



STUDYING IN POLAND

NAWA

POLISH NATIONAL AGENCY
FOR ACADEMIC EXCHANGE

WELCOME TO POLAND

Welcome to Poland, a country with extraordinary traditions of freedom, tolerance, and democracy – a country that created the first constitution in Europe and a state union with Lithuania, which is a unique model of integration under equal rights. A country with the DNA of peaceful cooperation, and at the same time a country which, thanks to eventually regaining its sovereignty in 1989, has become a place of dynamic economic and scientific development and a leader in Europe. Poland has a great tradition of showing solidarity, a trait recently exemplified in the openness to take in millions of people fleeing the war in Ukraine.

Welcome to Poland, a modern and dynamic member of the European Union where education really counts. A country with a long and rich tradition of university education which offers opportunities for young people aspiring to get a European degree recognised throughout the world. We invite you to study in Poland.

This brochure is intended to give you an insight into what makes Poland and Polish universities unique and to give you an understanding of our programmes in English as well as how to apply for such programmes.



WE WELCOME YOU TO POLAND AND OUR UNIVERSITIES

STUDYING & LIVING IN POLAND

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CHOOSE
POLAND

PAGE 29

COST OF STUDYING
AND LIVING

OFFICIAL NAME

Republic of Poland (short form:
Poland, in Polish: Polska)

LOCATION

Poland is situated in Central Europe and borders Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, and Russia.

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HIGHER
EDUCATION
SYSTEM

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POLISH
LANGUAGE

POPULATION (2023)

37.9 million

CAPITAL

Warsaw (Warszawa)

GOVERNMENT

Parliamentary republic

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Polish

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STUDYING
AND RESIDENCE

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USEFUL
INFORMATION

CURRENCY

1 zloty (PLN)

TIME ZONE

CET (UTC+1)

CALLING CODE

0048 (+48)

INTERNET DOMAIN

.pl



POLISH NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS

The Nobel Prize is the highest honour that scientists and writers can receive for their work. Poland boasts eight Nobel Prize winners:

- **Maria Skłodowska-Curie** (1903 – in physics; 1911 – in chemistry),
- **Henryk Sienkiewicz** (1905 – in literature),
- **Władysław Reymont** (1924 – in literature),
- **Czesław Miłosz** (1980 – in literature),
- **Lech Wałęsa** (1983 – Nobel Peace Prize),
- **Wisława Szymborska** (1996 – in literature),
- **Olga Tokarczuk** (2018 – in literature).

Several of the Nobel Prize laureates, among them Tadeusz Reichstein (1950 – in medicine), Joseph Rotblat (1995 – Nobel Peace Prize, he gained a PhD in Physics at the University of Warsaw), Leonid Hurwicz (2007 – in economic sciences, studied law at the University of Warsaw); Menachem Begin (1978 – Nobel Peace Prize, studied law at the University of Warsaw), Isaac Bashevis Singer (1981 – in literature), Shimon Peres (1994 – Nobel Peace Prize), and Andrew Schally (1977 – in medicine), were associated with Poland.

Napoleon Cybulski, Oskar Minkowski, Kazimierz Funk, Józef Babiński, Rudolf Weigl and Ludwik Hirschfeld were nominated for this prestigious award.

Read more about famous Poles: study.gov.pl/famous-poles

CHOOSE POLAND

If you are looking for high-quality education provided by experienced and inspired teachers – Polish universities are some of the best options. We present ten of the many good reasons for international students to choose Poland.

ACADEMIC TRADITION

Poland's traditions of academic education go back to 1364, when King Casimir the Great established the Cracow Academy, known today as the Jagiellonian University, one of the oldest universities in the world.

MODERNITY

Poland is a modern and dynamic country, and a member of the European Union. It is the 21st-largest economy in the world (6th in the European Union), where education really counts.

FULLY MOBILE

All institutions of higher education in Poland use the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS), which facilitates international credit transfer. You will receive certificates or other types of official documentation for all completed courses.



Enzon Tan, Singapore

Poland has many historically significant universities that made breakthroughs in various academic fields, hence vouching for their academic rigour and quality. There are also other factors, such as being geographically centred in the European continent, which would suggest that one can experience the cultural diversity of West, Central and Eastern Europe, all in one place.

If you complete a full degree or a diploma programme, you will receive a Diploma Supplement in English. Foreign students studying in Poland stay fully mobile and can continue their education anywhere else within the European Union.

HIGH QUALITY OF EDUCATION

The Polish higher education system is well-developed. The quality of the education provided is monitored and regularly evaluated. Polish diplomas are recognised in the European Union and worldwide. Studying in Poland gives you a high-quality education and a better chance to find a good job in the EU and beyond!

EXPLORE THE WORLD OF POLISH SCIENCE

Poland is a country of people with ideas and a homeland of many figures of global historical influence. **Nicolaus Copernicus**, who 'stopped the Sun and moved the Earth,' **Maria Skłodowska-Curie's** Nobel Prizes for her research on the radiation phenomena and discovering radium and polonium, the kerosene lamp invented by Ignacy Łukasiewicz, the Monte Carlo method devised by Stanisław Ulam, Hilary Koprowski as the inventor of the polio vaccine, the discovery of vitamins by Kazimierz Funk, Stefan Banach who founded one of the most important mathematical fields – functional analysis, the Polish Enigma code breakers – mathematicians Henryk Zygalski, Jerzy Różycki and Marian Rejewski, Rafał Lemkin's contribution to international law, Bohdan Paczyński's gravitational microlensing, Jan Czochoński who devised a method of creating single crystals, without which we would not have smartphones, laptops, tablets or digital cameras... All these are beautiful and well-known pages in the history of Polish and world science.

What is happening in Polish science today? Polish scientists continue to co-create the common structure of world science. They solve scientific problems individually and in international research teams, in modern laboratories, using extensive research infrastructures and in their own offices, at universities and in scientific and research institutes dedicated to various fields and specialisations of science, scattered all over Poland.

Explore the world of Polish science: scienceinpoland.pl/en

A GENUINE EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE

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, which not only offers contact with varied and interesting cultures and the opportunities associated with strong, innovative economies, but also provides the very best conditions for successful higher education studies in a challenging and friendly atmosphere.

COMPETITIVE COSTS OF LIVING AND STUDYING

Compared to other EU countries, the tuition fees in Poland are highly competitive and the costs of living are a fraction of what a foreign student would have to spend in other European countries. For more information, visit: study.gov.pl

MORE REASONS TO CHOOSE POLAND

There are many other reasons why you should consider studying in Poland: a safe, stable and multicultural environment, rich tradition and culture, friendly people, beautiful landscapes, low cost of living, vibrant student life... We invite you to consider the great opportunities that Poland has to offer.



*Laura Carrillo,
Colombia*

From an academic point of view, Poland has top-quality universities with highly qualified professors who show passion for teaching and who provide you with all kinds of tools so that knowledge is transmitted clearly. Now, from my point of view, it has been a wonderful experience that makes me grow as a person and enables me to discover new cultures.

TOP COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AMONG FOREIGN STUDENTS IN POLAND

Polish universities have attracted the interest of students from a wide variety of backgrounds from all around the globe. In 2023, Poland hosted more than **105 thousand students from 180 countries**, of which 8.6 percent were foreign students. Most of them came from Ukraine, Belarus, Turkey, Zimbabwe, India, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, China, Kazakhstan, and Nigeria. Studying medicine in Poland is most popular among students from countries such as Norway, India, Germany, Sweden, Taiwan, U.S., Ireland, Ukraine, Belarus, and Israel.

