

Education in Land Surveying and Land Administration in Bergen, Norway – Why Popular Among Young People?

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Key words: education models, land surveying, cadastre

SUMMARY

Bergen University College offer an education in land surveying and land administration. Over several years the number of students who have been admitted to the program has been increasing. In 2006, a new bachelor's program in land surveying and land administration was established by expansion of an existing 2-year program. The program has 30-40 students on each grade. The popularity of the program is high compared to other similar educations, maybe because of the many job opportunities this bachelor education leads to. To find out more about why the program is so popular, a survey targeted at the students was conducted.

SUMMARY

Utdanningen i Landmåling og eiendomsdesign i Norge ligger i Bergen, på Høyskolen i Bergen, i den vestlige delen av landet. De siste årene har det vært et stort antall søkere. I 2006 ble det startet et nytt bachelor-program. 30-40 studenter fullfører nå hvert år. Studiet er svært populært sammenlignet med lignende utdanninger, kanskje på grunn av de mange jobbmulighetene bacheloren fører til. For å finne ut mer om hvorfor studiet er så populært, har det blitt gjennomført en undersøkelse blant studentene som går der nå.

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1. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY PROGRAM AT BERGEN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

In 2006, Bergen University College started a new three year bachelor program in Land surveying and land administration, by expanding an existing 2-year program. The program has four main subjects – land use planning, land administration, land surveying and GIS. Education in these subjects has been offered in Bergen for 50 years, but the name and focus have, in most of these 50 years, been land consolidation. With a new title of the study program and expansion to bachelor degree, the study within the surveying fields at Bergen University College has achieved a substantial upgrade.

In 1957, an education program in land consolidation was established in Bergen. It started as a 1 year course at Stend agricultural school, aiming to educate technical personnel for the land consolidation courts. In 1981, the course was expanded to 2 years. In the early 90's the education was moved to Bergen University College, and is now established in a challenging environment within Department of Civil Engineering. From 2006 the study was expanded to three years. A bachelor program in "Land surveying and land administration" is now being offered. The introduction of the bachelor's program caused that the number of applicants was doubled. In 2006 there were 70 applicants who had the study as their first choice, and 39 students were admitted for the study.

Bergen University College is one of the largest regional colleges in Norway. The number of students is 6000 and the number of staff is 600. The faculty of engineering has all traditional engineering subjects, and the number of students is 1500 and steadily increasing. Engineering education in Bergen has no difficulties in attracting students.

The number of students has been increasing over several years and the faculty has a strong economy.

2. EDUCATION IN LAND SURVEYING IN NORWAY

In this chapter, Norway's most important study programs in land surveying will be presented.

2.1 Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)

NTNU offer master programs in Geomatics, Land Management and Planning. The program in Geomatics is a part of the civil engineering master program. The program has few students.

2.2 Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB)

UMB offers bachelor and master programs in Geomatics. The program has few students.

UMB also offers master programs in Land administration, Land management and Land use planning. The recruitment of students to these programs has been quite good over the last years.

2.3 Gjøvik University College (HiG)

HiG offers a bachelor program in Geomatics. This program also has a problem with attracting students. HiG offers short follow up studies and is doing well in this business. HiG also have a well working research program going on.

3. THE SURVEY

In January 2010, a survey was carried out at Bergen University College. The survey was targeted at the students at all three grades.

The total number of students at the study program is 115, 79 students answered the questionnaire.

Question 1: How did you get knowledge about the surveying study at HiB?

From the advisors in High School	2,5%
By friends /people I know at HiB	27,8%
By parents/relatives	15,2%
Other reasons	58,2%

The advisors in High School obviously don't give their students much information about the program. The reason for this can be simple. The bachelor program is rather narrow, compared to many other engineering programs.

It is obvious that many of those who are a part of the program have received information from friends and relatives. Further down in the enquiry, there is an open question about the same issue, and there the answers were even clearer: Most of the students have received information about the study from people they know, often former students or students at a higher grade in the same study.

Question 2: What is your age:

19-24 years	59,5%
25-29 years	19%
30-39 years	15,2%
over 40 years	6,3%

In Norway, bachelor programs in technical topics are more popular than master programs by people who have been working for some years. The government gives some financial support to people who need to find a new occupation i.e. for medical reasons, but only for 3 years.

Question 3: What is your gender:

Male	58,2%
Female	41,8%

What we see is that the proportion of women is higher than what is usual for technical studies in Norway. One reason for this might be that there is no requirement for extra math and physics from High School, which girls more rarely take than boys. Another reason might be that girls who attend the study, feel happy with it and inform their female friends about it.

Question 4: Why did you choose to study in Bergen?

