

Does University Entrance Exam Type Predict Student-material ?

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The units of universities may independently decide the methods how to pick the most potential student material. All the units prefer high quality, talented and motivated students with high capacity for scientific thinking. The role of university entrance exam for this selection has been under several research.

In this research the effects of the change in the entrance exam type in student-material in section of geology, University of Turku, were studied. The “traditional” entrance exam type with applied and broad question types was altered into multiple choice exam in 2011. The students’ positions for the exam-type were targeted as well.

The study was made as Webropol-inquiry for students selected before (control group 2008-2010) and after (test-group 2011-2013) the change in the entrance exam type. The inquiry included both structured and open question-types. The Student Register –material was used as well.

The answering percent was 41, and divided into 56 % old and 44 % new exam type students.

The results of this research show that the students, who succeed in multiple choice entrance exam possess higher success in previous studies, but lower success in university studies. These students have more perfunctory approaches to learning as well. In addition, this student material is clearly more predominantly male compared to before 2011.

There is a high criticism for the multiple choice exam among students as well. This exam-type is experienced to test ability to read and remembering small details instead of understanding and application.

References:

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