

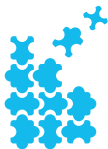


STUDYING IN POLAND

www.go-poland.pl
facebook.com/ReadyStudyGoPoland
twitter.com/nawa_poland



COME TO POLAND DISCOVER EUROPE



EUROPEAN
Higher Education Area



Welcome to Poland, a modern and dynamic member of the European Union where education really counts. If you wish to learn more about our long and rich tradition of university education, which offers opportunities for young people aspiring to get a European degree recognized throughout the world, we invite you to study in Poland.



www.go-poland.pl

Poland's university traditions are among the oldest in Europe. In 1364, King Casimir the Great established the Cracow Academy, known today as Jagiellonian University. Since the beginning of political transformation in 1989 our higher education system has been developing rapidly and Poland is fourth in Europe (after the United Kingdom, Germany and France) in terms of the number of people taking up higher education. The total student population at almost 400 university-level schools is over 1.1 million. Polish universities offer more than 800 courses in foreign languages as an integral part of the European Higher Education Area, where the level of tuition fees compares favourably with other EU countries. Poland plays an active part in the Bologna Process thanks to the introduction of a three-stage education and the European Credit Transfer System. Foreigners studying in Poland can easily continue their education elsewhere in the European Union. Foreign students coming to Poland can expect an attractive and diversified educational curricula which meets high European standards – they can study medicine, biotechnology and engineering, as well as art and business.

We invite you to consider the great opportunities that Poland can offer. Come to the European Union. Start in Poland!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WHY POLAND?

- 4__ 5 reasons to study in Poland
- 6__ 10 things you should know about Poland
- 8__ Famous Polish Scientists

HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IN POLAND

- 10__ Higher education institutions
- 16__ Structure of studies
- 18__ Recognition of degrees
- 20__ Admission requirements
- 22__ Academic calendar
- 22__ Examinations & grading
- 24__ Diploma

TUITION FEES & SCHOLARSHIPS

- 26__ Scholarship offer
- 32__ Tuition fees

LIVING & WORKING

- 34__ Before you arrive
- 37__ After you arrive

DEFINE YOUR STATUS

- 40__ Studying on terms applicable to Polish nationals
- 41__ Studying on terms applicable to foreigners
- 42__ Studying on terms of your choice

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 44__ Entry requirements for EU citizens
- 44__ Entry requirements for non-EU citizens
- 46__ Temporary residence permit

POLISH YOUR POLISH

- 48__ 9-month preparatory Polish language courses
- 49__ Polish language and culture summer schools



WHY POLAND?

5 REASONS TO STUDY IN POLAND

No matter the city or the course, choosing to study in Poland is a great idea. Here are just a few reasons why.

1. So many options

In Poland there are more than 1.1 million students studying at almost 400 universities, study programmes (in English or Polish), and hundreds of language classes. There is also an abundance of art colleges to choose from, as well as faculties of humanities and polytechnics, complete with fully equipped laboratories and supercomputers.

While studying in Poland, you will have a chance to enter a competition with NASA, or become part of a prestigious scholarship programme for those interested in the

humanities (such as ancient and modern languages, literature and philosophy). Polish business schools deliver world-class education in management and finance (also as double-degree programmes) and are internationally accredited.

See for yourself – over a million student can't be wrong, can they?

2. Study in the centre of Europe

Poland is the place where you can earn a diploma that will open the door to the best companies in Europe, even some of the best in the world. The country has many other perks, such as the fact that its medical schools are accredited in the US and that, while studying in Poland, you have access to the EU's study programmes and can do internships or traineeships abroad.

With top-quality, internationally recognised degrees, almost no other region in the world can set your career off to such a promising start.

Do not forget that with favourable geographic location and excellent transport connectivity the whole European Union is at your fingertips.

3. Live in a student city that's bursting with different cultures

Study in the European Capital of Culture Wrocław, artistic Kraków, hipster Warsaw, multicultural Lublin, academic Poznań or coastal Gdańsk. There's something for everyone in each city, from student pubs, to vegan restaurants and art galleries. Mingle with the crowd at the Palace of Culture in Warsaw, explore Kraków's Wawel Castle, go skiing in the Tatra Mountains or sail in the Masurian Lake District.

4. Ideal for a student budget

If you dream of being independent and going abroad, but worry about the cost, Poland is ideal for a student on a tight budget. Dormitories start from €60 a month per student, cinema ticket starts from €2,50, and a lunch in the cafeteria starts from €2.

No wonder Warsaw is the most affordable European student city according to 2016 QS Best Student Cities index.

5. Great career opportunities

Studying in Poland is just the beginning. Those wanting to start their own business, or find a job in an international company would benefit from a longer stay. Foreign companies operating in Poland prefer graduates from Polish universities. Akademyckie Inkubatory Przedsiębiorczości ('Academic Incubators of Entrepreneurship') is a community that will help start your business, and the Technology Parks are also at your disposal. Additionally, there are the Warsaw Innovation Days, where start-ups can attract the attention of foreign investors.

FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY

For the essential information about studying in Poland and applying for higher education programmes visit:

www.go-poland.pl

or contact:

gopoland@nawa.gov.pl

10 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT POLAND

For students from outside the European Union who come to study in Poland, this may well be the beginning of a fascinating adventure of discovering Europe. Being invited to study in Poland means that you are invited to the European Union, of which Poland is an active member state. We encourage you to discover the European Union, which offers not only varied and interesting cultures and the opportunities associated with strong, innovative economies, but it also provides the very best conditions for successful higher education study in a challenging and friendly atmosphere. With top-quality, internationally recognised degrees, almost no other region in the world can set your career off to such a promising start.



1. Official name:

Republic of Poland (shortform: Poland), *Rzeczpospolita Polska* (shortform in Polish: *Polska*)

2. Official Language:

Polish

3. Location:

Central Europe. Poland borders Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania and Russia (the Kaliningrad exclave). Its northern border (440 km long) runs along the Baltic Sea coast.

4. Capital city:

Warszawa (Warsaw: population 1.7 million / Warsaw agglomeration: 2.5 million)

5. Population:

38 million. Poland has the seventh largest population in Europe and the sixth largest in the European Union.

6. Time zone:

Poland belongs to the Central European time zone (GMT +1 hour / UTC +1 hour), except for between the last Sunday in March and the last Sunday in October when it switches to daylight saving time.

7. Climate:

The Polish climate is moderate continental, with relatively cold winters (from December to March) and hot summers which extend from June to August. January temperatures average -1°C (30°F) to -5°C (23°F). July and August average temperatures range from 16.5°C (62°F) to 19°C (65°F), though some days the temperature can reach even 35°C (95°F).

8. Currency:

1 zloty (PLN) = 100 groszy (actual exchange rates: www.nbp.pl)

9. Calling code:

+ 48; **Internet domain:** .pl

10. International organizations:

Poland is a member of the European Union (EU), the Schengen Area, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), United Nations (UN), International Monetary Fund (IMF), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organisation (WHO), World Trade Organisation (WTO), Organisation for Cooperation and Development (OECD) and many others.

FAMOUS POLISH SCIENTISTS



Polish students are among the best teams in the University Rover Challenge (prestigious international competition of Mars rovers)

Nicolaus Copernicus

was a Renaissance astronomer and the first European to contend that it is the Sun, not the Earth, that is at the centre of the Solar System.