WHY POLAND IN BRIEF

- Poland has the 5th largest population (38 million), the largest Central European economy and the **6th largest economy in the EU**, closely behind Germany, France, Italy, Spain, and the Netherlands
- One of the **fastest-growing economies in the EU**, it also boasts the highest growth rate in the OECD between 1990 and 2019
- **Member of the European Union** (2004), NATO (1999) and the Schengen Area (2007)
- Poland is **one of the safest countries** in the world (according to the Global Peace Index 2023)
- Polish **academic institutions are among the world's recognised educational centres**
- More than 350 higher education institutions (285 of them hold the Erasmus University Charter) and **1.2 million students** in Poland
- The 23 leading Polish universities are part of **European Universities alliances**, a flagship initiative of the European Union strategy for universities
- Polish universities offer **more than 850 courses in foreign languages** (mainly in English)
- **High English language proficiency** – Poland was placed 13th (out of 113) in 2023 in the “EF Proficiency Index”, which ranks countries based on the knowledge of the English language among non-native English speakers
- According to The Global Student Satisfaction Report 2023 published by Studyporals, Poland ranks **eighth in the world (in terms of student satisfaction with studies)**, ahead of countries such as the UK, Australia, the Netherlands, and Canada
- The **number of foreign students is constantly growing** at the Polish Universities. It has increased more than 10 times since the beginning of the 21st century

HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IN POLAND

The Polish higher education system includes both **public** and **non-public** institutions. Each HEI, based on the quality of their scientific research and didactic offer may also be classified as **academic** (research-oriented) or **professional** (focused on providing higher education best suited for the job market). Moreover, there is a popular division of HEIs into groups according to the areas of knowledge and training which they focus on.

PUBLIC AND NON-PUBLIC HEIs

Public higher education institutions are those founded by a state authority. They do not charge tuition fees from students of full-time first-, second-, long- or third-cycle programmes (Doctoral school) carried out in Polish. They may, however, offer paid part-time programmes at all levels or paid degree programmes delivered in a foreign language.

Non-public higher education institutions are those created by a private founder – a natural person or a legal person. Non-public HEIs may receive state financing only for specific elements of their activity but most of their funds come from the tuition fees and fees for other services paid by the students.

ACADEMIC (UNIVERSITY TYPE) AND PROFESSIONAL (NON-UNIVERSITY TYPE) HEIs

From the point of view of their main activity objectives and types of education programmes provided, Polish higher education institutions are divided into academic (university type) and professional (non-university type) oriented ones.

Academic HEIs/university types are focused on scientific research, including the provision of innovative scientific and technological solutions which can be transferred to the economy. Academic HEIs offer first-cycle and second- or long-cycle programmes. They may also provide education at the doctoral level. They have autonomy in establishing new programmes of study in the disciplines in which they have obtained high ranks for quality of training and research.

Professional HEIs/non-university types are focused on didactic activity and offer first-cycle programmes with practical profiles. They may also carry out second-cycle or long-cycle programmes with practical profiles as well as provide so-called specialist education programmes. However, they are not entitled to organise doctoral programmes nor award doctoral degrees.

CHOOSE YOUR FUTURE

Polish higher education institutions offer a range of opportunities for international students, both full degree and single subject courses. Programmes and degrees are internationally recognised and of high quality.

FIND YOUR STUDY PROGRAMME

Question: **What are my study programme options?** Before choosing your programme, you first need to decide on the length (see: *Study options*, p.12) and the purpose of your studies in Poland. Will you become a lawyer, a journalist, a teacher, or a doctor? Polish higher education institutions offer nearly 5,000 courses taught in the Polish language and more than **850 English-taught study programmes**. There should be one to fit your academic aspirations. Find your programme: study.gov.pl/studyfinder

NOTE: As a foreigner, you have a right to apply for studies at any university and study in either Polish or English.

The majority of Polish higher education institutions (59 per cent) are non-public. However, more than 66 per cent of all students in Poland attend public universities.

CHOOSE THE UNIVERSITY

The study programmes are taught at one of many types of Polish higher education institutions, such as: **universities, technical, agricultural and life sciences, church and theological, and pedagogical** higher education institutions, **medical** universities, academies of **physical education**, as well as higher education institutions specialising in **economic sciences, arts, and maritime** studies. You need to choose the one that will be suitable for you. Do not forget to compare the ratings of selected universities, read student reviews, and clarify internship opportunities. Then, you need to contact the Admissions Office of the university of your choice and discuss the admission details. Find your university: study.gov.pl/higher-education-institutions

NOTE: The list of recognised higher education institutions and doctoral schools can also be found at: radon.nauka.gov.pl

LEADING ACADEMIC CITIES IN POLAND

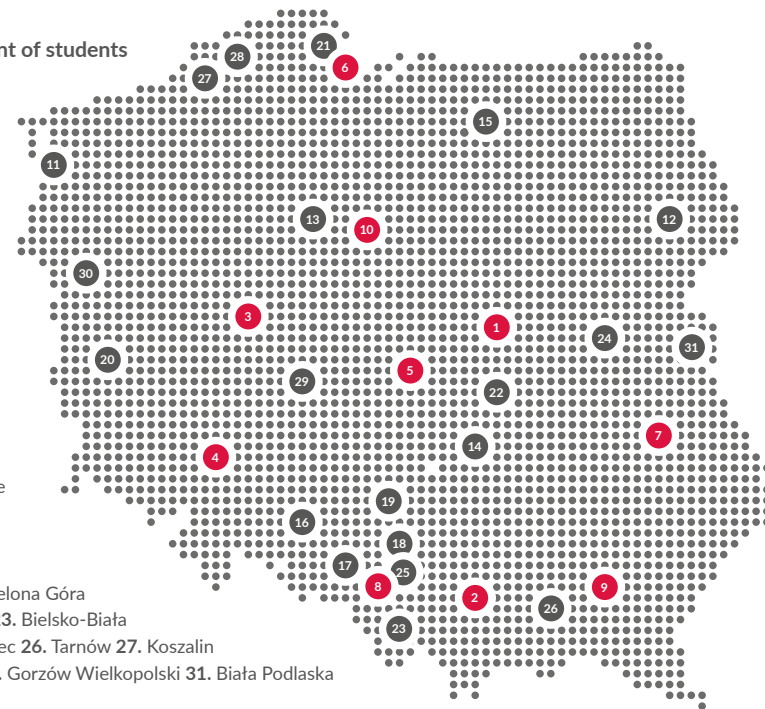
Poland boasts over 350 diverse higher education institutions in some 100 cities in Poland. The largest number of students in Poland study in Warsaw (250,000 in 2023), which accounts for 1/5 of all students countrywide. Krakow is in second place in terms of the number of students and Poznań is third.

The highest number of students per 1000 inhabitants is in Poznań – as many as 210, which means that they constitute slightly more than 1/5 of all Poznań residents. Other cities that can boast a high percentage of students among all residents are Katowice, Lublin and Rzeszów.

More than 70 per cent of students study in the **TOP 10 academic cities**.

1. Warszawa
2. Kraków
3. Poznań
4. Wrocław
5. Łódź
6. Gdańsk
7. Lublin
8. Katowice
9. Rzeszów
10. Toruń

11. Szczecin
12. Białystok
13. Bydgoszcz
14. Kielce
15. Olsztyn
16. Opole
17. Gliwice
18. Dąbrowa Górnicza
19. Częstochowa
20. Zielona Góra
21. Gdynia
22. Radom
23. Bielsko-Biała
24. Siedlce
25. Sosnowiec
26. Tarnów
27. Koszalin
28. Stupsk
29. Kalisz
30. Gorzów Wielkopolski
31. Biała Podlaska



STUDY OPTIONS

There are several types of studies in Poland. They differ in terms of the conditions that a student must meet to be admitted, the length of studies and the professional degrees that the student can receive upon completion.

