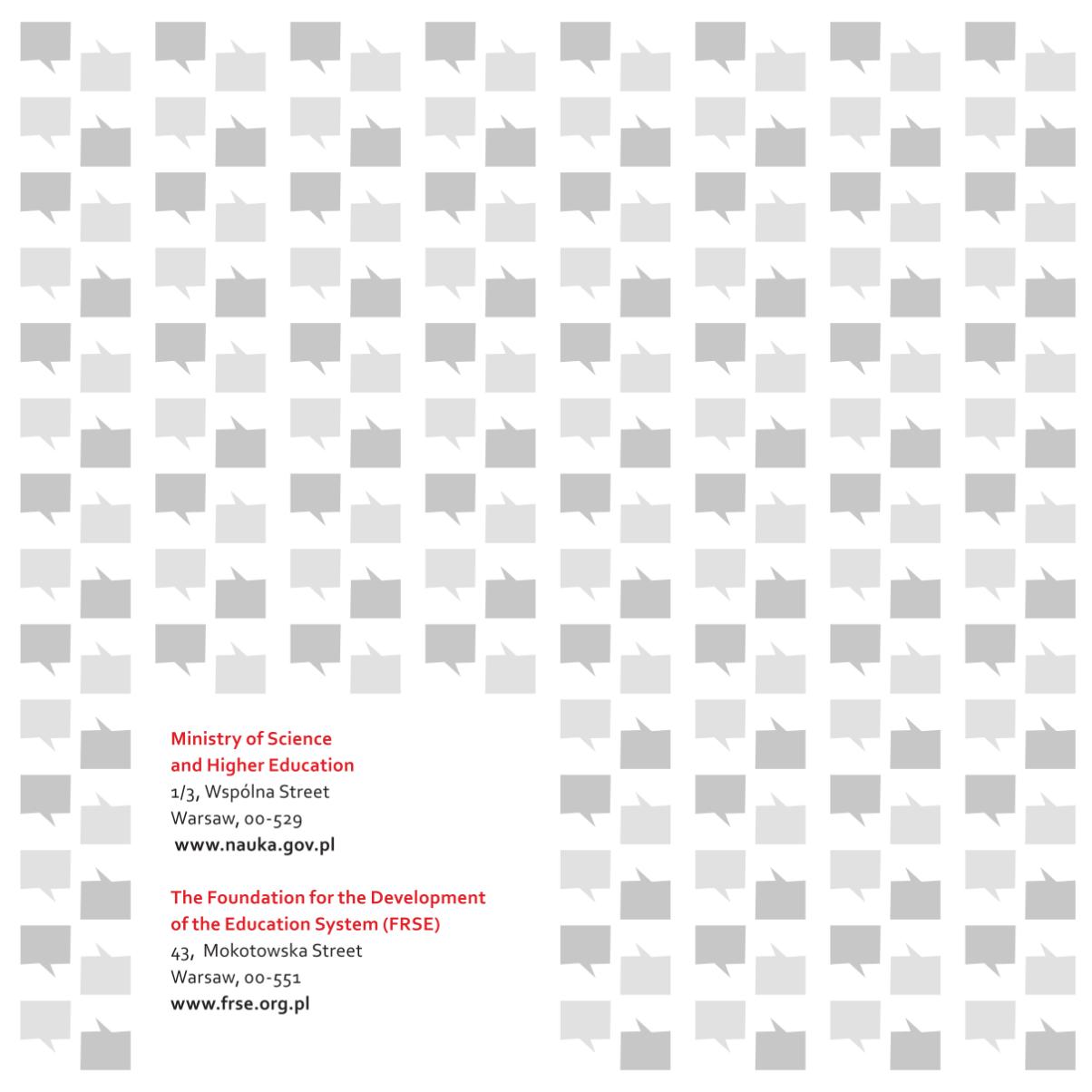


2011



Higher Education in Poland


HIGHER
EDUCATION
IN POLAND



**Ministry of Science
and Higher Education**

1/3, Wspólna Street

Warsaw, 00-529

www.nauka.gov.pl

**The Foundation for the Development
of the Education System (FRSE)**

43, Mokotowska Street

Warsaw, 00-551

www.frse.org.pl

Higher Education in Poland



[www.
highereducation.pl](http://www.highereducation.pl)

Table of Contents

Introduction

Polish University – Good choice!__3

Why Poland?

