

New Structure of Bulgarian Higher Education

by Margaret Dobrow-King
Senior Area Specialist
World Education Services

On Dec. 12, 1995, the Bulgarian National Assembly passed the Higher Education Act.

This legislation outlined the new structure of higher education and set guidelines for the new academic titles and degrees to be awarded.

It also made clear how the previously awarded degrees would fit into the new structure by specifying their correspondence to the new degrees and by granting individuals holding older degrees the right to use the new titles.

The following is a brief description of the old and new structures.

Higher education is offered at three types of institutions.

The poluvisshe, or semi-higher, institutes offer programs designed to train students for professional and skilled positions.

The higher institutes offer very specialized programs, usually in the fields of agriculture, medicine, economics and the arts.

Universities offer a wide vari-

ety of programs in their different faculties, but students always specialize from the first year of study.

Upon completion of secondary school, students take the written and oral National Matriculation Examination, which features questions developed by the Ministry of Education.

Those who do not take the exam receive a Certificate of Completion of Secondary School and are not eligible for entry into higher education.

Those who pass the exam receive the Diploma Za Zavrsheno Sredno Obrazovanie (DZSO), also known as the Diploma of Completed Secondary Education.

The DZSO is required for entrance into all higher and semi-higher institutions.

In addition, students must take competitive entrance exams.

All students are ranked based on a combination of entrance exam performance and secondary school grades.

The universities select only the highest-ranking students for the limited spaces available. Only 13-14 percent of DZSO holders are accepted into a university.

Structure of Higher Education Before 1995

Diploma Za Zavrsheno Poluvisshe Obrazovanie (Diploma of Completed Semi-Higher Education): This diploma was awarded upon completion of a two- to three-and-one-half-year program offered at poluvisshe (semi-higher) institutes.

Following completion, students could proceed (with advanced standing) to higher-institute or university programs leading to the Diploma Za Zavrsheno Visshe Obrazovanie (Diploma of Completed Higher Education).

In practice, however, very few did.

Diploma Za Zavrsheno Visshe Obrazovanie/DZVO (Diploma of Completed Higher Education): This diploma, abbreviated as DZVO, was awarded upon completion of a four- to five-year program offered at universities or higher institutes.

In most programs, a thesis was required for degree completion.

In all programs, students were also required to pass a state exam to qualify for a diploma.

This exam consisted of topics in political economy, Marxism-Leninism and the area of specialization.

Kandidat na Naukite (Candidate of Science): Students who held a DZVO and passed competitive entrance exams in their area of specialization were eligible to be admitted to a Kandidat na Naukite program.

The program consisted of the aspirantura (period of research and qualifying exams) and the defense of a thesis.

Full-time students usually completed the program in three years.

Doktor na Naukite (Doctor of Science): This degree was awarded to Candidates of Science after subsequent research, publication

Bulgarian Higher Education Degrees

Before 1995	1995 and later
Diploma Za Zavrsheno Poluvisshe Obrazovanie (Diploma of Completed Semi-Higher Education)	Spetsialist (Specialist)
No corresponding award	Bakalavr (Bachelor)
Diploma Za Zavrsheno Visshe Obrazovanie/DZVO (Diploma of Completed Higher Education)	Magistr (Master)
Kandidat na Naukite (Candidate of Science)	Doktor (Doctor of Science)
Doktor na Naukite (Doctor of Science)	No corresponding award

and a new contribution to the body of knowledge (recognized in Bulgaria and abroad).

Structure of Higher Education, 1995 and Later

Spetsialist (Specialist): The Higher Education Act of 1995 officially recognizes all Diploma Za Zavrsheno Poluvisshe Obrazovanie issued to this point as specialist degrees.

Bakalavr (Bachelor): This is a new degree established by the Higher Education Act of 1995. The DZSO is required for admission.

The title is awarded after four years of study at a higher institute or university.

Magistr (Master): This new degree, created by the Higher Education Act of 1995, can be earned in two ways.

Students who have the DZSO complete a five- or six-year unified program.