Maria Skłodowska-Curie

was a physicist-chemist famous for her pioneering research on radioactivity, she remains the only woman who received two Nobel Prizes, and the only scientist in history to be awarded two Nobel Prizes in two different fields of study (physics in 1903 and chemistry in 1911).

Stefan Banach

was an outstanding Polish mathematician, co-founder of the Lvov School of Mathematics and functional analysis (branch of mathematics) – a colorful and intriguing personality whose contribution to the world science is indisputable.

Ignacy Łukasiewicz

was a prominent Polish scientist, pharmacist, oil industry pioneer and the inventor of the kerosene lamp.



HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IN POLAND

HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN POLAND

The Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Poland are divided into state (public) and private (non-public) institutions. There are two main categories of higher education institutions: university-type and non-university institutions. In the university-type HEIs, at least one unit is authorised to confer the academic degree of doctor (PhD), i.e. it offers at least one doctoral programme. The Degrees and Titles Committee grants this authorization assessing i.a. unit research activities, achievements with regard to training of faculty staff, scientific achievements, research base, as well as the quality of education (a separate opinion of the Polish Accreditation Committee on the quality of education at the unit is required). Below, we present the list of public and university-type non-public HEIs.

UNIVERSITIES

- Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan
www.amu.edu.pl
- Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw
www.uksw.edu.pl
- Jagiellonian University in Krakow
www.uj.edu.pl
- Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce
www.ujk.edu.pl
- John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin
www.kul.pl
- Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz
www.ukw.edu.pl
- Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin
www.umcs.pl
- Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun
www.umk.pl
- University of Białystok www.uwb.edu.pl
- University of Gdansk www.univ.gda.pl
- University of Lodz www.uni.lodz.pl
- University of Opole www.uni.opole.pl
- University of Rzeszów www.ur.edu.pl
- University of Silesia in Katowice
www.us.edu.pl
- University of Szczecin www.us.szcz.pl
- University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn
www.uwm.edu.pl
- University of Warsaw www.uw.edu.pl
- University of Wrocław www.uni.wroc.pl
- University of Zielona Góra www.uz.zgora.pl

UNIVERSITIES OF TECHNOLOGY

- AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow www.agh.edu.pl
- Bialystok University of Technology www.pb.edu.pl
- Czestochowa University of Technology www.pcz.pl
- Gdansk University of Technology www.pg.edu.pl
- Kazimierz Pulaski University of Technology and Humanities in Radom www.uniwersytetradom.pl
- Kielce University of Technology www.tu.kielce.pl
- Koszalin University of Technology www.tu.koszalin.pl
- Lodz University of Technology www.p.lodz.pl
- Lublin University of Technology www.pollub.pl
- Opole University of Technology www.po.opole.pl
- Poznan University of Technology www.put.poznan.pl
- Rzeszow University of Technology www.prz.rzeszow.pl
- Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice www.polsl.pl
- Cracow University of Technology www.pk.edu.pl
- University of Bielsko-Biala www.ath.bielsko.pl

- Warsaw University of Technology www.pw.edu.pl
- West Pomeranian University of Technology in Szczecin www.zut.edu.pl
- Wrocław University of Science and Technology www.pwr.edu.pl

MEDICAL UNIVERSITIES

- Jagiellonian University Medical College in Krakow www.cm-uj.krakow.pl
- Medical University of Bialystok www.umb.edu.pl
- Medical University of Gdansk www.gumed.edu.pl
- Medical University of Lodz www.umed.pl
- Medical University of Lublin www.umlub.pl
- Medical University of Silesia in Katowice www.sum.edu.pl
- Medical University of Warsaw www.wum.edu.pl
- Nicolaus Copernicus University – Ludwik Rydygier Collegium Medicum in Bydgoszcz www.cm.umk.pl
- Pomeranian Medical University in Szczecin www.pam.szczecin.pl
- Poznan University of Medical Sciences www.ump.edu.pl
- Wrocław Medical University www.umed.wroc.pl
- School of Medicine Collegium Medicum University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn www.uwm.edu.pl

UNIVERSITIES OF ECONOMICS

- Cracow University of Economics
www.uek.krakow.pl
- Poznan University of Economics and Business
www.ue.poznan.pl
- University of Economics in Katowice
www.ue.katowice.pl
- Warsaw School of Economics
www.sgh.waw.pl
- Wrocław University of Economics
www.ue.wroc.pl

UNIVERSITIES OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES

- Poznań University of Life Sciences
www.up.poznan.pl
- University of Agriculture in Krakow
www.urk.edu.pl
- University of Life Sciences in Lublin
www.up.lublin.pl
- UTP University of Science and Technology
in Bydgoszcz www.utp.edu.pl
- Warsaw University of Life Sciences – SGGW-
www.sggw.pl
- Wrocław University of Environmental and
Life Sciences
www.upwr.edu.pl

UNIVERSITIES OF PEDAGOGY

- Jan Długosz University in Czestochowa
www.ujd.edu.pl

- Maria Grzegorzewska University in Warsaw
www.aps.edu.pl
- Pedagogical University of Cracow
www.up.krakow.pl
- Pomeranian University in Słupsk
www.apsl.edu.pl
- Siedlce University of Natural Sciences
and Humanities
www.uph.edu.pl

UNIVERSITIES OF ARTS

- Academy of Art in Szczecin
www.akademiasztuki.eu
- Academy of Fine Arts in Gdansk
www.asp.gda.pl
- Academy of Fine Arts in Katowice
www.asp.katowice.pl
- Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw
www.asp.waw.pl
- Academy of Music in Kraków
www.amuz.krakow.pl
- Aleksander Zelwerowicz National Academy
of Dramatic Art in Warsaw
www.at.edu.pl
- Eugeniusz Geppert Academy of Art and Design
in Wrocław www.asp.wroc.pl
- Feliks Nowowiejski Academy of Music
in Bydgoszcz
www.amuz.bydgoszcz.pl
- Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw
www.chopin.edu.pl

- Grazyna and Kiejstut Bacewicz Academy of Music in Łódź www.amuz.lodz.pl
- Ignacy Jan Paderewski Academy of Music in Poznań www.amuz.edu.pl
- Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Art in Krakow www.asp.krakow.pl
- Karol Lipiński Academy of Music in Wrocław www.amuz.wroc.pl
- Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice www.am.katowice.pl
- AST National Academy of Theatre Arts in Krakow www.ast.krakow.pl
- Polish National Film, Television And Theatre School in Łódź www.filmschool.lodz.pl
- Stanisław Moniuszko Academy of Music in Gdansk www.amuz.gda.pl
- Strzemiński Academy of Art Łódź www.asp.lodz.pl
- University of Arts in Poznań www.uap.edu.pl

UNIVERSITIES OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Jerzy Kukuczka Academy of Physical Education in Katowice www.awf.katowice.pl
- Jędrzej Śniadecki Academy of Physical Education and Sport in Gdańsk www.awf.gda.pl
- Józef Piłsudski University of Physical Education in Warsaw www.awf.edu.pl
- University School of Physical Education in Krakow www.awf.krakow.pl

- Poznan University of Physical Education www.awf.poznan.pl
- University School of Physical Education in Wrocław www.awf.wroc.pl