- > Why Poland__6
- > Poland in brief__9

Higher Education in Poland

- > Higher Education Institutions in Poland__12
- > Structure of studies in Poland__16
- > Examinations__18
- > ECTS credits__18
- > Diploma__19
- > Accreditation and quality assurance__20
- > Academic calendar__21
- > Scholarships and exchange programmes__22
- > Studying in foreign languages__24
- > Studying in the Polish language__25
- > Admission requirements__27
- > Nostrification/Recognition__29
- > The cost of studying in Poland__29

Living in Poland

- > Visas, Temporary Resident Card, Polish Charter__32
- > Medical insurance__36
- > Accommodation__36
- > Cost of living in Poland__37
- > Working in Poland as a student__37

Useful information

- > Higher Education in Poland__40
- > European programmes__43
- > General information on Poland__45



Polish University – Good choice!

Studying in Poland will provide a solid education which will thoroughly prepare you for work in the most advanced labour markets of the world, at the same time stimulating your own personal development. You will also have the unique opportunity of meeting outstanding specialists and renowned intellectuals in your chosen field. Pursuing your studies in Poland, a country of great historical significance and continued aspiration, will undoubtedly be a fascinating, even life-changing, adventure.

The reform of science and the higher education sector launched in the years 2010-2011 introduces a new model of financing, based on the principles of competitiveness, quality and transparency of procedures. The reform is followed by increased spending which will allow the best among Polish

HE institutions to compete with the world's recognized educational centers. I firmly believe that Polish colleges will soon be ranked among the most desirable places for carrying out study abroad programmes.

It is, then, with great pride that I present here a comprehensive offer of higher education in Poland, introducing the whole range of Polish public and private universities and colleges which conduct education to the highest current standards of teaching and meet all quality criteria. I welcome you to study the possibilities and consider the great opportunity which awaits you in Poland.

*Professor Barbara Kudrycka
Minister of Science and Higher Education*





Why
Poland?



Perhaps you have been asking yourself, is it worth your while to study abroad? There may be many different reasons but the answer remains the same: YES! Even if your country has the world's top universities, studying abroad (for several years or just a couple of months) is a priceless asset.

Studying abroad...

Studying abroad can be a life-changing experience, because it exposes people to completely new and different worlds, mindsets, values, attitudes and perceptions. Being immersed in a different culture causes each individual to expand his or her capacity to be open-minded and adapt to both the uncertainty and excitement of the unknown.

Studying abroad allows young people to discover new friends, who are an entrance to new worlds and worldviews. Some friendships may uncover interactions on a deeper emotional, social and spiritual level; other friendships may last a lifetime based on a shared journey in a foreign land. It is those friendships that often initiate the life-lasting involvement in building bridges between very different cultures, languages, nationalities and countries.

... in Poland

If you are already convinced that studying abroad is indeed worth it, you are welcome to study in Poland. Poland is a country located in the very heart of Europe. Throughout the ages of its tumultuous and difficult history, Poland had a big impact

on the history of Europe, being the main player in demolishing the iron curtain thanks to the efforts of the Solidarity movement under the lead of Lech Walesa, resulting in the series of major changes in other countries of Europe, abolishing communism and entering the road to democracy and market economy. Ever since its accession to the EU in 2004, dynamically changing Poland plays a growingly important role in the modern united Europe.