FIRST-CYCLE STUDIES (BACHELOR'S PROGRAMMES)

First-cycle studies – a Bachelor's degree programme (3 to 4 years which consists of 6 to 8 semesters), available to candidates who hold a Polish Matura Certificate (high school matriculation certificate) or recognised equivalent, leading to the professional degree of a *licencjat* or *inżynier* (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 at least 180 ECTS credits. First-cycle degrees give access to second-cycle studies.

SECOND-CYCLE STUDIES (MASTER'S PROGRAMMES)

Second-cycle studies – a Master's degree programme (1.5 to 2 years which consists of 3 to 4 semesters) following the first-cycle

studies and leading to a Master's degree (*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. To obtain this degree, students must earn at least 90 ECTS credits. Second-cycle degrees give access to doctoral programmes (PhD).

LONG-CYCLE STUDIES (UNIFORM MASTER'S PROGRAMMES)

Long-cycle studies (uniform Master's studies) – a Master's degree programme (4.5 to 6 years which consists of 9 to 12 semesters), available to candidates who hold a Polish Matura Certificate (high school matriculation certificate) or recognised equivalent, leading to a Master's degree (*magister*), or an equivalent degree depending on the course profile. To obtain this degree, students must earn at

Study programmes in the fields of studies listed below are provided only as long-cycle studies: medical studies, dentistry, medical analytics, pharmacy, physiotherapy, veterinary medicine, law, canon law, pre-school and early school education, special education.

least 300 ECTS credits. Such single long-cycle studies are based on an integrated study programme containing both basic studies and in-depth specialisation. All degrees obtained upon completion of long-cycle programmes give access to doctoral school.

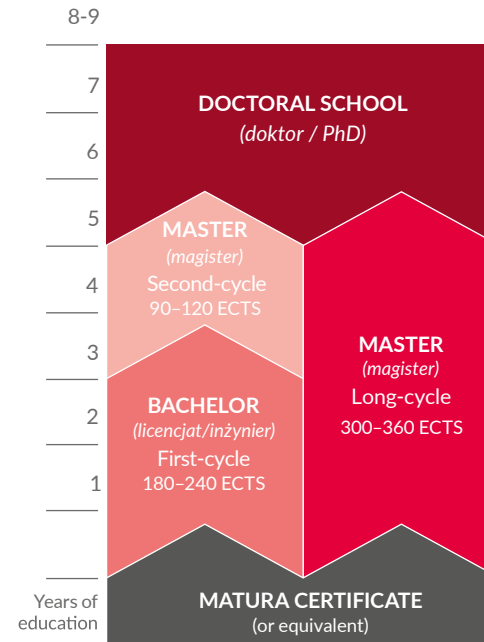
DOCTORAL SCHOOL (PHD/DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES)

Doctoral school (normally 3 to 4 years which consists of 6 to 8 semesters) accessible for graduates of a Master's degree programme, or equivalent programme. Admission to a doctoral school takes place through a competition based on the principles set out by the University Senate or the Scientific Council. A student of a doctoral school receives a scholarship for 4 years. A PhD degree is awarded to candidates who submit and successfully defend a doctoral dissertation before a thesis committee and pass a doctoral examination.

EXCHANGE STUDIES

In addition to studying an entire programme or course, students are welcome to come to Poland as part of an exchange programme. Exchange programmes are administered by the individual Polish and foreign universities that have exchange agreements with each other.

NOTE: Foreigners – provided they meet the requirements for admission and undergoing studies – can study at all the above-mentioned types of studies. Regarding conditions that a student must meet to be admitted, read more on page 20.



EXAMINATIONS, GRADING, ECTS (CREDITS AND DIPLOMAS)

EXAMINATIONS

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 SCALE

Each HEI identifies its grading scale in its Study Rules. The most common scale comprises the following marks: 5 – Excellent/ Very good (*Celujący/Bardzo dobry*), 4.5 – Very good (*Dobry plus*), 4 – Good (*Dobry*), 3.5 – Satisfactory (*Dostateczny plus*) 3 – Acceptable/ Mediocre (*Dopuszczający/Mierny*), 2 – Unsatisfactory (*Niedostateczny*).

Grades for undergraduate and postgraduate examinations are awarded according to a graded scale from 5 (highest) to 2 (lowest), with 3 as the minimum pass grade. A Credit/ pass mark (*Zaliczenie*) is given for some examinations. Sometimes, the plus symbol or decimal is used to modify the numerical grades. It must be pointed out at this time that grades awarded according to the scale are not directly transferable to the ECTS credits.

ECTS CREDITS

The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is a tool of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) that makes studies and courses more transparent and thus helps to enhance the quality of higher education. This system helps students to move between countries and to have their academic qualifications and study periods abroad recognised. Since 2007, all Polish higher education institutions have been required to use ECTS for both credit transfer and accumulation within their degree programmes. The ECTS credits allow foreign students' periods of study at HEIs in Poland to be recognised.



Regardless of the grade awarded, a given course is assigned a certain number of ECTS credits. To successfully complete the year, the student must accumulate 60 ECTS credits (30 per semester).

DIPLOMAS

In order to graduate, students are required to: pass a performance assessment for all subjects, integrated placements, and practical work sessions, pass all examinations covered

by the study programme set for a given field of study, as well as present, at an appointed date, a diploma project and attain a pass mark for that project and finally 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 (a copy of the diploma translated into a foreign language, describing the degree, level, and specialisation).



POLAND. RICH GEOGRAPHICAL DIVERSITY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE



With its picturesque old towns and medieval architecture, wild forests and powdery-sand beaches, beautiful mountains, lakes, forests, humming city life and imaginative culinary scene, Poland is a country that is as captivating as it is surprising.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The academic year in Poland is divided into two semesters of 15 weeks each – the fall/winter and the spring/summer semester.

- The **fall/winter semester** starts in October and ends at the end of January or 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 **spring/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.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN POLAND

New Year's Day (1 January), Epiphany/ the Day of the Three Kings (6 January), Easter Sunday and Monday (according to the Church calendar), May Day/ State Holiday (1 May), Constitution Day (3 May), Pentecost (seventh Sunday after Easter), Corpus Christi (second Thursday after Pentecost), Assumption Day (15 August), All Saints' Day (1 November), Independence Day (11 November), Christmas Day (25 December), St. Stephen's Day/ Boxing Day (26 December).

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 (extending from June to August) turns out to be quite hot or quite rainy. Winters (from December to March) are usually cold and snowy, with temperatures well below freezing. If you come from a warmer climate, make sure you have proper clothing. 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).

ACCREDITATION & QUALITY ASSURANCE

Higher education in Poland is regulated by the state and an ongoing evaluation process ensures that all programmes are of high quality.

Polish higher education institutions (HEIs) enjoy a high degree of autonomy but are required to follow national regulations in terms of teacher qualifications, degree structures and examination processes.

All HEIs have been evaluated by prestigious independent institutions such as the PKA

(Polish Accreditation Committee), which is a member of the **European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA)** and the **International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE)**.

This ensures that all students obtain education of high international quality. Furthermore, many HEIs in Poland have been granted international accreditation for their programmes.

RECOGNITION OF POLISH DEGREES ABROAD

Polish diplomas are recognised abroad either based on international agreements, or – if Poland has not concluded such an agreement with a given country – based on the regulations in force therein. They are recognised in the European Union and worldwide, in countries such as the USA, Canada, Australia and many others.