MARITIME UNIVERSITIES

- Gdynia Maritime University www.am.gdynia.pl
- Maritime University of Szczecin www.am.szczecin.pl

MILITARY HEIs

- General Tadeusz Kosciuszko Military University of Land Forces in Wrocław www.awl.edu.pl
- Military University of Technology in Warsaw www.wat.edu.pl
- War Studies University in Warsaw www.akademia.mil.pl
- Polish Air Force Academy in Dęblin www.wsosp.pl
- Polish Naval Academy of the Heroes of West-erplatte in Gdynia www.amw.gdynia.pl

GOVERNMENT SERVICE HEIs

- Main School of Fire Service in Warsaw www.sgsp.edu.pl
- Police Academy in Szczytno www.wspol.edu.pl

HIGHER SCHOOLS OF PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- The Angelus Silesius University of Applied Sciences in Wałbrzych www.pwsz.com.pl

- Bronisław Markiewicz State Higher School of Technology and Economics in Jarosław www.pwste.edu.pl
- East State Higher School in Przemyśl www.pwsw.pl
- Higher Vocational School in Suwałki www.pwsz.suwalki.pl
- Higher Vocational School in Tarnów www.pwszstar.edu.pl
- Higher Vocational State School in Włocławek www.pwsz.wloclawek.pl
- The Jacob of Paradies University in Gorzów Wielkopolski www.pwsz.pl
- Jan Amos Komieński State School of Higher Vocational Education in Leszno www.pwsz.edu.pl
- Jan Grodek Higher Vocational State School in Sanok www.pwsz-sanok.edu.pl
- Karkonosze State Higher School in Jelenia Góra www.kpswjg.pl
- Pope John Paul II State School of Higher Education in Białą Podlaska www.pswbp.pl
- President Stanisław Wojciechowski State University of Applied Sciences in Kalisz www.pwsz.kalisz.pl
- Prof. Stanisław Tarnowski Public High Vocational School in Tarnobrzeg www.pwsz.tarnobrzeg.pl
- Public Higher Medical Vocational School in Opole www.wsm.opole.pl
- University of Applied Sciences in Nysa www.pwsz.nysa.pl
- Stanisław Staszyc State School of Higher Vocational Education in Piła www.pwsz.pila.pl
- Lomża State University of Applied Sciences www.pwsip.edu.pl
- State Higher School of Vocational Education in Ciechanów www.pwszciechanow.edu.pl
- State Higher School of Vocational Education in Zamość www.pwsz.zamosc.pl
- State Higher Vocational School in Głogów www.pwsz.glogow.pl
- State Higher Vocational School in Gniezno www.pwsz-gniezno.edu.pl
- State Higher Vocational School in Koszalin www.pwsz-koszalin.pl
- State Higher Vocational School in Krosno www.pwsz.krosno.pl
- State Higher Vocational School in Nowy Sącz www.pwsz-ns.edu.pl
- State Higher Vocational School in Racibórz www.pwsz.raciborz.edu.pl
- State Higher Vocational School in Skierniewice www.pwsz.skierniewice.pl
- State Higher Vocational School in Sulechów www.pwsz.sulechow.pl
- State Higher Vocational School in Wałcz www.pwsz.eu
- State Higher Vocational School of Podhale in Nowy Targ www.pwpsz.edu.pl

- State School of Higher Education in Chełm www.pwszchelm.edu.pl
- State School of Higher Education in Oświęcim www.uczelnia.pwsz-oswiecim.edu.pl
- State School of Higher Professional Education in Elbląg www.pwsz.elblag.pl
- State School of Higher Professional Education in Konin www.pwsz.konin.edu.pl
- State School of Higher Professional Education in Płock www.pwszplock.pl
- Witelon University of Applied Sciences in Legnica www.pwsz.legnica.edu.pl

CHURCH HIGHER SCHOOLS

- Christian Theology Academy in Warsaw www.chat.edu.pl
- Jesuit University Ignatianum in Krakow www.ignatianum.edu.pl
- Orthodox Theological Seminary www.psd.edu.pl
- Pontifical Faculty of Theology in Warsaw www.pwtw.pl
- Pontifical Faculty of Theology in Wrocław www.pwt.wroc.pl
- Pontifical University of John Paul II in Cracow www.upjp2.edu.pl

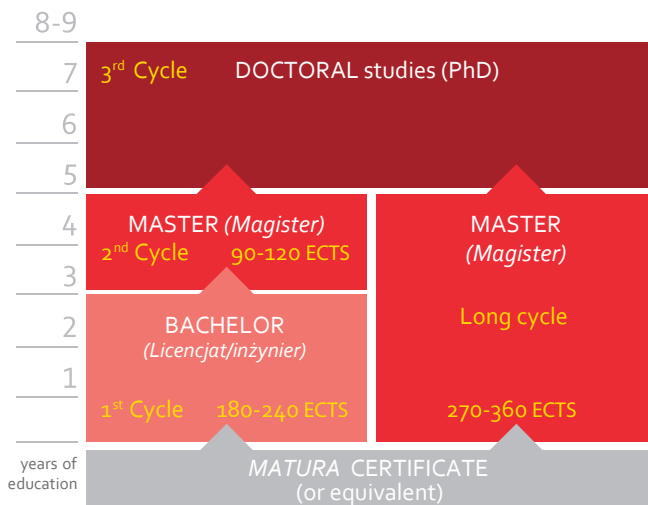
UNIVERSITY-TYPE NON-PUBLIC HEIs

- Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski Krakow University www.ka.edu.pl
- Collegium Civitas www.civitas.edu.pl

- Katowice School of Economics www.gwsh.pl
- Kozminski University www.kozminski.edu.pl
- Łazarski University www.lazarski.pl
- Higher School of Social Sciences in Warsaw www.pedagogium.pl
- Philological School of Higher Education in Wrocław www.wsf.edu.pl
- Polish-Japanese Academy of Information Technology www.pja.edu.pl
- Pułtusk Academy of Humanities www.ah.edu.pl
- University of Law and Public Administration in Przemyśl www.wspia.eu
- University of Social Sciences www.san.edu.pl
- University of Finance and Management in Warsaw www.vizja.pl
- University of Humanities and Economics in Lodz www.ahe.lodz.pl
- University of Information Technology and Management in Rzeszow www.wsiz.rzeszow.pl
- University of Lower Silesia www.dsw.edu.pl
- SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities www.swps.pl
- Vistula University www.vistula.edu.pl
- WSB Universities www.wsb.pl

Full offer of programmes offered in English by those universities is available on-line through "Studyfinder" tool at www.go-poland.pl

STRUCTURE OF STUDIES IN POLAND



Higher education institutions run full-time, extramural, evening and external courses. Full-time courses are defined as the basic type of studies. Poland conforms to the guidelines from the Bologna Process in European higher education. The degree system based on the three cycle structure has

been successfully implemented together with the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). The European standard in higher education makes it easier for students to obtain recognition of their qualifications in other countries.

1st Cycle

First cycle studies (3 to 4 years) leading to the professional title of a *licencjat* or *inżynier* (Engineer, in the field of engineering, agriculture or economics). This is the Polish equivalent of the Bachelor's degree. It is focused on preparing students for future employment or for continued education within a Master's degree programme. To obtain this degree, students must earn 180-240 ECTS credits.

