

36 Universities and Colleges

With the rapid economic development of the Republic of China, increased attention has been focused on her institutions of higher learning. While less than 1% of the student population in the 1950 academic year were university students, 3.9% of all students were university, college, or graduate students in 1986.

Skills in the applied sciences are increasingly needed by the island's modern industries. Approximately 46.3% of Taiwan's university/college population today consists of students in the engineering and natural sciences.

University/college education in the Republic of China is open to all senior high school graduates. Admission procedures involve a nationwide college entrance examination held once annually in early July.

A university/college candidate must decide in his or her second year of senior high school what general range of subjects he or she wishes to pursue in university or college: arts, sciences, agriculture and medicine, or business and law. Candidates interested in the arts, business, or law take one set of courses, while those interested in the sciences, agriculture, or medicine take a different set. The test items on the university/college entrance exams are specifically tuned to these four areas. When registering for the examination, a student lists in order of preference the universities or colleges where he would like to study, and the specific department he prefers. Examination scores then determine the student's chances of pursuing the paths he chooses. In the 1984 academic year, the Ministry of Education adopted new regulations for the university entrance examinations: after taking the exam and receiving their scores, the candidates fill in a list of their preferred departments as well as universities or colleges, according to their scores and the minimum standards for each department set by the Ministry of Education. New regulations enable candidates to foresee how far they can reach and select a major based on interest rather than on one's predicted chances of gaining admission. Over 100 thousand students take these exams annually, with 30-35% admitted to universities and colleges.

To complete work for a bachelor's degree, each student must fulfill the departmental and general requirements, and must complete at least 128 credits of undergraduate work, in addition to courses in physical education and military training.

A master's degree candidate must take a minimum of twenty-four course credits plus four thesis research credits and pass a written

comprehensive examination. Doctoral degree candidates are allowed a period of two to six consecutive years of study to complete their program. The student is required to take at least eighteen credits of coursework, and take comprehensive and major field examinations. After successfully fulfilling these requirements, the candidates of a master's and a doctor of philosophy degree must take a final oral examination on the student's dissertation and on his major field by a committee invited by the university or college.

National Taiwan University

National Taiwan University (NTU) was founded after the restoration of Taiwan to China in 1945. Its predecessor was the Taihoku Imperial University established by the Japanese in 1928, the first university in Taiwan.

The university has seven colleges with forty-seven departments and fifty-five graduate institutes on three campuses. Among them, fifty-four graduate institutes offer master's programs and forty-five offer doctoral programs. Affiliated organizations include: Computer Center, Hydraulic Research Laboratory, Tjing Ling Industrial Research Institute, Center for Earthquake Engineering Research, University Experimental Farm, Experimental Forest, Veterinary Hospital, Highland Farm, Agricultural Exhibition Hall, University Hospital, Population Study Center, Audio-Visual Center, and Institute of Fishery Biology.

In the 1986 academic year, NTU had an enrollment of 16,533 students, with 2,257 faculty members and 1,207 staff members. NTU is one of the largest and most prestigious institutions of higher learning in the Republic of China today.

National Tsing Hua University

National Tsing Hua University (NTHU) was established in 1911 as Tsing Hua Imperial College, a junior college in Peking which annually sent its graduates to the United States to complete their baccalaureate studies. The college gained university status in 1925, and in 1928 was renamed National Tsing Hua University. It soon emerged as one of the most prominent institutions of higher learning in China. In 1955, the Government of the Republic of China decided to establish an Institute of Nuclear Science in the graduate institute of