Studying in Poland gives you a high-quality education and a better chance to find a good job in the EU and beyond!

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

Apart from the possibility of recognising the diploma itself, it is also possible to recognise qualifications for a specific profession abroad. However, this possibility is limited to the EU/EFTA member states and to professions defined in the countries as the so-called regulated professions.

ALL PUBLIC AND NON-PUBLIC HEIS IN POLAND ARE SUBJECT TO OBLIGATORY PKA ACCREDITATION

The Polish Accreditation Committee (PKA) is an independent institution dedicated to quality assurance and enhancement of higher education in Poland. The primary objective of the Committee's operations is to ensure that higher education quality standards following the best models adopted in European and global education systems are observed, as well as to provide support for public and non-public higher education institutions in the process of enhancing the quality of education and building a culture of quality. These actions aim to ensure that the graduates of Polish higher education institutions find themselves at the very top of the domestic and international labour markets, and to boost the competitiveness of Polish HEIs as European-class institutions. Since 2009, the Committee has held the status of a full member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA).

www.pka.edu.pl



STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN THE EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA (EHEA)

Programmes provided by HEIs in Poland are compliant with the higher education requirements and standards of the European Union. The first Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG) were adopted by the ministers responsible for higher education in 2005, following a proposal from the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) in cooperation with the European Students' Union (ESU), the European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (EURASHE), and the European University Association (EUA). The revised version of the Standards, commonly known as ESG 2015, was adopted by the ministers responsible for higher education in the European Higher Education Area in May 2015.

For more information on the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area, the Bologna Process and ECTS credits, please visit the European Higher Education Area website: www.ehea.info



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Question: **How to apply?** 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 given university well before the course starts in order to find out all the necessary details about the application procedures and other important information. Usually, admissions campaigns for undergraduate and graduate programmes are starting in April or May. The duration of the campaign depends on the university and may last for up to 6 months.

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 they completed secondary school.

NOTE: 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). Different conditions and procedures may be applied by different HEIs for the same fields of study.

ACCESS TO THE FIRST-CYCLE AND LONG-CYCLE (UNIFORM MASTER'S) STUDIES

Access to first-cycle studies, leading to the professional degree of a *licencjat* or *inżynier* (the Polish equivalent of the Bachelor's degree), as well as long-cycle studies, leading to a Master's degree (*magister* or an equivalent degree), is open to holders of a **high school matriculation certificate** (Polish *Matura* Certificate) **or an equivalent** entitling the holder to enrol in such programmes in Poland. Additional entrance examinations may be conducted by HEIs if this is necessary to assess knowledge or skills that are not assessed by the *Matura*

examination, or if the applicant holds a high school matriculation certificate obtained abroad.

NOTE: Detailed information regarding the recognition of foreign school certificates and diplomas in Poland is available on the following website: <https://www.gov.pl/web/edukacja/recognition-of-foreign-school-certificates-and-diplomas-in-poland>

ACCESS TO THE SECOND-CYCLE STUDIES

Access to the second-cycle studies is open to holders of a *licencjat* or *inżynier* (the Polish equivalent of the **Bachelor's degree**), a **Master's degree** (*magister* or an equivalent degree) or the equivalent of the Polish higher education diploma entitling the holder to enrol in such programs in Poland.

NOTE: If you need a **general** recognition statement, e.g. to present it to a Polish university, you can use the **KWALIFIKATOR** system (kwalfikator.nawa.gov.pl) or apply for an **individual** recognition statement on a foreign diploma online using the **SYRENA** system (syrena.nawa.gov.pl).

ACCESS TO DOCTORAL SCHOOLS (PHD)

Access to the doctoral school (PhD) 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 school programmes within an institution.

NOTE: If your degree gives access to the next level of higher education or entitles you to apply for a doctoral degree in the country of issue, also in Poland, it gives the right to access education at the corresponding level (second-cycle studies, doctoral school) or to start proceedings which lead to obtaining a Polish academic degree.

RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN HIGH SCHOOL MATRICULATION CERTIFICATES IN POLAND

Information regarding recognition of foreign high school matriculation certificates or other documents which may confirm the right to apply for admission to first-cycle or long-cycle studies in Poland and list of regional educational authorities (*kuratoria oświaty*) responsible for recognition of these documents is available: <https://www.gov.pl/web/edukacja/recognition-of-foreign-school-certificates-and-diplomas-in-poland>

RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN HIGHER EDUCATION DEGREES IN POLAND

EU/EFTA nationals

↑ EU/EFTA nationals
– citizen of a European Union Member State or a citizen of a European Free Trade Association Member State (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland)

EU/EFTA OR OECD COUNTRY

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

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

NOTE: If a diploma confirming completion of studies abroad gives access to the next level of higher education or entitles its holder to apply for a doctoral degree in the country of issue, also in Poland, it gives the right to access education at the corresponding level (second-cycle studies, doctoral school) or to start proceedings which lead to obtaining a Polish academic degree.

OTHER COUNTRIES

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**.

If you want to check how a particular foreign diploma is recognised in Poland, you can use the KWALIFIKATOR (in English *qualifier*) system: kwalifikator.nawa.gov.pl

For more information, please contact **ENIC-NARIC Polska** (the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange); you can find all information regarding recognition at: www.nawa.gov.pl/en/recognition



CHOOSE POLAND
CHOOSE YOUR FUTURE...

NOSTRIFICATION

is a procedure aimed at recognising a foreign diploma as an equivalent to a Polish diploma.

Diplomas obtained in countries with which Poland has not concluded bilateral agreements on recognising education obtained abroad as equivalent to education obtained in Poland are subject to nostrification. The nostrifying university compares the study

program, the obtained learning outcomes and professional qualifications, apprenticeships and the duration of studies and the study program, the achieved learning outcomes and professional rights, apprenticeships and the duration of similar studies conducted at the university. The nostrification procedure should be completed within 3 months from the date of submission of all necessary documents.

TERMS OF STUDYING



DEFINE YOUR STATUS

Question: **I am a foreigner; do I have to pay for my studies?** First of all, you have to remember that studies in English are payable for everyone, both Poles and international students. **If you are a holder of a valid Pole's Card (Karta Polaka), or you are an EU/EFTA citizen, you can choose if you wish to study on the terms applicable to Polish citizens or those applicable to foreigners.** EU/EFTA citizens can 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.

STUDYING ON TERMS APPLICABLE TO POLISH NATIONALS

If you study on terms applicable to Polish citizens doing full-time programmes in Polish 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.

There are also several state budget financial support forms available for students studying on terms applicable to Polish citizens. They include: • maintenance grants • special grants for disabled persons • scholarships as an outstanding student awarded by a rector • scholarships for academic achievement awarded by the minister • assistance grants.

Those who can study on the same terms as Polish citizens are:

- citizens of the European Union (EU) or European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries or members of their families, if residing in the territory of Poland,
- foreigners who have been granted a permanent residence permit (settlement permit) or long-term residence permit of the EU,
- foreigners who in the territory of Poland have been granted a temporary residence permit (residence permit for a fixed period),
- foreigners who hold refugee status granted by the Republic of Poland,
- foreigners who have been granted temporary protection or subsidiary protection in the territory of Poland,
- holders of the C1 level certificate in Polish language issued by the State Commission

for the Certification of Proficiency in Polish as a Foreign Language,

- holders of a valid Pole's Card (Karta Polaka),
- holders of a formal decision on Polish origin,
- spouses, children, and parents of a Polish citizen, if residing in the territory of Poland.

