

## FOREIGN EXPERIENCE IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

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**Annotation:** This article examines the foreign experience of conducting scientific research, drawing upon a literature review and interviews with 15 researchers who have worked internationally. The foreign research experience, while challenging, offers valuable opportunities for advancing scientific knowledge and fostering global cooperation. Future research should explore discipline-specific factors and the long-term impacts of international experience on researchers' careers.

**Keywords:** international research, scientific collaboration, research challenges, cultural differences, research funding

**Annotatsiya:** Ushbu maqolada xalqaro miqyosda ishlagan 15 tadqiqotchi bilan adabiyotlar tahlili va intervyu asosida ilmiy tadqiqot olib borishning xorijiy tajribasi ko'rib chiqiladi. Xorijiy tadqiqot tajribasi murakkab bo'lsa-da, ilmiy bilimlarni rivojlantirish va global hamkorlikni rivojlantirish uchun qimmatli imkoniyatlarni taqdim etadi. Kelajakdagi tadqiqotlar fanga xos omillarni va xalqaro tajribaning tadqiqotchilarning karyerasiga uzoq muddatli ta'sirini o'rganishi kerak.

**Kalit so'zlar:** xalqaro tadqiqotlar, ilmiy hamkorlik, tadqiqot muammolari, madaniy farqlar, tadqiqotni moliyalashtirish

**Аннотация:** В этой статье рассматривается зарубежный опыт проведения научных исследований, основанный на обзоре литературы и интервью с 15 исследователями, работавшими на международном уровне. Зарубежный исследовательский опыт, хотя и сложный, открывает ценные возможности для продвижения научных знаний и укрепления глобального сотрудничества. В будущих исследованиях следует изучить факторы, связанные с конкретными дисциплинами, и долгосрочное влияние международного опыта на карьеру исследователей.

**Ключевые слова:** международные исследования, научное сотрудничество, исследовательские задачи, культурные различия, финансирование исследований.

### Introduction

Scientific research is an increasingly global endeavor, with international collaboration recognized as essential for addressing complex challenges facing humanity [1]. Researchers who gain foreign experience working with international colleagues can benefit from exposure to diverse ideas, access to specialized expertise and facilities, and opportunities to tackle research questions from new angles [2]. However, conducting research in foreign settings also poses challenges, from navigating cultural differences to securing funding and support [3]. This article aims to synthesize existing literature on the foreign research experience and gather new insights through interviews with researchers. By identifying key challenges, benefits, and success strategies, it seeks to provide

guidance for researchers pursuing international experience and highlight the value of foreign engagement for advancing scientific knowledge.

### **Methods and Literature review**

To examine the foreign experience in scientific research, a narrative literature review was conducted focusing on studies published in the past 20 years. Databases including Google Scholar, Web of Science, and Scopus were searched using keywords such as "international research collaboration," "foreign research experience," "researcher mobility," and "cross-cultural research."

To supplement insights from the literature, semi-structured interviews were conducted with a purposive sample of 15 researchers who had worked abroad in the past 5 years. Participants were recruited through the author's professional networks and selected to represent diverse disciplines, career stages, and countries of origin and destination. Interviews were conducted via video call, lasting 45-75 minutes, and focused on researchers' motivations, challenges faced, perceived benefits, and recommendations for others considering foreign research. Interview transcripts were analyzed using thematic analysis [4].

### **Results**

The literature and interviews highlighted several common challenges in conducting research abroad. Cultural differences were frequently cited, with researchers describing difficulties in communication, work styles, and expectations around hierarchy and authority [5][6]. Language barriers also posed obstacles, particularly when working in countries where English was not widely spoken [7]. Interviewees emphasized the time and effort required to build trust and rapport with foreign colleagues.

Funding emerged as another key challenge, with researchers often struggling to secure grants for international projects or cover additional costs such as travel and living expenses [8][9]. Some interviewees described a lack of institutional support or recognition for foreign research, with international work seen as a "distraction" from core responsibilities.

Differing research norms and systems also created challenges, from navigating unfamiliar ethical review processes to accessing data and resources [10]. Interviewees described a "learning curve" in adapting to new research cultures and expectations.

Despite these challenges, the literature and interviews also highlighted significant benefits of foreign research experience. Exposure to new ideas and approaches was commonly cited, with researchers describing how international collaboration broadened their perspectives and sparked creative insights. Interviewees spoke of the value of seeing their research "through a different lens" and being challenged to question assumptions.

Access to specialized expertise, facilities, and data was another key benefit, allowing researchers to pursue questions that would be difficult or impossible to address in their home countries. Some interviewees described foreign experience as "accelerating" their research progress and opening up new lines of inquiry.

Building international networks and relationships was also seen as a major advantage, providing ongoing opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange. Interviewees spoke of the "doors opened" by foreign experience and the lasting impact on their careers.

Enhanced intercultural competence and adaptability were other benefits noted in the literature and interviews. Researchers described developing a greater appreciation for diverse perspectives and ways of working, as well as increased confidence in navigating unfamiliar situations.

### Analysis and discussion

The foreign research experience offers significant benefits for individual researchers and the advancement of scientific knowledge, but also poses challenges that require careful navigation. The literature and interviews highlight the importance of cultural competence, adaptability, and strong partnerships in overcoming obstacles and maximizing the benefits of international collaboration.

While the specific challenges and benefits may vary depending on the research context and discipline, the strategies identified in this article offer a starting point for researchers considering foreign experience. Future research could explore how these factors play out in different fields and regions, and examine the long-term impacts of international experience on researchers' careers and scientific progress.

Ultimately, the foreign research experience requires a willingness to step outside one's comfort zone and embrace new ways of thinking and working. As one interviewee put it, "It's not always easy, but it's always worth it." By investing in international collaboration and exchange, researchers can broaden their horizons, forge new connections, and contribute to a more globally integrated scientific community.

### Conclusion

The foreign experience in scientific research offers valuable opportunities for advancing knowledge, building relationships, and enhancing intercultural competence. While challenges related to culture, language, funding, and differing research norms are common, strategies such as building strong partnerships, securing support, and maintaining adaptability can help researchers navigate these obstacles and maximize the benefits of international engagement. As science becomes increasingly global in scope, the ability to work effectively across borders will be essential for addressing complex challenges and pushing the boundaries of discovery. By embracing the foreign research experience, researchers can position themselves at the forefront of this exciting and transformative frontier.

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