2nd Cycle

Second cycle studies – Master's degree programme (1.5 to 2.5 years) following the first cycle studies and leading to the professional title of Master (*magister*, or an equivalent degree depending on the course profile). It is focused on theoretical knowledge as well as the application and development of creative skills. In arts disciplines, the focus is on the development of creativity and talents. Master's degree holders may enter a doctoral programme (third cycle studies). To obtain the degree, students must earn 90-120 ECTS credits.

Long Cycle Studies

In addition to the general structure, 11 fields of study including e.g. acting, art conservation and restoration, canon law, dentistry,

law, medical analysis, medicine, production and photography, pharmacy, physiotherapy, psychology, pedagogy, scenography, fine arts, theology and veterinary medicine, offer long cycle programmes only. Long cycle studies – Master's degree programme (4.5 to 6 years) leading to the professional title of Master (*magister*), or an equivalent degree depending on the course profile). To obtain this degree, students must earn 270-360 ECTS credits. Such single long cycle studies are based on an integrated study programme containing both basic studies and in-depth specialisation. Completion of this degree will provide a qualification corresponding to a second cycle Master's degree.

3rd Cycle

Third cycle studies – Doctoral degree programmes (normally 3 to 4 years) accessible for graduates of Master's degree programme, leading to a PhD degree, offered by the university type schools as well as some research institutions (departments of the Polish Academy of Sciences as well as research and development institutions). The PhD degree is awarded to candidates who submit and successfully defend a doctoral dissertation before the thesis committee and pass the doctoral examination.

RECOGNITION OF DEGREES

Recognition of Foreign Higher Education Degrees in Poland

General information

A degree awarded by an institution operating in the education system of an EU, OECD or EFTA country, upon completion of:

- 3-year studies or first cycle studies with the nominal duration of min. 3 years – **confirms possession of a first cycle degree in Poland;**
- second cycle studies or long cycle studies with the nominal duration of min. 4 years – **confirms possession of a second cycle degree in Poland.**

A foreign degree awarded by an institution operating in another country may be recognised as equivalent to a Polish one either on the basis of an international agreement or (if there are no such agreements) by way of nostrification. Nostrification is a procedure aimed at recognising a foreign diploma as an

equivalent to a Polish diploma. After successful nostrification an appropriate Polish academic degree can be used. The competent authorities to conduct the nostrification procedure with regard to higher education diplomas (university degrees) are organisational units of higher education institutions authorised to confer the academic degree of a *doktor* (doctor) in a given field of science or in a given field of art.

Recognition for the purpose of further studies

A foreign degree giving access to further studies or the right to start doctoral proceedings in the country where it was awarded, gives its holder access to second cycle studies, doctoral school or the right to start doctoral proceedings in Poland.

A foreign degree may also be recognised for the purpose of further education on the basis of an international agreement. For the purpose of further studies nostrification procedure is not needed.

Information concerning recognition of maturity certificates can be obtained at the Ministry of National Education (Department of International Cooperation).

Recognition of Foreign Scientific Degrees in Poland

A scientific degree awarded by an authorised institution operating in the education system of one of the EU, EFTA, OECD countries is recognised as equivalent to the appropriate Polish one. A scientific degree acquired in other country may be recognised as equivalent to a Polish one either on the basis of an international agreement or (if there are no such agreements) by way of nostrification. A holder of a scientific degree acquired in a country – party to the Lisbon Convention who wishes to start habilitation proceedings in Poland may be exempted from nostrification. The competent authorities to conduct the nostrification procedure with regard to scientific degrees are councils of the organisational unit authorised to confer an academic degree of *doktor habilitowany* (doctor habilitatus) in a given academic field or in a given field of art within the scope of a given academic discipline or of a given arts discipline concerned with the academic degree.

Recognition of Polish Degrees Abroad

In countries with which Poland has signed agreements, Polish degrees are recognised

according to the rules set by those countries. In other countries, Polish degrees are recognised in accordance with the regulations on the academic recognition of foreign qualifications in force in a given country. Information on the recognition of Polish degrees can be obtained in an ENIC/NARIC centre or the ministry of education of a given country:

www.enic-naric.net

ENIC – *European Network of National Information Centres for Academic Recognition and Mobility established by the Council of Europe and UNESCO for the European Region.*

NARIC – *National Academic Recognition and Recognition Centres is a network set up by the European Commission in order to establish effective and close cooperation between EU member states in terms of academic recognition and they support the system for professional recognition.*

Contact the Polish ENIC-NARIC centre:

ENIC-NARIC Polska Department for Recognition of Education and Authentication of Documents
Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange
Polna 40, 00-635 Warszawa
Phone: +48 22 390 35 60

e-mail: dyplom@nawa.gov.pl
www.nawa.gov.pl/en/recognition

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admissions to the study programmes are administrated by the institutions of higher education, and candidates apply directly to the institution of their choice. It is best to contact the university well before the course starts in order to find out all the necessary details about the application procedures and other important information.

General Requirements

General requirements for admission to degree programmes offered by higher education institutions in Poland are the same for both university-type and non-university HEIs. The candidate must hold a matriculation certificate (the *Matura* certificate) or another equivalent document attesting that the holder is eligible for admission to higher education in the country in which he or she completed secondary school.

Access to the First cycle Studies

Access to first cycle studies, leading to the professional title of *licencjat* or *inżynier* (Engineer), as well as long cycle studies, leading to a Master's degree (*magister* or an equivalent degree), is open to holders of an upper secondary school certificate (*Matura* certificate) or an equivalent entitling the holder to enrol in such programmes in Poland. Additional entrance examinations may be conducted by HEIs only if this is necessary to assess knowledge or skills that are not assessed by the *Matura* examination or the applicant holds an upper secondary school certificate obtained abroad.

Access to the Second cycle Studies

Access to the second cycle studies is open to holders of a *licencjat* or *inżynier* (Engineer) degree, a Master's degree (*magister* or an equivalent degree) or a foreign first cycle degree recognised in Poland.

Access to the Doctoral Programmes

Access to the doctoral programmes is open to applicants who hold a Master's degree (*magister* or an equivalent degree) or a foreign second cycle degree recognised in Poland, and who meet the admission conditions laid down by the specific institution. The detailed admission conditions are laid

down by the board of the entity authorised to offer doctoral programmes within an institution. While respecting such general admission requirements, each HEI may define its own additional admission conditions and procedures, including the number of places available to students, except in the medical fields of study (limited number of places). The admission conditions and procedures may be similar across a HEI or may vary according to the field of study. Different conditions and procedures may be applied by different HEIs for the same fields of study. The admission conditions and procedures must be published by each HEI not later than 5 months before the admission process starts. There are two paths to obtain a doctorate: doctoral college and individual doctorate. In doctoral colleges, each doctoral student will receive a scholarship, regardless of their citizenship. All doctoral colleges are tuition-free, also for foreigners.

Foreigners are free to take up and continue studies and participate in scientific research and training projects and schemes on the same terms as Polish citizens if they:

- hold a residence permit,
- have refugee status granted by the Republic of Poland,
- have been granted temporary protection in the territory of the Republic of Poland,

- are migrant workers – EU/EEA national, formerly or currently employed in Poland; this right extends also to members of their families if residing in the territory of the Republic of Poland,
- citizens of the EU Member States or the EFTA States that are members of the European Economic Area Treaty, as well as members of their families, who have means sufficient to cover their living costs during the period of study; however, they are not eligible for need-based scholarships.

