kursk State University, the director of the International Medical Institute, the head of the Department of Internal Medicine No. 1, Natalya Sergeevna Meshcherina, my mentor Elena Mikhailovna Hardikova, and all

the staff of the Department of Internal Medicine No.1.

## - How are doctors treated in your homeland?

- With great respect.

#### - How many years have you been teaching?

– I became a teacher since the end of February 2022. I enjoy it so much that I want to dedicate my life to it. In the past, when I was a student myself, the other students would come to me with questions, and I would help them and explain what they didn't understand. I also assisted them in preparing for exams. I became so accustomed to it during my studies that it is now very easy for me as a teacher.

## - Will you start your own family in Russia, or will you go to Nigeria to find a bride?

– Perhaps in Russia (laughs). I have been living in this country for so many years, so I will probably search for a future spouse here.

## ADAPTATION - AN IMPORTANT MATTER!

Upon arriving in Russia - a country that not only has a climate unfamiliar to students, but also completely different traditions, students of the International Medical Institute of KSMU are required to participate in a socio-cultural adaptation program.

International students go on excursions to historical places in our city and region, such as the Kurskaya Duga Memorial Complex with the Triumphal Arch, the Battle Dacha Park, the male monastery "Korennaia Pustyn" (in the Svoboda-Zolotukhino district), the Kursk Regional Local Lore Museum, and others. In addition, KSMU students visit various exhibitions (such as "No to Nazism"),

regional and city events, such as the "Kozhlyanskaya Toy Invites Friends" festival, the "Korenskaya Yarmarka" (Koren Fair), Kursk City's birthday, and others.

International students of KSMU are also active participants in various events and celebrations held at KSMU – the "Ice Fairy Tale" before New Year, the winter send-off during "Maslenitsa" (Pancake Week), the first-year students'

creativity festival "Look who's here", and many others.

But that's not all! Special adaptation events are organized for foreign students at KSMU, allowing them to get acquainted with Russian national traditions. One such event is "We don't get bored with tea", during which students have the opportunity to try Russian national dishes and experience the warmth of our hospitality.





















### DAYS OF NATIONAL CULTURE AT KSMU

#### A GRAND, COLORFUL, AND UNFORGETTABLE CELEBRATION!

In KSMU, it has become a good tradition to hold days of culture from different countries, such as India, Sri Lanka, Brazil, Africa, and others. Thanks to these days, international students have the opportunity not only to preserve the cultural traditions of their countries but also to generously share them with students of other nationalities. Days of culture at KSMU are always a grand, colorful, and unforgettable celebration.









On this day, students of the International Medical Institute of KSMU showcase the national costumes of their countries and continents, talk about traditions and children's games, and even invite participation in some of them. They conduct workshops on decorative and applied arts, teaching the making of jewelry, toys, and applying henna designs on the skin. Sometimes, they also present national dishes for tasting.

However, perhaps the highlight of the days of culture is the concert, where foreign students sing songs from their homeland, dance, and play traditional music on exotic instruments unfamiliar to Russian people. For example, during the African culture day, the stage of the KSMU auditorium resounded with extraordinary rhythms that

made it impossible to sit still. Folk lyrical compositions, unforgettable voices, rhythmic drum beats, and original dances "transported" the audience to the vast deserts and mountains of this mysterious continent.

The uniqueness and distinctiveness of each country are evident even in the names of the concerts. For example, this year, the Indian National Culture Day was called "Navarasa," which translates to "nine emotions." And emotions are an integral part of human life!

The days of national culture at KSMU always go very successfully! This can be seen from the enthusiastic applause of the audience, the inspired faces, and the happy eyes of the performers.

## VOLLEYBALL LOVERS AND FIRST IN CRICKET

Students of the International Medical Institute of KSMU are not only developed intellectually and creatively, but they are also excellent athletes!

At IMI KSMU, there is a successful volleyball team that regularly participates in competitions of various levels. Many students of the International Medical Institute are truly passionate about this game. In May 2023, at the initiative of the Brazilian community of the International Medical Institute of KSMU and with the support of the Department of Physical Education of KSMU, a volleyball tournament among foreign student teams was held. Teams from Brazil, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka expressed their desire to compete. The battles were intense and interesting.

With the aim of strengthening cooperation between the Russian and Sri Lankan communities, the Embassy of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in the Russian Federation has been organizing the "Embassy Cricket Cup" among Sri Lankan students studying in Russian educational organizations for the past 15 years.

Every year, participants of the tournament are students from the Kursk State Medical University, Kursk State University, Russian University of Friendship of Peoples, Tver State Medical University, First St. Petersburg State Medical University

named after I.P. Pavlov, and others. And for the past five years, the team of the International Medical Institute of KSMU has been taking first place in this tournament!

Not long ago, a mini-football tournament among student teams of the Sri Lankan community was held at the International Medical Institute of KSMU, attracting more than a hundred participants. In intense football battles, the team with the catchy name "Mighty Lions" became the winner.

Since 2004, at the initiative of the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Malaysia to the Russian Federation, the Russian National Research Medical University named after N.I. Pirogov in Moscow has been hosting sports games for Malaysian students. Students of the International Medical Institute of KSMU regularly participate in them. Students competed in volleyball, handball, badminton, netball, futsal, frisbee, and more. As a result, the team of Malaysian students from the International Medical Institute of KSMU took 2nd place overall, winning gold in volleyball, handball, netball, and frisbee, and a bronze medal in futsal.











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