

Education in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Vojvodina offer 3 levels of education, 7 universities

by WES Staff Members

In the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia* (Serbia and Montenegro, including the autonomous provinces of Kosovo and Vojvodina), the education system is divided into elementary, secondary and tertiary levels.

The academic year runs from October through July, and the main language of instruction for most institutions is Serbian.

At present there are seven universities in the country: the University of Belgrade, the University of Fine Arts of Belgrade, the University of Kragujevac, the University of Nis, the University of Novi Sad, the University of Pristina and the University of Montenegro.

Elementary and Secondary Education

Primary schooling is compulsory, free and lasts for eight years. About 97 percent of children ages seven to 15 are enrolled in elementary schools in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FR Yugoslavia).

Secondary education lasts four years, from age 15 to 19. Pupils attend either vocational/technical schools or the more academically oriented schools called gymnasia.

Organization of Higher Education

University Education

Admission requirements: secondary-school certificate. Other admission requirements may include: aptitude tests administered by faculties of architecture, fine and applied arts, music and drama.

* The United States does not formally recognize the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and refers to the entity instead as Serbia and Montenegro.



◆ *Visoke skole* ("high schools") can be independent higher education institutions, or they can be attached to universities or university faculties. Such schools offer programs that last two to four academic years. Two-year programs lead to a Level VI/1 diploma, while four-year programs lead to a Level VII/1 diploma. Both diplomas carry a professional title in various scientific and artistic fields (mechanical engineer, lawyer, teacher, etc.).

◆ University faculties and specialized institutes (for example, art and music academies) offer programs lasting between four to six years leading to a Level VII/1 diploma. Students who earn this degree are also awarded a professional title in various scientific and artistic fields (for instance, mechanical engineer, doctor of medicine, economist, professor of physics, etc.).

Non-University Higher Education

Admission requirement: secondary-school certificate.

◆ *Vise skole* ("higher schools") offer programs in technical subjects, paramedical sciences and other vocations. They usually run from two to three academic years and lead to a Level VI/1 diploma with a professional title (for in-

stance, senior nurse, senior medical technician, transport engineer, etc.).

Post Graduate Education

◆ The master's degree program is at least two years long. Upon successful completion of the required course work and defense of a thesis, successful candidates are awarded a *Magistar Nauka* (Level VII/2 diploma).

◆ The doctorate of science, or *Doktor Nauka* (Level VIII diploma), is the highest academic degree awarded in FR Yugoslavia. This degree is obtained through independent research and does not require structured course work of any kind. Candidates are evaluated on the basis of published research papers and their ability to write and defend a doctoral dissertation.

Teacher Education

Elementary school teachers (grades 1-4) are trained in two-year programs at a pedagogical academy or teacher-training college (*vise skole*). Grades 5-8 teachers must complete a four-year program, offered at a *visoke skole* or a pedagogical academy attached to a university faculty. All candidates are required to pass a state examination to practice teaching.

Prospective secondary-school teachers must complete a four-year degree program at university arts or science faculties. Starting in the second year, candidates take classes in education and teaching methodology, in addition to classes in their majors. In the first semester of the last year, they are allowed to teach in an actual classroom.

Higher education instructors (assistants, faculty professors, docents, extraordinary and regular professors) are recruited among graduates, postgraduates and holders of doctoral degrees in relevant disciplines. A *Doktor Nauka* is re-

quired for the highest and best-paid faculty positions, and further specialization is required by law for all instructors.

Grading System

◆ In secondary education, a 1-

5 grading scale is used with 2 being the minimum passing grade.

◆ At the tertiary level, a 5-10 grading scale is used with 6 being the minimum passing grade.

Sources: 1) *World Guide to Higher Education* 2) *Country Ed-*

ucation Profiles: Republics of the Former Yugoslavia 3) *International Association of Universities* 4) *Yugoslavia: Projects for International Education Research*

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in "archeometrics" or archeological engineering (*archaeometrie ingenierarchaeologie*).

The science of archeometrics attempts to solve archeological questions using natural science and engineering methods.

Classical archeology, on the contrary, practices typological (comparative) methods. The core requirements include history, in addition to physics and chemistry. Graduates of this program will be awarded the title of Diploma-Archeologist (*Diplom-Archaeologe*).

— *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ)*
June 19, 1999

■ Plans are underway to replace Germany's traditional *diplom* — a degree that takes four years or more to complete — with American-style bachelor's and master's degrees.

The *Wissenschaftstrat* (Science Council) also intends to make degree programs less research based and more career oriented to better prepare students for the job market.

Under the new system, students can obtain a bachelor's degree after only six semesters of study. Exceptionally gifted students have the option of continuing on for a master's degree, which places greater emphasis on research.

With the traditional *diplom* eventually phased out, the new bachelor degrees would make Germany's system of higher education more internationally compatible. It is hoped that the shorter degree programs will help curb the country's high dropout rate.

Although attempts to modernize Germany's system of higher education have met with resistance in past years, the *Wissenschaftstrat* is confident that it will succeed this time. Many universities in Germany are already experimenting with bachelor's and master's degree courses.

— *Times Higher Education Supplement*
Feb. 12, 1999

■ The *Fachhochschule* in Hamburg will offer a new international degree program called "information engineering" starting in September. Both bachelor and master

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degrees will be awarded.

Classes will be taught in English. Half of the 40 available places will be reserved for foreigners. A semester-long internship abroad (for Germans) or in Germany (for foreigners) is part of the four year program.

Further information about this program can be found at www.e-i.fh-hamburg.de.

— *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*
June 9, 1999

United Kingdom

■ Students enrolling at British

universities now have to pay annual tuition of about \$1,600 per head. The introduction of fees has impacted more dramatically on Scottish universities than it has on institutions of higher education in England and Wales.

According to a report released by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, applications to Scottish universities were down by 4,000 this year, a 6 percent drop over last year. At the same time, applications fell by only 2.7 percent in England and 2.2 percent in Wales.

Both Thomas Docherty, president of Scotland's National Union of Students, and David Bleiman, an officer of the Association of University Teachers, concurred that these statistics are a clear indication that the imposition of fees are discouraging students from applying to British universities.

But a survey conducted by *The Times* of London found that, while the new tuition regime may be deterring older students from pursuing university degrees, there is little evidence to justify fears that dropout rates would soar once currently enrolled students received their tuition bills.

Les Ebdon, deputy vice-chancellor of Plymouth University, recently told *The Times*, "I think the impact of the fee and of loans has

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