Tradition and modernity

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. The Cracow Academy, being one of the oldest in the world, took after academies in Bologna and Padua, and was the second, after the school in Prague, university in the Central Europe. About two centuries later, in 1579, King Stefan Batory transformed the existing Jesuit College in Vilnius into the Vilnius Academy and in 1661 John Casimir, King of Poland, transformed the Jesuit College into the Lvov Academy. Thus, by the end of the 17th century, Poland-and-Lithuania Kingdoms had three flourishing universities providing academic education to both national and international students.

Today, the Polish higher education system is developing most dynamically. Poland holds fourth place in Europe (after the United King-

dom, Germany and France) in terms of the number of people enrolled in higher education. The total student population at over 450 higher education institutions is almost 2 million. Each year almost half a million young people begin their education at universities and colleges. The Polish universities offer more than 200 high quality study programmes as an integral part of the European Higher Education Area. Most schools offer their courses also in foreign languages.

Poland plays an active part in the Bologna Process. Owing to the introduction of three-stage education as well as the European Credit Transfer System, both Polish students and foreigners studying in Poland stay fully mobile and can continue education elsewhere in the European Union without any problems. Within the Erasmus Programme alone that has been going on for over 20 years now, almost 30 thousand foreign students came to study in Poland while almost 100 thousand students from Poland took a portion of their education in another country within the European Union.

Foreign students coming to Poland can expect a most attractive and diversified education offer meeting the high European standards. They can study medicine, biotechnology or engineering, but also art and business. The diploma awarded to them upon graduation is recognized not only Europe-wide but also in most countries of the world.



Come to Poland – discover Europe

For students from outside the European Union who come to study in Poland, this may well be the beginning of the fascinating adventure of discovering Europe. Being invited to study in Poland means being invited to the European Union of which Poland is an active member state. We would like to encourage you to discover the European Union with its varied and interesting cultures and the opportunities associated with strong, innovative economies, but also the very best conditions for successful higher education studies in a challenging and friendly atmosphere. With top-quality, internationally recognized degrees, almost no other region in the world can set your career off to such a promising start.

This guide will provide you with the information you need to get started.

**Come to the European Union.
Start from Poland!**

DID YOU KNOW?

- > Jerzy Buzek (former Polish Prime Minister) is **President of the European Parliament**. He was elected with 555 votes of the 644 votes cast, the largest majority ever, SEE: www.europarl.europa.eu/president
- > From July to December 2011, Poland will hold the **Presidency of the Council of the European Union**. The state holding the Presidency has agenda-setting and coordinating powers; it is in charge of management and administration of the Council and represents it both internally and externally, SEE: www.prezydencjaue.gov.pl; www.pl2011.eu
- > In October 2009, the European Commission appointed Jan Trzuszczński (former Secretary of State in the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs) **Director-General of the Education and Culture Directorate-General**.
- > Poland and Ukraine will jointly host the final matches of the 14th **UEFA European Football Championship** from 8 June to 1 July 2012. The UEFA EURO 2012 matches will be played in four Polish cities: Gdansk, Poznan, Warsaw, and Wroclaw. SEE: www.uefa.com/uefaeuro2012/

POLISH NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS

Poland boasts six 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 r. – in literature); **Lech Wałęsa** (1983 r. – Peace Nobel Prize); **Wisława Szymborska** (1996 r. – in literature).



Poland in Brief

Official name: Republic of Poland (short form: Poland), „Rzeczpospolita Polska” (short form: „Polska”) in Polish

Official Language: Polish

Political system: Parliamentary republic (multiparty democracy with a two chamber parliament)

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

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

Major cities: Kraków, Łódź, Wrocław, Poznań, Gdańsk, Szczecin, Bydgoszcz, Lublin, Katowice, Białystok

Area: 312 685 sq km. Poland is the ninth largest country in Europe (omitting Russia), and the sixth largest in the European Union.

Population: 38 million. Poland is the seventh largest population in Europe (omitting Russia), and the sixth largest in the European Union.

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

Climate: The Polish climate is moderate continental, with relatively cold winters (from December to March) and hot summer

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).

Highest mountain: Rysy 2499 m (Poland's highest mountain peak in the Polish Tatras).

