

Ain Raal, Toivo Hinrikus, Karmen Kapp

University of Tartu

A historical, social and ethnic study of pharmacy students at the University of Tartu in 1802-2014

Background and Objectives: The University of Tartu was founded in 1632 by Gustav II Adolf, the King of Sweden. The history of the university can be divided into three periods: the founding period (1632-1800), the Russian imperial period (1800-1918) and the Estonian-language university (1918-present). In 1842, the first separate chair of pharmacy was opened. The aim of the study was to perform a historical, social and ethnic study of pharmacy students at the University of Tartu in the years 1802-2014.

Methods: The data was collected from the student roll books in the Estonian Historical Archives and additional sources such as the Tartu University Archives, books "Report on the Students of Tartu University" and "The Oldest Pharmacies of Livonia and Estonia". The electronic database was tabulated using the computer program MS Excel. The database contains student roll number; name; year of birth; place of birth; parents' social standing; nationality, years of entrance and exit or graduation; ethnicity; school formerly graduated [1].

Results: In the years 1802-2014, 6925 students studied pharmacy at the University of Tartu and 4309 graduated in the speciality. No data about the graduation or exit of 1969 students could be found in the archives. The most common place of birth was Tartu and the Tartu region (14%). 42% of the students were 21-25 years old. The majority (95%) of the students were Estonians. At the end of the 19th century, russification of the university resulted in Russian being made the official language of teaching. This resulted in a decrease of ethnically German and an increase in ethnically Estonian students. Changes in admissions policies have led to an increased number of Russian speaking students among graduates since the year 2004. Of the total 6925 students, 2441 were females. Since the year 1926, women have constituted the majority among students.

Conclusion:

During the years 1802-2014, students with diverse ethnical and social background have studied pharmacy at the University of Tartu. The collected data reflects the geopolitical and social changes in University of Tartu and Estonia.