See more on page 40.

A foreign degree giving access to second cycle or doctoral programmes in a country where it was obtained gives the same right in Poland.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The academic year in Poland is divided into two semesters of 15 weeks each – the winter and the summer semester. The winter semester starts in October and ends in mid-February, with a break of about ten days for the Christmas holidays. The examination session usually takes two or three weeks, beginning in January. The summer semester starts in mid-February and ends in June, with a one-week break for Easter. Summer holidays last for three months from the beginning of July to the end of September, but only for those students who passed all exams within the summer examination session (two-three weeks in June). Those who failed take the exams again in September.

EXAMINATIONS & GRADING

All higher education institutions are required to end their courses with examinations. There may be several independent examinations or tests in separate parts of a subject. Usually, oral and written examinations are held at the end of each semester during the examination session. Students sit examinations on each subject separately. The performance assessment period covers either one semester or one academic year. To successfully complete a semester (or a year), a student must attain a pass mark (at least “satisfactory”) for all assessments and examinations in the subjects covered by the curriculum and obtain performance assessment credits for all integrated placements.

GRADING:

In addition to the grading scale, the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) under which a certain number of credits are allocated to a given subject, independently of the grade awarded. To complete a year successfully, a student has to collect 60 credits (30 per semester).

Each HEI identifies its grading scale in its Study Rules. The most common scale comprises the following marks:

- **5 very good** (*bardzo dobry*)
- **4 good** (*dobry*)
- **3 satisfactory** (*dostateczny*)
- **2 unsatisfactory/fail** (*niedostateczny*)
- **credit/pass** (*zaliczenie*)



EUROPEAN
Higher Education Area

For more information on the adjustment to the Bologna Process and ECTS credits please visit European Higher Education Area:

www.ehea.info



DIPLOMA

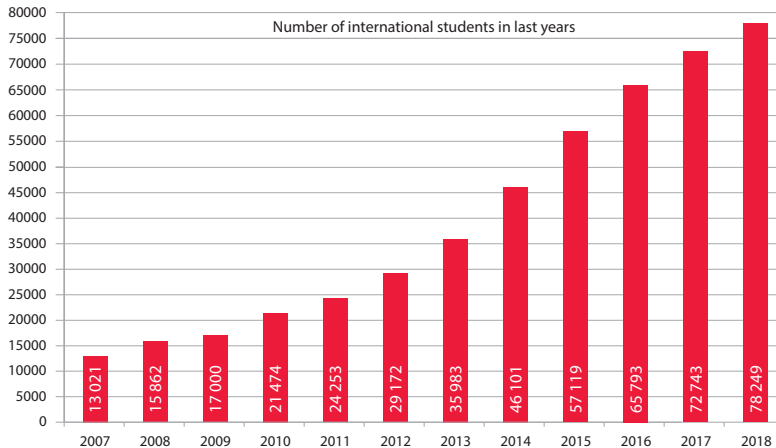
In order to graduate, students are required to:

- pass a performance assessment for all subjects, integrated placements and practical work sessions, and pass all examinations covered by the study programme set for a given field of study;

- present, at an appointed date, a diploma project and attain a pass mark for that project;
- pass the diploma examination.

Upon graduation, a student receives a diploma of completion of studies in a specific field of study together with a Diploma Supplement and – upon request – official copy of the diploma translated into a foreign language.

POLAND: EUROPE'S NEW HIGHER EDUCATION DESTINATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



According to the Polish government's Human Capital Development Strategy, share of international students in the total number of students should reach 5% until 2020.



TUITION FEES & SCHOLARSHIPS

SCHOLARSHIP OFFER

Scholarships within bilateral agreements

There are a number of scholarships available within the limits defined in bilateral agreements. They are financed either by the Polish or the foreign partner's government, often with the aim to enhance exchange within a specific field of study. The amount of a scholarship depends on the type of study undertaken. You can find more information on the website of Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA) www.nawa.gov.pl

It is also advisable to check with local authorities if they have a scholarship programme that includes studies in Poland.

Erasmus+ Programme

Erasmus+ is the European Union (EU) programme which supports projects, partnerships, events and mobility in the areas of education, training, youth and sport. The Programme, which runs from 2014 to 2020, provides funding opportunities in all these areas.

Erasmus+ Higher Education is mainly a student exchange programme which also includes work placements in companies abroad and academic staff mobility. It operates in the framework of the EU Erasmus+ Programme which continues the good tradition of the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP) and involves all EU countries as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Turkey. Erasmus+ Higher Education allows students to undertake a part of their studies in another country without additional costs of tuition, registration or examination. Students obtain a scholarship that covers the costs of living abroad. The time spent studying abroad as well as the courses completed in accordance with the rules of the programme have to be accepted by the home institution.

For more information check the European Commission website:

https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en

CEEPUS exchange programme with Central and Eastern Europe

The CEEPUS (Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies) is a multilateral exchange programme with Central and Eastern Europe. It is a transnational Central European university network that provides a platform for individual subject-specific networks.

At present, CEEPUS unites universities from 16 Central and Eastern European countries (Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia) within networks consisting of at least three higher education institutions from at least two different contractual countries. Student exchange within CEEPUS lasts from 3 to 10 months. Within a network incoming students are exempted from paying tuition fees and receive a comprehensive grant from the host country which depends on the living costs in the country. To be eligible for scholarships, exchange students have to be nationals of a CEEPUS country.

Further information including a list of the current networks can be found at

www.ceepus.info

Visegrad Scholarship Programme

The International Visegrad Fund offers Master and Post-Master scholarships awarded to selected students for 1 or 2 semesters (for MA scholarships within the incoming scheme 1 to 4-semester scholarships can be awarded). Citizens of the following countries and territories can apply: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine. On applying, all applicants must have completed at least 4 semesters of university study. There are various scholarship schemes available.

Further information is accessible on the Visegrad Fund website:

www.visegradfund.org/scholarships/

Scholarships for students from Eastern Partnership and from post-Soviet countries

Stefan Banach Scholarship Programme

The aim of the programme is to support the social and economic growth of Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) and Central-Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan) as well as the following Western Balkan countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Serbia by improving the level of education and professional skills of their citizens. Furthermore the participation in the programme is a great opportunity to learn the Polish language and culture. It also gives possibility to meet Polish students and academics. Scholarships offered within the programme include II degree studies conducted at public (tuition-free) and non-public universities supervised by the minister responsible for higher education in the fields of: engineering and technical, agricultural, applied and life sciences. Knowledge of Polish language is necessary. The Programme covers also an obligatory 1-month language and adaptation course with a scholarship or a 1-year preparatory course with

a scholarship, preceding the studies in Poland. More information: <https://nawa.gov.pl/en/students/foreign-students>

Scholarships for citizens from developing countries

The Ignacy Łukasiewicz Programme concerns second cycle studies at public (tuition-free) and non-public universities in Poland supervised by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, in the following fields: engineering and technical, agricultural, applied and life sciences. Master studies are preceded by the preparatory course to facilitate undertaking study in Poland, which is also covered by the scholarship.