National holiday: Constitution Day, 3 May (1791)

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

Calling code: + 48

Internet domain: .pl

Economy: Poland is the 21st largest economy in the world and the ninth largest in Europe. Poland's high-income economy is considered to be one of the healthiest of the post-Communist countries and is currently one of the fastest growing within the EU.

International organisations: Poland is a member of the European Union (UE), the Schengen Area, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), United Nations Organisation (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.





Higher Education in Poland



Higher Education Institutions



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 doktor (*PhD*), i.e. offers at least one doctoral programme.

Below we present a list of state and private university-type institutions.

UNIVERSITIES

- > University of Białystok • www.uwb.edu.pl
- > Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz • www.ukw.edu.pl
- > University of Gdańsk • www.univ.gda.pl
- > University of Silesia in Katowice • www.us.edu.pl
- > Jagiellonian University in Kraków • www.uj.edu.pl
- > Maria Curie-Skłodowska University • www.umcs.lublin.pl
- > John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin • www.kul.lublin.pl
- > University of Łódź • www.uni.lodz.pl
- > University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn • www.uwm.edu.pl
- > University of Opole • www.uni.opole.pl
- > Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań • www.amu.edu.pl
- > University of Rzeszów • www.univ.rzeszow.pl
- > University of Szczecin • www.us.szc.pl
- > Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń • www.umk.pl
- > University of Warsaw • www.uw.edu.pl
- > Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University • www.uksw.edu.pl
- > University of Wrocław • www.uni.wroc.pl
- > University of Zielona Góra • www.uz.zgora.pl

UNIVERSITIES OF TECHNOLOGY

- > Białystok University of Technology • www.pb.edu.pl
- > University of Bielsko-Biala • www.ath.bielsko.pl
- > University of Technology and Life Sciences • www.utp.edu.pl
- > Częstochowa University of Technology • www.pcz.pl
- > Gdańsk University of Technology • www.pg.gda.pl
- > Gdynia Maritime University • www.am.gdynia.pl
- > Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice • www.polsl.pl
- > Kielce University of Technology • www.tu.kielce.pl
- > Koszalin University of Technology • www.tu.koszalin.pl

- > AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow
• www.agh.edu.pl
- > Tadeusz Kosciuszko Cracow University of Technology
• www.pk.edu.pl
- > Lublin University of Technology • www.pollub.pl
- > Technical University of Lodz • www.p.lodz.pl
- > Opole University of Technology • www.po.opole.pl
- > Poznan University of Technology • www.put.poznan.pl
- > Kazimierz Pułaski Technical University of Radom
• www.pr.radom.pl
- > Rzeszow University of Technology • www.prz.rzeszow.pl
- > Maritime University in Szczecin • www.am.szczecin.pl
- > West Pomeranian University of Technology in Szczecin
• www.zut.edu.pl
- > The Main School of Fire Service • www.sgsp.edu.pl
- > Warsaw University of Technology • www.pw.edu.pl
- > Wrocław University of Technology • www.pwr.wroc.pl

MEDICAL UNIVERSITIES

- > Medical University of Białystok • www.amb.edu.pl
- > Nicolaus Copernicus University -
Ludwik Rydygier Collegium Medicum in Bydgoszcz
• www.amb.bydgoszcz.pl
- > Medical University of Gdansk • www.amg.gda.pl
- > Medical University of Silesia in Katowice
• www.slam.katowice.pl
- > Jagiellonian University Medical College in Krakow
• www.cm-uj.krakow.pl
- > Medical University of Lublin • www.umlub.pl
- > Medical University of Lodz • www.umed.pl
- > Poznan University of Medical Sciences • www.amp.edu.pl
- > Pomeranian Medical University in Szczecin
• www.pam.szczecin.pl

- > Medical University of Warsaw • www.wum.edu.pl
- > Wrocław Medical University • www.am.wroc.pl

