ASSESSMENT OF THE ADMISSION PROCEDURE TO ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING SCHOOLS IN TURKEY

K. Mert Cubukcu, PhD
Assistant Professor
mert.cubukcu@deu.edu.tr

Ebru Cubukcu, PhD
Assistant Professor
ebru.cubukcu@deu.edu.tr

Department of City and Regional Planning
Faculty of Architecture
Dokuz Eylul University
Buca, Izmir Turkey

Abstract
The admission procedure to higher education institutions in Turkey is solely based on the student’s Central University Entrance Examination (CUEE) score. However, whether CUEE is an appropriate measure in the admission process to universities is still a much debated question. One can easily say that CUEE has no intention to measure students’ visual, spatial and perceptual abilities required in design-based university programs. This study assesses the validity of CUEE as a selection tool for architecture schools by judging the degree to which CUEE scores can predict later grades. To do that, CUEE scores and Gross Point Averages at graduation (GPAs) for a randomly selected Architecture and City and Regional Planning students graduated from Dokuz Eylul University were examined. The sample size was 233 people and it included students entered the programs between 1998 and 2002, and graduated between 2003 and 2006. Based on the bivariate correlation and one sample t-test results, we can clearly state that CUEE scores and graduation grades have no relation. On average, there is a 31.72% difference between students’ graduation and admission percentiles. Clearly, current admission procedure to design-based schools based on solely a central examination score is disagreeable. The debate for selection criteria is yet to start.