The programme is designed for citizens of developing countries (excluding European and Central Asian countries). Scholarship holders will be first recruited from: Angola, Colombia, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Myanmar, Nigeria, Palestine, Peru, The Republic of South Africa, The Philippines, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda and Vietnam.

More information: <https://nawa.gov.pl/en/students/foreign-students>

The Anders Scholarship Programme

The Programme for the Polish diaspora is addressed to young people of Polish origin -

nationals of: Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, countries of former Yugoslavia, Ukraine, Russia and countries of Central Asia and Caucasus, Latin America and Africa. Foreigners who have documented their Polish origin and holders of the Polish Card are eligible to start their I, II and III degree studies as well as single master degree studies at public universities supervised by the minister responsible for higher education. The programme provides the participants with an opportunity to study in Polish language.

Approved candidates may participate in 1-year preparatory course preceding their studies in Poland.

More information: <https://nawa.gov.pl/en/students/foreign-students>

The Poland My First Choice Scholarship Programme

The Poland My First Choice scholarship programme aims to encourage young talented people from the European Economic Area, North America, Australia and other developed



WITH MORE THAN 800 CHOICES, HOW WILL YOU
SELECT THE BEST PROGRAMME IN ENGLISH
THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU?*

www.go-poland.pl/studyfinder

* STUDYFINDER IS CURRENTLY
THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE WEB TOOL THAT COVERS
FULL OFFER OF THE LEADING POLISH UNIVERSITIES

countries to pursue studies at the best Polish universities.

The programme offers an opportunity to pursue full-time second-cycle studies at public and non-public universities on all fields of study offered by institutions offering education at highest level – i.e. those classified to the A and A+ category under the latest parametric evaluation – subordinate to the Minister of Science and Higher Education, with a monthly NAWA scholarship to cover the living allowance during the period of education in Poland. In the case of public universities, the programme also offers an exemption from education fees. The programme provides the participants with an opportunity to study in Polish or in another language.

More information: <https://nawa.gov.pl/en/students/foreign-students>

Fulbright Programme

The Fulbright Programme is a programme of highly competitive, merit-based grants for international educational exchange for students, scholars, teachers, professionals, scientists and artists, founded by United States Senator J. William Fulbright in 1946. Under the Fulbright Programme, competitively selected U.S. citizens may become eligible for scholar-

ships to study, conduct research, or exercise their talents abroad and citizens of other countries may qualify to do the same in the United States.

The Fulbright Programme is one of the most prestigious awards programmes worldwide, operating in over 155 countries. In Poland it was initiated in 1959 and as of today it is one of the largest in Central and Eastern Europe as well as the most prestigious and continuous academic exchange programme between Poland and the United States.

With contributions from both governments the Fulbright Programme in Poland is administered by the Polish-U.S. Fulbright Commission. Through its various exchange programmes the commission supports studies, research, instruction and other educational activities of Polish and American educators, scholars, and institutions; it also administers visits and exchanges between Poland and the United States for students, trainees, scholars, teachers, instructors and professors. Detailed information about current programmes can be found on the website of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State:

www.eca.state.gov/fulbright

Programme of Fellowships under the Polish National Commission for UNESCO

The Polish National Commission for UNESCO in collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Higher Education carries out a programme of fellowships for young scientists from Central and Eastern European countries and developing countries.

Except from general offer there are also fellowship programmes in archeology and engineering that are co-sponsored by the selected Polish Universities. Fellowships are of short-term type lasting from 1 to 8 months. The fellow must carry out research in a hosting institution subordinated to the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, under the auspices of an academic supervisor. Confirmation of acceptance from the academic supervisor is imperative.

A monthly research grant €450 /net/ which is approximately the equivalent of a salary paid to a local junior research fellow. Thus, all living expenses in Poland are supposed to be covered by the fellow himself.

All applications should be submitted to the Polish National Commission for UNESCO.

Polish Card and Residence Permit holders cannot become beneficiaries of the Fellowships Programme under the Polish National Com-

mission for UNESCO Scheme; their applications will not be considered.

Information available at:

www.unesco.pl

Lane Kirkland Scholarship Programme

The programme is addressed to university graduates who already have at least two years of professional experience, coming from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan and are determined to be actively involved in the development of democracy, economy and civil society in their countries and the region. The programme offers two-semester supplementary studies in the fields of economics and management, administration/ management (business, NGOs, culture, environment, health), public administration (state and local), law, social sciences (sociology, social psychology), political science and international relations, development policy and humanitarian aid. Studies are supplemented by at least a two-week internship at Polish institutions.

For more information, please visit:

www.kirkland.edu.pl

TUITION FEES

Full-time studies (in Polish language) at public higher education institutions (HEIs) are free of charge for Polish students – plus international students who are citizens of the EU/EEA or holders of the Polish Card (*Karta Polaka*). All other international students are required to pay tuition fees that on average are the following:

- €2000 per year for first, second and long cycle studies,
- €2000 per year for an annual preparatory Polish language course to commence studies in Polish.

Fees at public and non-public HEIs are established by the institution itself under the condition that they cannot be lower than the costs of education process. The tuition fees range from €2000 to €6000 per year and depend on the institution and study programme (for MBA programmes: about €8000-€12,000 per year).

Doctoral colleges are a notable exception, as not only do they offer tuition-free education but they also provide a scholarship for all doctoral candidates enrolled in a full-time programme.





LIVING & WORKING

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

Accommodation

There are many different options for arranging student accommodation in Poland. They vary depending on the city and higher education institution you choose. Many Polish HEIs have their own dormitories, which are usually the cheapest option available. However, most Polish students prefer to rent a room in a private apartment.

Student houses and dormitories

The pricing of the student houses depends on the particular HEI. Usually the cost of accommodation in a dormitory is around €60-80 monthly for a shared room and between €100-150 for a single room. However, the standard of the dormitories may differ greatly even between various student houses of the same HEI, so it's good to do some research before the final decision. What doesn't differ is the

friendly and helpful atmosphere in the student houses.

Private housing

It is quite common in Poland to rent a room in a bigger apartment. Most of the out-of-town students share flats in this way. The cost varies between cities and it depends greatly on the location of the apartment as well as the size and quality of the room. The monthly rent is usually between €175 and €230. Some landlords may require a deposit of a similar amount. Don't worry if you don't have friends to live with. Sharing a flat with locals is an amazing opportunity: you can pay for the accommodation and get great friends for free! And if you really don't like to share, you can find an independent apartment. The rent for the smallest, one-room apartment starts from about €300 (in Warsaw).