Those who have already earned the bakalavr can receive the magistr after one to two years of additional study.

Students must (usually) complete a thesis and (always) pass a state exam to be awarded the degree.

The Higher Education Act of 1995 recognizes all pre-1995 DZVO as magistr degrees, regardless of the type of program or length of study.

Doktor (Doctor): This new degree is awarded after three years of research, exams and the submission and defense of a dissertation.

It replaces the old Kandidat na Naukite (Candidate of Science).

The Higher Education Act of 1995 grants all Kandidat na Naukite holders the right to use the title doktor.

Bulgarian Institutions of Higher Education

All institutional name changes indicated in the entries below took effect in 1995. For more information, contact the institutions directly or the Bulgarian Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, 2A Kniaz Dondukov Boulevard, 1000 Sofia, phone: 011-359-2-84-81, fax: 011-359-2-871-289.

Agricultural University Plovdiv (formerly the Higher Institute of Agriculture) D. Mendeleev 12 4000 Plovdiv **Phone:** 011-359-32-2-34-98 **Fax:** 011-359-32-23-31-57 **Web:** <http://www.au-plovdiv.bg> **E-mail:** info@au-plovdiv.bg

Akademija za Muzikalno i Tancovo Izkustvo [Academy of Music and Dance Arts] (formerly called the Higher Pedagogical Institute of Music) 2 Todor Samodumov Str. 4025 Plovdiv **Phone:** 011-359-32-228-311 **Fax:** 011-359-32-231-668

Amerikanski Universitet v Bulgaria [American University in Bulgaria] 2700 Blagoevgrad **Phone:** 011-359-73-20968 **Fax:** 011-359-73-20603 **Web:** <http://www.aubg.bg> **E-mail:** admissions@fin.aubg.bg

Burgaski Svobodan Universitet [Bourgas Free University] 101 Alexandrovska Str. 8000 Bourgas **Phone:** 011-359-56-22152 **Fax:** 011-359-56-29567

Darzavna Muzikalna Akademija 'Prof. Panko Vladigerov' [State Academy of Music 'Prof. Panko Vladigerov'] (formerly called the Bulgarian State Conservatory) 11 Evlogi Georgiev Boulevard 1505 Sofia **Phone:** 011-359-2-442-197 **Fax:** 011-359-2-463-677

European College of Business and Technology 19 Hristo Botev Str. Veliko Tarnovo **Phone:** 011-359-62-24028 **Fax:** 011-359-62-23958

Himiko-tehnologichen i Metalurgicen Universitet [University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy] (formerly called the Higher Institute of Chemical Technology) 8 St. Kliment Ohridski Str. 1756 Sofia **Phone:** 011-359-2-682-105 **Fax:** 011-359-2-685-488 **Web:** <http://www.uctm.acad.bg> **E-mail:** velev@adm1.uctm.acad.bg

Ikonomiceski Universitet, Varna [Varna University of Economics] (formerly called the Higher Institute of Economics, Varna) 77 Kniaz Boris I Boulevard 9002 Varna **Phone:** 011-359-52-225-351 **Fax:** 011-359-52-325-680 **Web:** <http://ue.mt-mt.bg>

Lesotehniciski Universitet [University of Forestry] (formerly called the Higher Technical Institute of Forestry) 10 St. Kliment Ohridski Boulevard 1756 Sofia **Phone:** 011-359-2-623-068 **Fax:** 011-359-2-622-830

Medicinski Universitet Sofia [Medical University of Sofia] (formerly called the Higher Institute of Medicine, Sofia) 15 St. Georgi Sofijski Boulevard 1431 Sofia **Phone:** 011-359-2-590-052 **Fax:** 011-359-2-594-094 **Web:** <http://www.medun.acad.bg/> **E-mail:** root@Sun.medun.acad.bg

Medicinski Universitet Varna [Medical University of Varna] (formerly called the Higher Institute of Medicine, Varna) 55 Marin Drinov Str. 9010 Varna **Phone:** 011-359-52-225-622 **Fax:** 011-359-52-222-584