Bergen University College's good reputation	2,5%
Bergen is known as a nice students-city	30,4%
Because I know other peoples who study in Bergen	20,3%
Short way home	62%
Other	19%

The most surprising with the answers to this question is that so many would like to live as close to their home as possible. Bergen obviously is a nice place to study, but the University's reputation is not that good.

Question 5: Which part of the country are you from (County)?

Akershus	0%
Aust-Agder	0%
Buskerud	1,3%
Finnmark	0%
Hedmark	0%
Hordaland	62%
Møre og Romsdal	3,8%
Nordland	1,3%
Nord-Trøndelag	1,3%
Oppland	0%
Oslo	0%
Rogaland	10,1%
Sogn og Fjordane	15,2%
Sør-Trøndelag	1,3%
Telemark	1,3%
Troms	0%
Vest-Agder	1,3%
Vestfold	1,3%
Østfold	0%

This question was presented because it will be of interest to see if there is a connection between question 4 and question 5, and there definitely is. Over 60% of the students come from Hordaland, which is the county the school is situated in. Rogaland and Sogn & Fjordane are the neighboring counties.

Question 6: Are you planning taking a Master's degree?

Yes, at UMB	2,5%
Yes, but only if it is possible in Bergen	19%
Yes, somewhere else	5,1%
No	29,1%
Don't know	51,9%

The most interesting point in the answers to this question is that such a relatively high percentage of the students only want to take a master's degree if it is possible in Bergen. Only a small number of students want to move to the eastern part of the country to study at UMB.

Question 7: What would you like to work with when you have finished your studies?

Cadastral surveying (in municipality)	27,8%
Cadastral surveying (in private company)	40,5%
Surveying in constructions	34,2%
Land acquisition and takings	15,2%
Land use planning	38%
Surveying in industry/offshore	45,6%
Land consolidation court	30,4%
Don't know	8,9%

The study is specifically oriented towards cadastral surveying; therefore it is surprising that so many of the students rather would like other types of jobs. The main reason probably is that the job market is very good at the moment, and after finishing the bachelor-program, the students usually will have several job-offers. As we see, a high percentage of the students want to work in the private sector, probably because the salary is better. In an open question about the same issue, some students also answer that they want to work with GIS, and several answer that they want to do a bit of each of the alternatives.

Question 7: Open question about why you chose the program, and why Bergen.

One person answered: "I chose Bergen because I have lived here all my life, and been studying here for 4 years. I am established here, and chose this program because of someone I know (who has not been studying it himself). It seemed interesting when I read about it." Another student answered that he chose it because of the possibilities of working both indoors and outdoors. Several people answered that the possibilities of ok payment combined with an interesting job. One of the students even answered that it was a random pick that caused him to start the program, but the person also says that he loves it, and would not go anywhere else

now. Most of the people wanted to live close to friends and family, and therefore chose Bergen.

4. FINAL DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

Being part of the faculty of engineering also gives the study program benefits because the students can use the faculty's broad expertise in all these subjects. As an example the faculty offers follow up courses in industrial metrology. These subjects are normally found within mechanical engineering. Many of the students taking this course will start working offshore in mechanical industry.

The fact that the students can say that they are studying at the school of engineering, also gives them a form of satisfaction.

Over several years, the number of students who have been admitted to the program has been increasing. In 2006, a new bachelor program was started, and the name was changed from land consolidation to land surveying and land administration. One of the reasons why the college has increased number of student might be that young people in Norway know what a land surveyor is, but they do not know what land consolidation is. Bergen University College has understood that the traditional terms as land management and land surveying are easier to understand.

Another reason why the school attracts a great number of students is that Bergen University College is located in the city of Bergen. Bergen is the second largest city in Norway, and young people like to study where they can have all sort of entertainment, sports, events etc. All this is something Bergen can offer. In the study from January 2010, 61, 4% answered that they chose to study in Bergen because of the proximity to their home. In addition to this, 30% answered that Bergen is known as a good student-city. Some even answered that they wanted to study in Bergen because it is so far from home. The fact that you don't need high school math or physics is also a plus, so that everybody who has three years of high school is able to apply for the program. The good job opportunities you will have after finishing the program is important to many students, many are tempted by the possibilities of getting a safe and well-paid job.

After finishing the bachelor's degree, the students have many possibilities. They can either start working, or continue on a master's program. Most of them want to work in private companies, because the jobs pay better and the many exciting and various tasks they will be able to work with in these companies. Many people also want to work in the Land Consolidation Court. There, they can either work as a land surveyor, or they may later take a master in Land Consolidation, and then become a judge in the Land Consolidation Court. The master in Land Consolidation can only be taken at UMB, in the eastern part of the country. HIB considers establishing a master's degree program in Bergen, as many students are interested in this, thus such a study may be established within a few years.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

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