Health insurance

Students from the EU/EEA countries

Healthcare in Poland is available for students from EU/EEA countries, provided that they hold valid medical insurance in the national insurance system of their country. A valid passport, student identity card or doctoral student identity card and a valid European Health Insurance

Card (*Europejska Karta Ubezpieczenia Zdrowotnego*) entitles its holder to medical care free of charge in Poland. Detailed information on the health care for EU/EEA citizens can be found on the website of the National Health Fund:

www.ekuz.nfz.gov.pl

Students from outside the EU/EEA

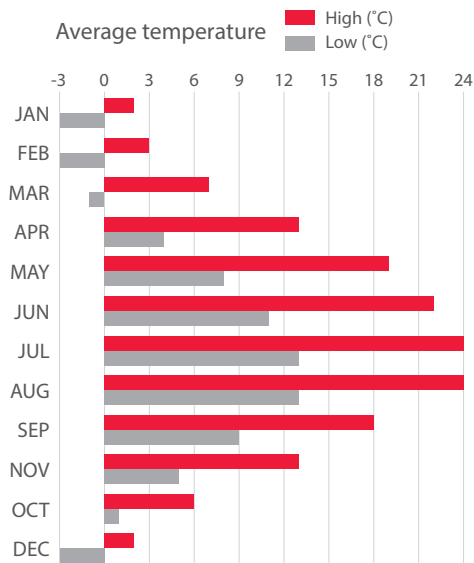
If possible it is recommended that students from non-EU/EEA countries purchase their own international medical insurance prior to their arrival in Poland. Otherwise they are required to sign a voluntary health insurance agreement with the National Health Fund (*Narodowy Fundusz Zdrowia – NFZ*) and pay their own insurance fees, which amount to about €15 a month. Under this insurance scheme, students are entitled to free medical care and can use university health care clinics and health centres. Also, all foreign students have the option of purchasing additional accident insurance. For detailed information visit the website of the National Health Fund:

www.nfz.gov.pl

Climate

Poland has a moderate climate with both maritime and continental elements. You can count on many sunny days and many rainy days and

don't be surprised when the summer turns out to be quite hot or quite rainy. Winters are usually cold, with temperatures well below freezing, and more or less snowy. If you come from a warmer climate, make sure you have proper clothing.



Cost of living in Poland

In comparison to other European countries, Poland is a relatively affordable place to live and study. Prices depend greatly on the city, but a student can get by with about €300 at

their monthly disposal. Average costs of student living range from €350 up to €550. Please remember, that to be able to study in Poland non-EU/EEA students have to possess sufficient means to cover the living costs.



AFTER YOU ARRIVE

Student Card

The student card is the size of a credit card, but it can change your life. Not only does it confirm your student status and allows access to libraries and other HEI facilities, but it also entitles you to all kinds of student discounts, most important of them being a 50% discount on public transport. There is also – up to the age of 26 – a 37% discount on national railways, allowing you to travel all around the country for less. Some other transport companies, as well as theatres, museums and cinemas, even restaurants, have special prices for students. In some HEIs, the student union provides additional discounts for students. So get your student card and enjoy the city!

Transportation

Most Polish cities have well-developed networks of public transport. Depending on a

city, they include buses, trams, trolley buses, trains and underground trains. It is usually a good idea to buy a longterm ticket, as it's hard to avoid public transport. Even if you manage to find accommodation close to the university, its separate faculties or facilities may not be within walking distance. More and more cities offer car, bike and scooters rental which helps to travel even faster within the cities.

Leisure

There is a wide range of leisure activities available in Poland. Whatever you enjoy, you'll probably find it here! Those who like to be active can use one of well-equipped sport facilities or explore beautiful Polish landscapes while cycling, hiking, horse riding, sailing, canoeing, ballooning or in any other way they want. Those who like sightseeing should visit the churches, castles, museums and many other attractions. The culture-oriented can choose between many theatres and galleries as well as philharmonics, concerts and music clubs. Check out the website: www.polska.pl

Working

Work during studies

To be able to study in Poland, a non-EU/EEA students must demonstrate that they possess sufficient means to cover the costs of living in Poland. Still, some students may wish to combine studies with work. In this case, non-EU/EEA students who stay in Poland with a visa generally need to apply for a work permit, which is granted only if non-EU citizen can fill the position. Some forms of work (vocational training, summer student jobs programmes) do not require a permit. All full-time students who possess a student visa or a temporary residence permit, EU/EEA citizens and holders of the Polish Card do not need a work permit at all. For more information, please visit the website Office for Foreigners

www.udsc.gov.pl

Summer job

The three-month long academic holidays are a great opportunity to earn extra money and get some work experience. Admittedly, all full-time students can work all year long without a permit, but it is a good idea to find a job or an internship especially during the holidays. Some companies organise very interesting internship programmes that can really help your future career. It's definitely worth trying!

Work during the academic year

It's not easy to work and study at the same time, but it can be done, especially if you've chosen evening or weekend courses. Nevertheless, think carefully about whether this is in your best interest, as it may affect your academic performance. Most universities have academic career centres, where you can find information about jobs, internships and trainings. You can also find job offers at the nearest labour office.

Work after graduation

It may be really hard to leave such a beautiful country after you complete your education here. Don't worry if you prefer to stay and work in Poland. As a graduate of a Polish higher education institution full-time programme, you don't need a permit to work here. Just make sure your temporary residence permit is in order.



READY, STUDY
Go! POLAND

DEFINE YOUR
STATUS

STUDYING ON TERMS APPLICABLE TO POLISH NATIONALS

You can study on the same terms as Polish citizens, if you:

- are a citizen of the EU Member States, the Swiss Confederation or the EFTA States that are members of the European Economic Area Treaty, as well as your family members living in the territory of the Republic of Poland,
- have been granted a permanent residence permit or a long-term resident of the European Union,
- hold a Polish Card (*Karta Polaka*),
- have refugee status granted by the Republic of Poland,
- have been granted temporary protection in the territory of the Republic of Poland,
- being the spouse, ascendant or descendant

- of a citizen of the Republic of Poland, living in the territory of the Republic of Poland,
- hold a Polish language proficiency certificate on at least C1 level.

Tuition

If you study on terms applicable to Polish citizens doing full-time programmes at public higher education institutions, you do it free of charge. This, however, requires a sound knowledge of Polish and participation in the recruitment procedure.

Student financial support

There are a number of State budget financial support forms available for students studying on terms applicable to Polish citizens.

They include:

- maintenance grant,
- special grant for disabled persons,
- scholarship as an outstanding student, awarded by a rector,
- scholarship for academic achievement awarded by the minister,
- assistance grants.

STUDYING ON TERMS APPLICABLE TO FOREIGNERS

You can study in Poland as a foreigner on the basis of rules defined within/by:

- international agreements,
- agreements concluded between a higher education institution and foreign entities,
- decision of the minister competent for higher education,
- decision of the rector of a higher education institution.

Tuition & Scholarships

Studying on terms applicable to foreigners, you can:

- be awarded a scholarship by a Polish partner,
- study on a tuition fee-paying basis,
- study free of tuition fees and with no scholarship entitlement,
- be awarded a scholarship by the sending partner (for example your country or university), and free of tuition fees,

- be awarded a scholarship by Polish higher education institutions.

Students who do not fall under the rules applicable to Polish citizens are not obliged to compete with other students to enter studies, but have to pay fees as defined by higher education institutions.

Studying on terms applicable to foreigners does not provide an entitlement to state budget financial support. Students of non-public HEIs are admitted on the basis of the rector's decision and on a tuition fee-paying basis. They are able to be granted an HEIs scholarship or be partially or fully waived of fees.

Application

It may be easier for foreigners to get into their chosen HEIs as they don't have to compete with local students. The standard requirements include:

- confirmation of sufficient knowledge of the instruction language to enter the chosen course,
- a high school diploma and – if applying to 2nd or 3rd cycle studies – a diploma from the previous cycle of study (for example: a BA diploma is necessary to apply for an MA course).