Minno-geološki Universitet 'Sveti Ivan Rilski' [University of Mining and Geology 'St. Ivan Rilski'] (formerly called the Higher Institute of Mining and Geology) Hristo Botev Studentski Grad 1100 Sofia **Phone:** 011-359-2-687-224 **Fax:** 011-359-2-624-940 **Web:** <http://www.mgu.bg> **E-mail:** webmaster@mgu.bg

Nacionalna Akademija za Teatralno i Filmoud Izkustvo 'Kristo Sarafov' [National Academy for Theater and Film Arts 'Krustyu Sarafov'] (formerly called the Krustyu Sarafov Higher Institute of Drama) 108-A Rakovski Str. 1000 Sofia **Phone:** 011-359-2-873-424 **Fax:** 011-359-2-897-389

Nacionalna Hudozestvena Akademija [National Academy of Arts] (formerly called the Nikolai Pavlovich Higher Institute of Fine Art) 1 Sipka Str. 1000 Sofia **Phone:** 011-359-2-881-701 **Fax:** 011-359-2-873-328

Nacionalna Sportna Akademija [National Sports Academy] (formerly called the Higher Institute of Physical Culture) 1 Gourgoulyat Str. 1000 Sofia **Phone:** 011-359-2-879-620 **Fax:** 011-359-2-883-064

Nov Bugarski Universitet [New Bulgarian University] 21 Montevideo Str. P.O. Box 669 1635 Sofia **Phone:** 011-359-2-547-187 **Fax:** 011-359-2-540-802 **Web:** <http://www.nbu.acad.bg>

Plovdivski Universitet 'Paissii Hilendarski' [Plovdiv University 'Paissii Hilendarski'] 24 Tsar Assen Str. 4000 Plovdiv **Phone:** 011-359-32-225-385 **Fax:** 011-359-32-235-049 **Web:** <http://www.uni-plovdiv.bg> **E-mail:** info@uni-plovdiv.bg

Continued, next page

DIRECTORY, continued from previous page

Rusenski Universitet 'Angel Kancev' [University 'A. Kancev' Rousse] (formerly called the Angel Kunchev Higher Technical School) 8 Studentska Str. 7017 Rousse **Phone:** 011-359-82-447-268 **Fax:** 011-359-82-455-145
Web: <http://www.ru.acad.bg>

Slavjanski Universitet [Slavic University] 169 Evlogi Georgiev Boulevard 1000 Sofia **Phone:** 011-359-2-439-972

Sofiiski Universitet 'Sveti Kliment Ohridski' [St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia] Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd. 15 1504 Sofia **Phone:** 011-359-2-873-996
Fax: 011-359-2-463-589 **Web:** <http://www.uni-sofia.bg>
E-mail: rossy@uni-sofia.bg

Stopanska Akademija 'Dimitur A. Tsenov' [Academy of Economics 'Dimitur A. Tsenov'] (formerly called the Dimitur A. Tsenov Higher Institute of Finance and Economics) 2 Emanuil Chakarov Str. 5250 Svishtov
Phone: 011-359-631-22-721 **Fax:** 011-359-631-23-472
Web: <http://www.uni-svishtov.bg>

Sumenski Universitet 'Konstantin Preslavski' [Konstantin Preslavski University, Shoumen] (formerly called the Konstantin Preslavski Higher Pedagogical Institute) 53 Aprilsko Vustanie Str. 9712 Shoumen
Phone: 011-359-54-63148 **Fax:** 011-359-54-63171
Web: <http://www.uni-shoumen.acad.bg> **E-mail:** rector@main.uni-shoumen.acad.bg

Tehnički Universitet Gabrovo [Technical University of Gabrovo] (formerly called the Higher Institute of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering) 4 Hadji Dimitur Str. 5300 Gabrovo **Phone:** 011-359-66-23104 **Fax:** 011-359-66-24856
Web: <http://www.tugab.bg>

Tehnički Universitet Sofija [Technical University of Sofia] (formerly called the Higher Institute of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering) Hristo Botev Studentski Grad 1797 Sofia **Phone:** 011-359-2-623-073
Fax: 011-359-2-685-343 **Web:** <http://www.vmei.acad.bg>