If you do not have documents from the list above – you can study on the terms applicable to foreigners. NOTE: If you are not sure if you have the right to study on the same terms as Polish citizens do – you can always contact the International Relations Office of the university of your choice.

STUDYING ON TERMS APPLICABLE TO FOREIGNERS

Students who do not fall under the rules applicable to Polish citizens **must pay fees** as defined by higher education institutions and have no right to state budget financial support.

Studying on terms applicable to foreigners, you can: • be awarded a scholarship by a Polish partner • 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. NOTE: Foreigners can be exempted from tuition fee payment on the basis of the decision of the minister of higher education or the director of NAWA on granting a scholarship.

It may be easier for foreigners to get into their chosen HEIs as they don't have to compete with local students. The standard admission requirements include: • confirmation of sufficient knowledge of the instruction language to enter the chosen course • a high school diploma and – if applying to second or third-cycle studies – a diploma from the previous cycle of study. You may also be asked to prove that you have the predispositions and qualifications required by, for example, arts or medical HEIs.

You can study in Poland as a foreigner based on rules defined within/by:

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

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Questions: **Do I need a visa to study in Poland? How do I register for residency in Poland?** 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 (www.gov.pl/diplomacy/visas).

NOTE: Poland is a part of the Schengen area, so you can apply for a Polish visa and travel almost all over Europe.

EU/EFTA nationals

EU/EFTA CITIZENS

If you are a citizen of an EU/EFTA member state, the United Kingdom or another “visa-free country” listed by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (www.gov.pl/georgia/visa-free-countries), a valid travel document entitles students to enter Poland. NOTE: Although you do not need to have a visa to come to Poland, you should register for residency if your stay in Poland will be longer than 90 days.

non-EU/EFTA nationals

NON-EU/EFTA CITIZENS

Citizens of other countries who wish to study in Poland are required to obtain a Polish visa prior to their arrival to Poland. They should contact the Polish Consulate or Embassy in their country of residence (www.gov.pl/diplomacy/polands-missions-abroad). It is important to remember that visas are granted for a maximum of one year. In order to extend the stay in Poland, it is necessary to apply for a temporary residence permit for a specified period of time in a Voivodeship (Provincial) Office.

**POLAND IS A SAFE
HOSPITABLE COUNTRY
WITH ECONOMIC STABILITY**

VISA TYPES

Citizens of non-EU/EFTA countries which are not listed as “visa-free countries” may enter Poland and stay within its territory on the basis of a Schengen or national visa.

- **Schengen Visa** (“C” type) – is issued when the planned stay on the territory of the Schengen area does not exceed 90 days within each 180-day period.
- **National Visa** (“D” type) – entitles to entry and a continuous stay in the territory of Poland or to several consecutive stays that jointly last longer than 90 days; the period of validity of a national visa cannot exceed one year. Also permits to travel in the territory of

other Schengen Area Member States for up to 90 days during a 180-day period, during the validity period of the visa.

Visas are issued for multiple or single entry and for various purposes of stay. However, regarding study purposes, the most relevant is a student visa – (dedicated to students or PhD candidates), which requires, among other things, a document issued by the higher education institution confirming enrollment or continuation of studies. Please contact the embassy/consulate for the full list of the required documents.

NOTE: For a stay over 90 days, it is required to apply for a temporary residence permit.

5 EASY STEPS TO GET A VISA

- STEP 1** Find a Polish Consulate that can process your application: www.gov.pl/diplomacy/polands-missions-abroad
- STEP 2** Carefully read all the information concerning visa application on the consulate’s website and follow all the instructions.
- STEP 3** Set a visa appointment with the consulate. In most cases, you will have to register through the website: www.e-konsulat.gov.pl
- STEP 4** Prepare the necessary documents including: application form, travel document (passport), biometric photo, health insurance, sufficient means to support yourself, and 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.
- STEP 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.

RESIDENCE PERMIT VS. REGISTRATION OF RESIDENCE

non-EU/EFTA
nationals

TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMIT

All non-EU/EFTA international students staying in Poland longer than three months are required to obtain a temporary residence permit. The permit is issued for the period of a student's stay in Poland, but not longer than two years (the first residence permit is issued for a period of 15 months). It can be extended, but for no longer than the remainder of your studies. Evidence of the permit is a **Temporary Residence Card** – an identity card for foreigners in Poland which (together with a passport) allows passing the border as often as you like without a visa.

You have to apply for a temporary residence permit with the local Voivodeship 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. Please find a Voivodeship (Provincial) Office dedicated to where you will be living to carry out the registration procedure (www.gov.pl/gov/uw).

NOTE: 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.

EU/EFTA
nationals

REGISTRATION OF RESIDENCE

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

NOTE: An application form for the registration of residence should be submitted in person to a voivode having jurisdiction over the place of residence, no later than on the next day following the end of the period of 90 days after the entry into the territory of Poland.

STUDY COSTS

EU/EFTA
nationals

Questions: **How much does it cost to study in Poland? Can I study in Poland for free?**
In Poland, full-time studies for Polish citizens at public universities are free. Foreigners who undertake full-time studies at state (public) universities in Poland on the terms applicable to Polish citizens (these include, but are not limited to, citizens of the EU/EFTA and students who hold the Pole's Card, see all exceptions: *Define your status*, p. 24) also do it free of charge. Other groups of international students may study in Poland for a fee. All students undertaking studies at non-public (private) universities study on a paid basis. At a justified request of the foreigner, the rector of a university may reduce the fee or exempt it completely.

TUITION FEES

Tuition fees differ depending on the terms of being admitted to studies, the language of studies, and the year of admission. At public universities, both Polish and EU/EFTA students do not pay tuition fees for degrees taught in the Polish language. All the other study programmes demand tuition fees from students. Fees at public and non-public HEIs are established by the institution itself. In general, the average costs vary between:

- EUR 1,000 – 6,000 per year for the first-cycle studies (Bachelor's degrees)
- EUR 1,500 – 8,000 per year for the second-cycle and long-cycle studies (Master's degrees)
- Some degrees in Medicine, Dentistry or Business (especially MBA programmes) can cost EUR 12,000-15,000 annually and over
- Doctoral schools are a notable exception, as not only do they offer tuition-free education but also provide a scholarship for all doctoral candidates in a full-time programme.

NOTE: If you are a **student from outside of the EU/EFTA**, you will have to pay tuition fees at Polish universities and HEIs. Please take note that actual fees and specific study conditions are described in the framework agreement between individual institutions or between the student and the given university. We recommend visiting the individual institutions' webpages to get detailed information on the tuition fees. There are some exceptions, see more: *Define your status*, p. 24

non-EU/EFTA
nationals

COST OF LIVING IN POLAND

Question: **What is the monthly cost of living as a student in Poland?** Living in Poland as a student is relatively affordable compared to other European Union countries. The cost of living for students can start from EUR 600 a month. The average total monthly expenses of a student in Poland, according to the "Student's Wallet Report 2023", are: EUR 890. The prices depend on the city. Living in the capital or other

touristic cities might be slightly more expensive than other cities in Poland. Please remember also, that to be able to study in Poland, non-EU/EFTA students have to possess sufficient means to cover the living costs.

NOTE: You can check current prices in the largest cities in Poland at: www.numbeo.com

from
€100/month



DORMITORY

from
€150/month



RENTED ROOM

from
€25/month



FITNESS CLUB

from
€15/month



HEALTH INSURANCE

from
€12/month



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

from
€5.00



HAIRDRESSER

from
€3.50



LUNCH IN A CANTEEN

from
€2.90



COFFEE IN A CAFE

from
€0



DANCING CLUB
ENTRY

from
€13/month



UNLIMITED INTERNET
ACCESS

from
€3.20



BEER IN A PUB

from
€5.00



CINEMA TICKET

from
€0



MUSEUM TICKET

Prices for students*

*may vary depending on the city

STUDENT DISCOUNTS

In Poland, students receive 50% discount on public transportation, and 51% on long-distance trains. Also, most cinemas, theatres, and museums as well as hairdressers, some restaurants, clubs, and cafes offer special prices for students.

