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BULGARIA

EDUCATION

University
Examinations

Entrance And Graduation Examinations At The SOFIA
Technical University.

SOURCE ISTANBUL: A Turkish ethnic emigrant, former University student.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 1950

The great affluence of students to the "Stalin" Technical University has made it necessary to have more severe entrance examinations. To facilitate for the students to give the examinations, these are held in most larger localities, so that the student does not actually have to travel all the way to SOFIA. The examination questions are distributed through the K.N.I.K. (Committee for Science, Arts and Culture) and students all over the country receive their questions at exactly the same hour. Aside from the examination results, the most important factor governing university admission is the report the student can produce about his political background. A good D.S.N.M. certificate is worth more than a correct examination paper.

Yearly admission rate is 400 students in the department of engineering, 200 in the department of architecture, 300 in the department of chemistry and 200 for both the departments of electricity and mechanics. In the scholar year 1949-50, 900 new students were admitted to the faculties of the Technical University.

Except for the chemistry department, all other departments are producing below-standard students. The fault is not with the students, but due to lack of practical means to teach. Only the chemistry department has a well-equipped laboratory, and students have the possibility of doing some laboratory research work before graduation. The chemistry course lasts four and a half years and comprises nine semesters. Before taking their degrees, the students must work for three months in a state enterprise and then present a thesis. Examination boards not infrequently are made up of more Communist Party functionaries than teachers.

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The weakest departments are those of engineering and architecture. Compared to pre-war standards, students learn much less, and this is one of the reasons why Soviet-trained engineers are in such great demand. The department of electricity is sub-divided into two sections: light and heavy current. Light current is the more popular field, and at the end of the first four semesters when students have to make their choice, at least 80 per cent of them usually choose the latter field. If, however, there are too many applicants for the section of light current, then the students are not allowed to make their own choice; it is the D.S.N.M., which equally distributes the students between both sections.

The section of mechanics comprises aerial mechanics, general mechanics, and ship-building. Civil engineering has different departments for road, bridge, railroad and tunnel constructions. Waterway and concrete construction departments were added in 1951. The first two years of electricity and mechanics are taught as if one subject, similarly chemists and physicists study together for their first two semesters. Source who was a student at the department of electricity could give the complete curriculum of his department.

- 1st semester: basic chemistry and statics;
- 2nd semester: higher mathematics, physics, Russian and either French or German language, theoretical geometry, history of the Soviet revolution;
- 3rd semester: technical drawing, electric resistance;
- 4th semester: higher mathematics (part II), Russian and one other foreign language, mechanics (part I,) geology (part I);
- 5th semester: electrical calculations and basic electrical apparatuses;
- 6th semester: kinematics, strong current, redressors, hydro-electric apparatuses, thermic instruments, interior lighting;
- 7th semester: strong current, electrical instruments, energy transplantations, electrical apparatuses (part II) electrical installations;
- 8th semester: mechanics (part II,) geology (part II,) high frequency;
- 9th semester: high tension wires, high and low frequency calculations, telegraph technology, telephone installations, and hydraulic electric installations.

EVAL. COMMENT: Matters in general correspond with similar previous information. No confirmation available here on detailed course curriculum as mentioned in above report.