Tehnički Universitet Varna [Technical University of Varna] (formerly called the Higher Institute of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering) 1 Studentska Str. Vassil Levski district 9010 Varna **Phone:** 011-359-52-302-431
Fax: 011-359-52-302-771 **Web:** <http://www.tu-varna.acad.bg>

Trakijski Universitet [Thracian University] (founded following a merger of the former Higher Higher Institute of Zoo-technics and Veterinary Medicine and the Higher Medical Institute in Stara Zagora) Studentski Grad 6000 Stara Zagora
Phone: 011-359-42-22-002 **Fax:** 011-359-42-34-102
Web: <http://www.uzvm.bg> **E-mail:** post@uzvm.uzvm.bg

Universitet 'A. Zlatarov' [Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov University] (formerly called the Higher Institute of Chemical Technology, Bourgas) 1 Prof. Yakimov Str. 8010 Bourgas **Phone:** 011-359-56-660-119 **Fax:** 011-359-56-686-141

Universitet po Arhitektura, Stroitelstvo i Geodesia [University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy] (formerly called the Higher Institute of Architecture and Building) 1 Hristo Smirnenki Boulevard 1421 Sofia **Phone:** 011-359-2-661-967 **Fax:** 011-359-2-656-863
Web: <http://www.uacg.acad.bg> **E-mail:** aceadm@uacg.acad.bg

Universitet za Nacionalno i Svetovno Stopanstvo [University of National and World Economy] (formerly called the Karl Marx Higher Institute of Economics) Studentski Grad 'Hristo Botev' 1756 Sofia Bulgaria
Phone: 011-359-2-685-413 **Fax:** 011-359-2-689-042
Web: <http://www.unwe.acad.bg>

Varnenski Svoboden Universitet [Varna Free University] P.O. Box 9 9000 Varna **Phone:** 011-359-52-856-641 **Fax:** 011-359-52-856-088

Veliko Tarnovski Universitet 'Kiril i Metodii' [Cyril and Methodius University of Veliko Tarnovo] 2 Teodosi Tarnovski Str. 5000 Veliko Tarnovo
Phone: 011-359-62-20189 **Fax:** 011-359-62-28023
Web: <http://www.vtu.acad.bg>

Viss Pedagogiceski Institut 'Neofit Rilski' [South-West University 'Neofit Rilski'] (formerly called the Neofit Rilski Higher Pedagogical Institute) 66 Alexi Velichkov Str. 2700 Blagoevgrad **Phone:** 011-359-73-26563
Fax: 011-359-73-29325 **Web:** <http://www.swu.bg/>

Viss Selskostopanski Institut [Higher Institute of Agriculture] 12 Mendeleev Str. 4000 Plovdiv **Phone:** 011-359-32-224-100 **Fax:** 011-359-32-233-157
Web: <http://www.au-plovdiv.bg>

Viss Institut po Hranitelna i Vkusova Promislenost [Higher Institute of Food and Flavor Industries] 26 Marcia Boulevard 4000 Plovdiv **Phone:** 011-359-32-440-005 **Fax:** 011-359-32-440-102
Web: <http://www.plov.omega.bg/vihvp> **E-mail:** vihvp@hiffi-plovdiv.acad.bg

Viss Medicinski Institut Pleven [Higher Institute of Medicine of Pleven] 1 St. Kliment Ohridski Str. 5800 Pleven **Phone:** 011-359-64-29-105
Fax: 011-359-64-29-153 **E-mail:** vmilibrpl@mbox.digsys.bg

Viss Medicinski Institut Plovdiv [Higher Institute of Medicine of Plovdiv] 15A Vassil Aprilov Boulevard 4002 Plovdiv **Phone:** 011-359-32-443-839
Fax: 011-359-32-442-194

WENR
world education news & reviews

P.O. Box 745
Old Chelsea Station
New York, NY 10113-0745



NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LONE OAK
MAILING SERVICES