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 ranges around EUR 100-150 monthly for a shared room and between EUR 150-300 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 making 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 EUR 150 and 250. 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 EUR 600 (in Warsaw). An additional expense could also be considered the two-month deposit that many of the landlords ask when you move into your rental apartment.

NOTE: Once you've been accepted onto a study programme in Poland, it's a good idea to plan your accommodation as soon as you can. The best place to start is your university – ask them for advice to help you find a suitable place to live.

Many international students hold part-time jobs (see: *Working in Poland as a student*, p. 33) when studying in Poland. It is a good way to practice your Polish (see: *The Polish Language*, p. 43) and increase your budget.

HEALTHCARE AND INSURANCE

There are two types of healthcare in Poland: public (state) and private. Depending on your insurance, you can use medical services on different terms. In the case of state insurance (NFZ), you can receive medical benefits in the same way as Polish citizens. If you have private insurance, you can use the national health service for a fee, then ask your insurance agency for reimbursement based on invoices.

Public (free of charge) healthcare is financed through the National Health Fund called NFZ (in Polish: *Narodowy Fundusz Zdrowia*). To benefit from the NFZ healthcare, you must be insured with the public Social Insurance Institution – ZUS (in Polish: *Zakład Ubezpieczeń Społecznych*). **In private (paid) healthcare**, fees, terms, and conditions depend on the insurance policy you've bought and the contract you've signed. In terms of private healthcare, insurance plans vary between providers, so it is best to investigate the offers of multiple health insurance companies before deciding.

EU/EFTA
nationals

STUDENTS FROM THE EU/EFTA COUNTRIES

Healthcare in Poland is available for students from EU/EFTA countries, if 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 (in Polish: *Europejska Karta Ubezpieczenia Zdrowotnego*) entitles its holder to medical care free of charge in Poland. Detailed information on the health care for EU/EFTA citizens can be found on the website of the National Health Fund: www.nfz.gov.pl/ekuz

non-EU/EFTA
nationals

STUDENTS FROM OUTSIDE THE EU/EFTA

Students from non-EU/EFTA countries are obliged to obtain health insurance either at the Polish National Health Fund (in Polish: *Narodowy Fundusz Zdrowia* – NFZ) after coming to Poland or at any other private insurance company in their home country or in Poland. The health insurance must be valid throughout the whole period of your stay in Poland. Under this insurance scheme, students are entitled to free medical care and can use university healthcare 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

WORKING IN POLAND AS A STUDENT

EU/EFTA
nationals

non-EU/EFTA
nationals

Question: **Can I work while studying at a university in Poland?** To be able to study in Poland, non-EU/EFTA 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/EFTA students who stay in Poland with a visa generally need to apply for a work permit, which is granted only if non-EU citizens 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/EFTA citizens and holders of the Pole's Card do not need a work permit at all. For more information, please visit the website Office for Foreigners: www.gov.pl/udsc-en

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. 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 training. 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.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Question: **Are there scholarships for international students?** International students who decide to study in Poland might apply for financial support from a list of scholarships. The most popular one is **Erasmus+**, an EU exchange programme for students, teachers, and institutions. There are also multilateral and bilateral programmes funded or co-funded by Poland and other countries or international organisations and national programmes, targeted specifically at higher education students. Multilateral programmes include the **Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies (CEEPUS)** and the **International Visegrad Fund**. They offer scholarships to support cooperation among Central European countries and Western Balkan and Eastern Partnership countries. The main bilateral programmes are the **Fulbright Programme** and the **Lane Kirkland Scholarship Programme**. The former, funded by the Polish

and US Governments, offers scholarships to US and Polish students and graduates for studies and research stays in the US or Poland. Several national programmes, funded or co-funded by the Polish Government or the European Social Fund, are run by the **National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA)** and the ministry responsible for higher education. Aside from exchanges under bilateral agreements, several programmes offer grants, for example, to students from developing countries in Asia, Central and South America, and Africa wishing to take a full degree programme in Poland. NOTE: Individual universities in Poland have the right to establish their own rules for awarding scholarships to foreigners and the rules of exemption from fees.

The scholarship offer can be found on the study.gov.pl/scholarships website and nawa.gov.pl/scholarships

NAWA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMMES

One of the basic objectives of the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange is initiating and supporting student mobility. This objective is to be implemented by means of founding programmes aiming at enhancing the level of internationalisation of Polish higher education institutions, as well as enabling students to gain international experience.

NAWA offers both outgoing and incoming programmes for foreign students as part of the development assistance (co-funded by the Foreign Ministry) and a scholarship programme for individuals of Polish origin. NAWA also acts as the National Office of the CEEPUS programme through which students get the mobility opportunity, being part of the Central European Exchange Programme for University

Studies – the second after Erasmus+, the biggest student exchange programme in Poland.

NOTE: NAWA does not act as an intermediary in the admission of applicants for studies. Applicants participate in the admission process at the university of their choice by themselves and independently of the application submitted to NAWA.

Here, you can find a list of scholarships provided by NAWA. More detailed information can be found on the NAWA website: nawa.gov.pl/scholarships

EXCHANGE STUDENTS

- To study in Poland as an exchange student, you must already be enrolled at a higher education institution in your country of residence. It is advisable to check with local authorities if they have a scholarship programme that includes studies in Poland.
- Generally, exchange students come to Poland through the Erasmus programme or other programmes offered by governmental bilateral agreements.
- We advise you to contact your own educational institution first to find out more. However, if you don't find help there, please contact the international office of the Polish institution where you wish to study.

FIND SCHOLARSHIPS TO FINANCE YOUR STUDY IN POLAND

[STUDY.GOV.PL/SCHOLARSHIPS](https://study.gov.pl/scholarships)





**ZAWACKA
NAWA**

ZAWACKA EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

The aim of the Zawacka Exchange Programme is to deepen international academic cooperation through the arrival of students, doctoral students, academic teachers, and scientists to Polish higher education and science institutions, based on international agreements concluded between Poland and the partner countries indicated in the announcement. Moreover, the stays will allow for improving the competences of participating representatives of the academic community. The programme is implemented in cooperation with institutions from countries covered by the agreements, hereinafter referred to as partner institutions.