You may also be asked to prove that you have the predispositions and qualifications required by, for example, arts or medical HEIs.

STUDYING ON TERMS OF YOUR CHOICE

You can choose if you wish to study on the terms applicable to Polish citizen or those applicable to foreigners when:

- you are a holder of a valid Polish Card,
- are an EU/EEA citizen and have enough funds to support yourself in Poland.

Polish Card (*Karta Polaka*) is a document stating that you belong to the Polish nation. It can be issued to people who do not have Polish

citizenship and live in one of former Soviet Union states. Among other privileges, it entitles holders to choose the terms on which they wish to study. More information on the Polish Card is available here:

https://www.msz.gov.pl/en/foreign_policy/polish_diaspora/card_of_the_pole/

EU/EEA citizens can also choose if they want to study like Polish students or as foreigners. However, they must have the necessary funds to support themselves in Poland. Even if they decide to study on terms applicable to Polish students, they will not be eligible for a maintenance grant or a special grant for disabled persons.

Terms of studying	Advantages	Disadvantages
as a Polish citizen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • free education in public HEIs • access to state budget student financial support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you have to compete with Polish students for places at HEIs
as a foreigner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • admission to HEIs without taking entrance exams or going through recruitment process • one-year preparatory Polish language course (in public HEIs) • a possibility of being awarded to the government-funded scholarship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • study on a tuition fee-paying basis • no access to state budget student financial support



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR EU (CITIZENS)

If you are a citizen of an EU member state the only thing you need to have to enter Poland is a valid travel document or a document confirming identity and citizenship (i.e. your national ID). However, if you wish to travel abroad during your stay in Poland, it is a good idea to have a passport with you as it is necessary to visit some of Poland's neighbours that don't belong to the EU.

For a stay shorter than three months there are no formal requirements. Your studies will however take longer. For such a stay a registration of residence is necessary. You should register with Voivodship (Provincial) Office.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-EU (CITIZENS)

The two main documents you will need to enter Poland if you are not an EU citizen are: a valid travel document (passport) and a visa (if required).

Visa

As a general rule you need a visa to enter Poland. There are, however, a number of countries that are free of this requirement. You can check if your country is on the list here:

<https://www.gov.pl/web/diplomacy/visas>

Poland is a part of the Schengen area, so you can apply for a Polish visa and travel all around Europe (excluding the United Kingdom, Ireland, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia and states outside of the EU).

There are several types of visas to choose from:

- “A” type – an airport transit Schengen visa, so it cannot be used by a student coming to Poland,
- “C” type – a short-term Schengen visa allowing the holder to stay in the Schengen territory for up to 90 days in 180 days period,
- “D” type – a long-term national visa issued for up to one year allowing travel around

the Schengen area for up to 90 days in a 180 days period. The visa can only be extended in exceptional situations.

Should you need to stay in Poland longer than specified in your visa please do apply for the temporary residence permit (see next page).

5 easy steps to get a visa

- 1) Find a Polish consulate that can process your application. You can use the MFA’s search engine:
<https://www.gov.pl/web/diplomacy/polands-missions-abroad>
- 2) Read carefully ALL the information concerning visa application on the consulate’s website and follow ALL the instructions.
- 3) Set a visa appointment with the consulate. In most cases you will have to register through the website:
www.e-konsulat.gov.pl.
- 4) Prepare the necessary documents including: application form, travel document (passport), biometric photo, health insurance, sufficient means to support yourself, documents confirming the purpose of your stay. The specifics of the required documentation may vary among consulates, so confirm them with the consulate’s website.
- 5) Submit all the documents including a printed and signed application form and the visa fee.

Your visa application is complete. It should take up to 15 days to be processed.

TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMIT

Who needs it?

Every non-EU student needs it.

You should apply for a Temporary Residence Permit before your visa expires.

When you receive the permit, you will be issued a Temporary Residence Card, an ID card that proves that you have a residence permit. Together with your travel document, it allows you to cross the Polish border as many times as you wish. The first residence permit is issued for the period of 15 months. It can be renewed for periods of up to 3 years, but for no longer than the remainder of your studies.

REMEMBER: You should apply for the Temporary Residence Card when you are legally staying in Poland, which means after you arrive, but before the expiry of your visa.

Application

You have to apply for a Temporary Residence Permit with the local Voivodship Office. The documents you will need to legalise your stay include: an application form, photos and documents proving your identity and citizenship, address, purpose of stay (a certificate from your school), health insurance and possession of sufficient funds. For detailed information check out the Voivodship Office's website. The procedure costs about €105 in total.

EU students

EU students do not need to apply for temporary residence permits. As EU citizens they should only apply for registration of their stay with local voivodship office within 90 days of their arrival. They will be issued a cost-free certificate of registration with non-limited period of validity proving their right to stay in Poland. For detailed information check out the Voivodship Office's website.



POLISH YOUR
POLISH

9-MONTH PREPARATORY POLISH LANGUAGE COURSES

For all those who would like to pursue their studies in Polish, selected higher education institutions in Poland offer preparatory Polish language courses.

The classes include Polish language lessons together with subjects related to future studies. Candidates may choose from a variety of specialisations, for example: humanities, engineering/technical science, architecture, arts, economics, medical sciences and agriculture. The courses run 9 months, usually starting in October, from Monday to Friday.

The tuition fees may vary, depending on the institution and on average are €2000/9 months paid before the course commences.

SUMMER COURSES OF THE POLISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

The Programme's objective is teaching and promoting Polish language and culture abroad via allowing foreign students to participate in several-week long courses of the Polish language and culture organised in Poland. The Programme Beneficiaries, apart from being given the opportunity to participate free of charge in a language course and cultural programme, will be provided with full board and accommodation and a one-off NAWA grant of approximately €120.

The Programme is addressed to Polish language learners and persons who intend to start learning Polish. The Programme is aimed at encouraging foreign students to continue learning the Polish language after they return to their universities or to take up university studies in Poland. Owing to participation in the course, foreigners will be able to not only enhance their linguistic competence but also become more familiar with Poland and its

inhabitants, and to meet other students from many different parts of the world who share the same interests in Polish language, Polish culture and heritage.

You can find more details of the recruitment rules here:

<https://nawa.gov.pl/en/the-polish-language>

(COME TO POLAND AND LEARN POLISH!)

THE STATE CERTIFICATION

EXAMINATIONS IN POLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

All foreigners and Polish citizens permanently residing abroad may take the examination. For more information on the certificate in Polish as a foreign language go to:

<https://nawa.gov.pl/en/the-polish-language/certification>

Published by

the Promotion and Communication Department, Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange, Warsaw 2019

Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange, Polna 40, 00-635 Warsaw, Poland

Photos used in this publication are provided by Gdansk University of Technology/PAP (p. 8), Jagiellonian University in Kraków (p. 9), Academy of Information Technology in Katowice (p. 33), Warsaw School of Economics (p. 39), Pedagogical University of Cracow (p. 43), Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw (p. 47), Fotolia (inside front cover), Theta Agency (p. 23), Adobe Stock (p. 3, 6), NAWA (front cover, 25, 32, 39, 47).



POLISH NATIONAL AGENCY
FOR ACADEMIC EXCHANGE

www.nawa.gov.pl