

# Romanian educational system

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## Graduate programs, researchers and professors

In the better-recognized academic centers, some academic programs succeeded outstandingly, for instance in the case of the University of Bucharest or the University of Cluj-Napoca. Some doctoral programs like Mathematics have had a long established tradition. Many professors and researchers emigrated or obtained work contracts in the US, France, Germany, Australia, New Zealand or Canada and continued there the esteemed Romanian tradition. For instance, [George Palade](#) obtained the Nobel Prize in biology in 1974.

There is also another argument, namely, even though Romanians have had some remarkable achievements, they have not always received the deserved recognition around the world. Here are some examples:

- [Ștefan Procopiu](#) was the first to calculate the electron magnetic dipole moment in the hydrogen atom. He published his results in Romanian language around 1910, which remained largely unnoticed. Consequently, the Danish physicist [Niels Bohr](#) is credited for the findings (see [Bohr magneton](#)).
- [Aurel Babeș](#) is the inventor of the vaginal smear as screening test for cervical cancer. [Georgios Papanikolaou](#) who is generally credited for this discovery, was certainly not aware of the 1927 work by Babeș, published in limited-distribution Proceedings of the Bucharest Gynecological Society.
- [Nicolae Paulescu](#) discovered insulin in 1921. Two Canadian researchers, [Frederick Banting](#) and [Charles Best](#), working in the physiology laboratory of Professor [James MacLeod](#) from the [University of Toronto](#), published the same results in 1922. In 1923, the Canadians were awarded the Nobel Prize for a discovery that had been previously made by Paulescu.
- Romanian Professor [Gheorghe Benga](#), from the University of Cluj-Napoca, was two years ahead of the Nobel Prize laureate in the research of the cellular protein channel for the human body. As early as 1986, Professor Benga started to publish the results of his research in Biochemistry and European Journal. The American laureate, [Peter Agre](#), who started to publish his researches two years after Professor Benga, did not even quote Benga in his material and claimed absolute priority in this field. Unfortunately, the American is still considered to have absolute priority in the discipline of the cellular membrane, while the international committees never even considered the Romanian professor as one of the pioneers in this discipline.

These situations are regrettable and disappointing. They can bring about skepticism about the realistic chances that someone from a mid-sized country may have in achieving international recognition.