Visits are eligible under the programme for the following purposes: completing full or partial studies at universities supervised by the Minister of Science and Higher Education, education at a doctoral school, and scientific stays, e.g., scientific internships, study visits, obtaining materials for scientific work, conducting teaching classes at the host centre, and other forms of scientific or academic activity related to the implementation of studies, a doctoral thesis, or scientific work. Find out more at: <https://nawa.gov.pl/en/international-cooperation-and-exchange>



**POLAND
MY FIRST CHOICE**
NAWA

POLAND – MY FIRST CHOICE (PMFC) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The programme aims to encourage young, talented people from highly-developed countries to pursue studies at the Polish university-type higher education institutions (HEIs). The programme offers a scholarship during the statutory period of full-time second-cycle studies at academic HEIs (both public and non-public) supervised by the Minister of Science and Higher Education. In addition, the programme provides an exemption from tuition fees at public universities. For more information about the program and a full list of partner countries: <https://nawa.gov.pl/en/students/foreign-students/poland-my-first-choice-programme>



**BANACH
NAWA**

STEFAN BANACH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The programme aims to support the socio-economic development of developing countries by improving the level of education and professional qualifications of citizens of countries eligible to participate in the programme by offering a scholarship to undertake second-cycle studies in Polish or in English at Polish universities supervised by the Minister of Science and Higher Education in the fields of engineering and technical sciences, agricultural sciences, exact sciences, and life sciences. In addition, the citizens of some countries can complete second-degree studies in the fields of humanities and social sciences. The programme is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and NAWA, and is implemented as part of the Polish development cooperation programme. For more information about the program and a full list of partner countries: <https://nawa.gov.pl/en/students/foreign-students/the-banach-scholarship-programme>



**ANDERS
NAWA**

THE GENERAL ANDERS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME FOR THE POLISH DIASPORA

The programme is addressed to young people of Polish origin and promotes Poland as a country of attractive educational opportunities, strengthens the level of qualifications in the Polish communities abroad and is an opportunity to learn about the culture and history of Poland. The scholarship covers full-time studies (first-cycle, second-cycle, or long-cycle degree studies) in a wide range of fields except for applied linguistics and foreign languages (apart from Polish philology). The studies must be held in Polish. The studies may be preceded by a yearly preparatory course designed to improve Polish language skills and deepen knowledge related to the field of future studies.

The candidates must be holders of the Pole's Card or young people with dual citizenship (of Poland and of another country), having completed secondary education outside Poland. Candidates are selected based on the calls for proposals and its specific criteria. The calls for proposals are announced on an annual basis. For more information about the programme: <https://nawa.gov.pl/en/students/foreign-students/the-gen-anders-programme>



ERASMUS+ SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The Erasmus+ is the European Union (EU) programme which offers students from the EU/EEA and Switzerland the possibility to study abroad as part of their higher education in their home countries. The Erasmus+ programme 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, must be accepted by the home institution. The exchange ranges from 2 to 12 months. For further information, please contact your home university or the national educational agency of your country.

Detailed information is available on the websites of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu) and the Foundation for the Development of the Education System (www.erasmusplus.org.pl), which manage the programme, respectively, at the EU level and in Poland.

**DISCOVER POLAND
AS YOUR ERASMUS+ COUNTRY**

[ERASMUS-PLUS.EC.EUROPA.EU](https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu)



CEEPUS EXCHANGE PROGRAMME WITH CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

The Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies (CEEPUS) is an Exchange Mobility Programme for students and teachers, which aims to promote academic exchange between universities, faculties, and institutes in Eastern, Central and Southeastern Europe. Current CEEPUS countries are: Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, Czech Republic, Hungary, North Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo (University of Pristina).

The CEEPUS Programme offers to students, PhD candidates and research staff: short-term grants as part of network mobility, short-term grants as part of the "Freemover" mobility, and short-term grants as part of participation in Summer Schools and Intensive Courses.

With CEEPUS, students can spend 1 to a maximum of 10 months per Bachelor's and Master's cycle of their studies in the Central and Eastern European partner countries. For non-degree students, a minimum stay of 3 months applies. Freemovers are students and graduates enrolled at a CEEPUS institution who apply for a scholarship at an institution in one of the partner countries outside of a network. The institutions in the home and host country must be eligible for funding. The CEEPUS office in the target country will award the scholarship. Freemovers must resolve questions of credibility, tuition fees and language requirements on their own. In all other respects, the same conditions apply as for mobility within the framework of networks.

For all procedures, information and application rules, go to: www.ceepus.info and nawa.gov.pl/en/scientists/ceepus



LANE KIRKLAND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The programme offers scholarships for two-term university training courses in Polish universities. Eligible candidates are young leaders and experts with higher education coming from selected states in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus, and Central Asia who are interested in fostering democracy, economy, and civic society in their home countries and in the region.

The Kirkland scholarships are addressed to individuals who represent the following professional groups: civil servants, employees of central and local government institutions; lawyers; entrepreneurs; managers in NGOs, culture, education, media, environmental protection, healthcare, business; leaders of non-governmental organisations, animators in culture and civic activity; academic teachers and journalists.

The author and founder of the programme is the Polish-American Freedom Foundation (en.pafw.pl). The programme is also financially supported by NAWA. A description of the programme and detailed application instructions can be obtained directly from the website: www.kirkland.edu.pl



UNESCO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The Polish Committee for the UNESCO Scholarship Programme is aimed at university graduates, primarily from Eastern, Central and Eastern European and developing countries. The programme is coordinated by the Polish Committee for UNESCO and implemented at Polish universities from the funds of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, through NAWA. Scholarships may be applied for by university graduates who intend to carry out and participate in scientific research projects and study at Polish public academic institutions supervised by the Minister of Education and Science. The themes of the scholarships should be related to UNESCO's programme priorities.

To apply for participation in the scholarship programme, candidates should directly contact the universities where they would like to realise their scholarships. Scholarship applications are submitted to the Polish Committee for UNESCO by the universities. More information is available at:

www.unesco.pl/edukacja/stypendia-i-staze (in Polish)
and <https://www.unesco.org/en/fellowships>



WISEGRAD SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The International Visegrad Fund scholarships support Master's and post-Master's (doctoral, postdoc) students and researchers in all disciplines and in any language for up to two semesters at more than 190 accredited higher education institutions across Central and Eastern Europe. The Visegrad Scholarship Program is offered for nationals of the V4 countries (citizens of Czechia, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia), as well as nationals of the V4 neighbouring countries (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Ukraine). There are various scholarship schemes available. For more information about the programme:

www.visegradfund.org/visegrad-scholarships



FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The Fulbright Programme is the United States' largest educational and cultural exchange programme. It is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through academic exchange. If you are an American scholar or postgraduate student at a Master's or PhD level, you can apply for a Fulbright grant for an entire academic year of study and/or research in Poland. For more information about selection criteria and the application process for a Fulbright grant, please visit the Fulbright Poland website:

fulbright.edu.pl/grants-for-american-citizens



EURAXESS DATABASE

In the European EURAXESS Database, you will find the latest grant offers available to PhD candidates and scientists who are both based in Poland and interested in coming to our country. The offers include various funding sources: Polish research funding organisations, as well as European and international programmes. More information is available at:

euraxess.pl/poland/jobs-funding and www.euraxess.pl



← The Polish alphabet is based on the Latin alphabet and consists of 32 letters. It includes seven digraphs (sz, rz, cz, ch, dz, dź, dż), one trigraph (dzi) and nine letters formed using diacritics (ą, ć, ę, ł, ń, ó, ś, ź, ż).

CZEŚĆ! [HELLO!]

The Polish language, which is actively used by about 50 million people and by at least 10 million who have a passive knowledge of it, is an important element of the Polish heritage and culture. Thanks to the winners of the Nobel Prize for Literature, Poland has been enjoying a reputation as the land of poets and writers.

THE POLISH LANGUAGE

Learning to speak the language of the country you are living in is one of the best things you can do. Polish – the official language of Poland – is spoken by 50 million people in the world and is part of the western branch of Slavic languages and belongs to the Indo-European family. In addition to people living in Poland, Polish is spoken by large groups of Poles and ethnic Poles that have been living outside Poland for many generations, mainly in the USA, Canada, Australia, Germany, the UK, France, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, and Ukraine.

Today, Polish is also gaining popularity as a foreign language taught at language schools and in academic centres across Poland and worldwide.

