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## KNOWLEDGE OF A FOREIGN LANGUAGE IS A FACTOR FOR SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYMENT IN THE MODERN WORLD

Барнатович Я.Ю.

Научный руководитель: преподаватель Новикова Е.А.  
Белорусский национальный технический университет

On December 8, 1991, the Soviet Union ceased to exist. Belarus became a full participant in international trade. Private and state organizations specializing in the export and/or import of goods and services began to appear in the country. In 2023, the volume of exports of goods and services of the Republic of Belarus amounted to 47.8 billion dollars, while the volume of imports of goods and services amounted to 47.3 billion dollars [1]. The volumes of exports and imports indicate a high demand for specialists proficient in foreign languages.

Let's highlight a series of opportunities that open up for a person proficient in foreign languages:

- Knowledge of a foreign language allows one to find a job not only within the chosen profession but also to obtain employment without specialized education.

- Thanks to modern technologies, it is possible to work without being tied to a specific place of residence. Thus, a specialist proficient in a foreign language significantly expands the scope of job search and also has the opportunity for remote work.

- In addition to employment benefits, professionals with knowledge of a foreign language have higher salaries.

According to research conducted by the job search service Superjob, «engineers who are fluent in English earn 12 percent more than those who do not speak it» [2]. It should be noted that specialists proficient in two or more languages have the greatest advantage in employment and salary negotiation. Among the most popular languages among employers are English, Chinese, Turkish, and German [3]. Employers do not always require fluency in a foreign language; in most cases, conversational level is sufficient.

In conclusion, it can be said that professionals proficient in foreign languages have multiple opportunities for employment both in domestic and foreign organizations. There is a clear trend of increasing salaries among such specialists.

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### **SMUGGLING IN CUSTOMS**

Казачковская А.С., Климович А.А.

Научный руководитель: преподаватель Новикова Е.А.  
Белорусский национальный технический университет

There are cases when people agree, at the request of other people, to transport something from abroad. Out of their naivety, they agree to this. As a result, it turns out that this completely harmless thing contains prohibited substances for transportation across the border. The difficult and time-consuming process of litigation begins. Smuggling in customs is one of the most serious and widespread problems faced by customs authorities around the world. It not only damages the country's economy, but also disrupts law and order. Smuggling is a crime and is punishable in accordance with the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus. This type of criminal activity is the illegal import or export of goods across the customs border without paying the necessary duties, taxes and complying with customs procedures. The crime of movement is considered in two cases: 1) movement across the border of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, explosive devices