

New Tendencies in Geological Education in Russia

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In the USSR, geological training was provided at a few large universities. After graduation students were assigned to different research institutes and industrial enterprises. At the same time, in large autonomous republics and regions there were geological institutes of the Academy of Sciences with highly-qualified staff and sophisticated equipment. As a rule, geological research and training were developing parallel to each other, without notable interaction.

When the USSR broke into separate states, state support of geology diminished and the practice of assigning young specialists ceased, regional geological organisations and research institutions became cut off central universities which had been the main source of their trained personnel. Faced with this problem, regional authorities made a decision to set up geological training schemes on the basis of local universities and research centres, and geology was introduced as a specialty in several provincial universities.

In 1996, the Syktyvkar State University (Komi Republic) started training geologists. Now there are 96 students. The lecturers are highly skilled researchers from the Institute of Geology of the Komi Science Centre of the Uralian Division of RAS. Summer field practises are given much attention. After the first year the students study geologic processes in the Crimea; after the second year - geological mapping in southern Timans; later they take part in field trips in European NE of Russia within field teams from the Institute of Geology and industrial organisations. Field research is supported by federal programme "Integration". Post-graduate and post-doctoral training is provided at the Komi Science Centre of the Uralian Division of RAS.