Most young Poles, staff and academic teachers speak English quite well. Nevertheless, being able to speak some Polish will give you a better understanding of Poland, it will make social events much more enjoyable, and it will most likely make you feel more at home. In addition, if you know Polish to at least the C1 level, you can also study in Polish.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL CANDIDATES

Studies in Polish

Foreign candidates willing to study in Polish are required to have knowledge of Polish, which will allow them to understand the lectures and participate in classes. For this reason, the candidates are required to fulfil one of the following:

- complete a nine-month preparatory Polish language course at one of the institutions appointed by the minister of higher education
- obtain the certificate in Polish as a foreign language issued by the State Commission for the Certification of Proficiency in Polish as a Foreign Language
- receive confirmation from the higher education institution they apply to that their preparation and command of Polish allows them to undertake the studies.

Studies in English

The candidate should confirm their proficiency in English (B2 level at least) by:

- providing information that previous education was delivered fully in English
- providing a language certificate. If the candidate is unable to confirm proficiency in English, it can be verified by the higher education institution to which they apply.

LEARN POLISH IN YOUR HOME COUNTRY

Polish courses are taught at several universities around the world. The Polish Institutes (www.instytutpolski.pl) also offer Polish language courses to foreign university students through their branches abroad. The Polish Institute and

Polish Embassy or Consulate (www.gov.pl/diplomacy/polands-missions-abroad) in your home country can also help you locate opportunities to learn Polish near where you live.

POLISH COURSES AT HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Many Polish higher education institutions offer intensive Polish language courses at the beginning of the academic year or as a part of a summer university programme.

PREPARATORY 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 for 9 months, usually starting in October. The tuition fees may vary depending on the institution. To learn more, contact the International Office at your Polish host institution.

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE SUMMER SCHOOLS

Summer courses of Polish language, history, and culture organised by selected Polish universities provide a unique opportunity not only to learn the language and culture, but also to visit the greatest tourist attractions, meet Poles and integrate with course participants from dozens of countries around the world who share the same passion for learning about Poland and the Polish language.

NAWA SUMMER COURSES

One of the NAWA goals is to promote the Polish language outside Poland by promoting learning Polish as a foreign language, supporting activities aimed at the professionalisation of teaching and maintaining permanent contact with academic centres and institutions involved in teaching Polish as well as raising the prestige of the Polish language as a foreign language. As part of its activities, NAWA also implements a programme supporting participation in intensive summer language courses.

The NAWA Summer School Programme's (nawa.gov.pl/en/the-polish-language) objective is teaching and promoting the Polish language and culture abroad by 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.

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 the Polish language, Polish culture, and heritage.

More information is available at: nawa.gov.pl/en/the-polish-language/nawa-summer-courses

CERTIFICATION OF POLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS

All foreigners and Polish citizens permanently residing abroad may take the state certification examinations in Polish as a foreign language. For more information on the certificate, go to: nawa.gov.pl/en/the-polish-language/certification and www.certyfikatpolski.pl (only in Polish).

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT POLISH UNIVERSITIES



GENERAL GUIDE

Choosing the right university is not an easy task. Let us help you find out a little bit more about Polish universities, so that the process of picking will be a little bit easier!



STUDY ECONOMICS

Looking for the details regarding studying at an economics university in Poland?

Find everything you may need in our leaflet!



STUDY TECHNOLOGY

Are you looking for information about studying Engineering, IT or any other technical programme?



STUDY MEDICINE

If you are looking for high-quality medical education provided by experienced and inspired teachers – Polish medical universities are some of the best options.

www.study.gov.pl/publications



FURTHER INFORMATION

General information about Poland is available from the Polish representative authorities (embassies, consulates) and Polish cultural forums, Polish tourist offices and Polish commercial attachés. The information from this brochure, along with numerous additional references and links, can also be found on the NAWA (Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange) website: nawa.gov.pl

EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES IN POLAND

Should you need assistance or require consular help from representatives of the administration of your country, here you can find an index of all foreign diplomatic missions in Poland. Most embassies and consulates are in Warsaw: www.gov.pl/diplomacy/diplomatic-protocol

POLAND

www.gov.pl/diplomacy/polands-missions-abroad – Poland's missions abroad – Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland.

www.instytutpolski.pl – The Polish Institutes (a network of 25 branches around the world) promote Poland and its culture, history, science, language, and national heritage.

culture.pl/en – A complete repository of knowledge about Polish culture in and outside Poland. A portal developed and operated by the Adam Mickiewicz Institute (iam.pl/en)

www.poland.travel – Polish Tourism Organisation International Offices (www.pot.gov.pl/en), a network of 16 branches around the world, of which 13 are in Europe and one each in the USA (New York), Japan (Tokyo), and China (Beijing).

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS AND STUDENTS

study.gov.pl – Detailed information concerning the opportunities in the field of higher education in Poland. Information for applicants, students, and PhD students in Polish only: studia.gov.pl

radon.nauka.gov.pl – The RAD-ON portal in Polish and English allows you to search for information on doctoral schools

education.ec.europa.eu/study-in-europe/countries/poland – Getting you ready to plan and complete higher education studies in Europe and Poland

EDUCATIONAL AUTHORITIES & ORGANISATIONS

www.gov.pl/nauka – Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MNiSW)

www.krasp.org.pl/en – Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland (KRASP)

www.pka.edu.pl – Polish Accreditation Committee (PKA)

psrp.org.pl – Students' Parliament of the Republic of Poland (in Polish only)

krd.edu.pl – National Representation of Doctoral Students

www.frse.org.pl – Foundation for the Development of the Education System, and the Erasmus+ National Agency (www.erasmusplus.org.pl)

esn.org – The Erasmus Student Network (ESN) is a non-profit international student organisation.

THE POLISH NATIONAL AGENCY FOR ACADEMIC EXCHANGE (NAWA)

is a Polish organisation for international cooperation in higher education. NAWA works towards internationalisation of Polish science by supporting and stimulating international research collaboration and academic exchange. Our programmes are financed by the Republic of Poland. Some of the Agency's programmes are co-financed by the European Union.

 www.nawa.gov.pl

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 [nawapoland](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnawapoland)




THE READY, STUDY, GO! POLAND CAMPAIGN has been conducted by the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA) since 2018 and aims at delivering information about Poland as a prospective study and research destination to all candidates in the world.

 www.study.gov.pl

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 [ready_study_go_poland](https://www.instagram.com/ready_study_go_poland)


 [studygovpl](https://www.youtube.com/channel/studygovpl)



THE RESEARCH IN POLAND CAMPAIGN aims to present the achievements of Polish science and to promote Poland as an attractive country for conducting research and developing a scientific career in the international scientific community. The campaign develops: scientists, research teams, R&D&I projects, and research infrastructure. The researchinpoland.org website, available in English, is dedicated to foreign scientists and PhD candidates.

 www.researchinpoland.org

 [researchinpoland](https://www.facebook.com/researchinpoland)

 [researchinpl](https://twitter.com/researchinpl)



COME TO **POLAND** DISCOVER **EUROPE**

POLISH NATIONAL AGENCY
FOR ACADEMIC EXCHANGE NAWA

Polna Street no 40, 00-635 Warsaw

Phone +48 22 390 35 00

Fax +48 22 826 28 23

gopoland@nawa.gov.pl

www.nawa.gov.pl/en

STUDYING IN POLAND

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Compiled by the NAWA Promotion and Communication Department

Editor: Jan Andrzej Nicał

Coordinator (NAWA): Marta Chrostowska-Walenta

DTP: Jakub Rola

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The information from this brochure, along with numerous additional references and links, can also be found on the NAWA website: www.nawa.gov.pl



Poland is 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 obtain a European degree recognised throughout the world, we invite you to visit the website: www.study.gov.pl