UNIVERSITIES OF ECONOMICS

- > Karol Adamiecki University of Economics in Katowice
• www.ue.katowice.pl
- > Cracow University of Economics • www.uek.krakow.pl
- > Poznan University of Economics • www.ue.poznan.pl
- > Warsaw School of Economics • www.sgh.waw.pl
- > Wrocław University of Economics • www.ue.wroc.pl

UNIVERSITIES OF AGRICULTURE

- > University of Agriculture in Krakow • www.ur.krakow.pl
- > University of Life Sciences in Lublin • www.up.lublin.pl
- > Poznan University of Life Sciences • www.up.poznan.pl
- > Warsaw University of Life Sciences – SGGW • www.sggw.pl
- > Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences
• www.up.wroc.pl

UNIVERSITIES OF PEDAGOGY

- > Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa • www.ajd.czyst.pl
- > Jan Kochanowski University of Humanities and Sciences in
Kielce • www.pu.kielce.pl
- > Jesuit University of Philosophy and Education „Ignatium” in Cracow • www.ignatium.edu.pl
- > Pedagogical University of Cracow • www.up.krakow.pl
- > Siedlce University of Natural Sciences and Humanities
• www.uph.edu.pl
- > University of Pomeranian • www.apsl.edu.pl
- > Maria Grzegorzewska Academy of Special Education
• www.aps.edu.pl

UNIVERSITIES OF ARTS

- > Academy of Music in Bydgoszcz • www.amuz.bydgoszcz.pl
- > Academy of Fine Arts in Gdansk • www.asp.gda.pl
- > Stanisław Moniuszko Academy of Music in Gdansk • www.amuz.gda.pl
- > Academy of Fine Arts in Katowice • www.asp.katowice.pl
- > Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice • www.am.katowice.pl
- > Ludwik Solski State Drama School in Cracow • www.pwst.krakow.pl
- > Academy of Music in Kraków • www.amuz.krakow.pl
- > Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Art in Krakow • www.asp.krakow.pl
- > Grażyna nad Kiejsztut Bacewicz Academy of Music in Łódź • www.amuz.lodz.pl
- > Polish National Film, Television And Theatre School in Łódź • www.filmschool.lodz.pl
- > Strzebiński Academy of Art Łódź • www.asp.lodz.pl
- > Ignacy Jan Paderewski Academy of Music in Poznań • www.amuz.edu.pl
- > University of Arts in Poznań • www.uap.edu.pl
- > Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw • www.asp.waw.pl
- > Aleksander Zelwerowicz State Theatre Academy in Warsaw • www.at.edu.pl
- > Frideric Chopin University of Music • www.chopin.edu.pl
- > Karol Lipiński Academy of Music in Wrocław • www.amuz.wroc.pl
- > Eugeniusz Geppert Academy of Fine Arts in Wrocław • www.asp.wroc.pl

UNIVERSITY SCHOOLS OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- > Jędrzej Śniadecki Academy of Physical Education and Sport in Gdansk • www.awf.gda.pl
- > Academy of Physical Education in Katowice • www.awf.katowice.pl
- > Academy Of Physical Education in Krakow • www.awf.krakow.pl
- > Eugeniusz Piasecki University School of Physical Education in Poznan • www.awf.poznan.pl
- > Józef Piłsudski University of Physical Education in Warsaw • www.awf.edu.pl
- > University School of Physical Education in Wrocław • www.awf.wroc.pl

MILITARY UNIVERSITIES

- > Military University of Technology in Warsaw • www.wat.edu.pl
- > National Defence University in Warsaw • www.aon.edu.pl
- > Polish Naval Academy in Gdynia • www.amw.gdynia.pl

THEOLOGICAL UNIVERSITIES

- > Pontifical University of John Paul II in Cracow • www.pat.krakow.pl
- > Christian Academy of Theology in Warsaw • www.chat.edu.pl
- > Papal Faculty of Theology in Warsaw • www.pwtw.mkw.pl
- > Papal Faculty of Theology in Wrocław • www.pwt.wroc.pl

NON-PUBLIC UNIVERSITY – TAPE INSTITUTIONS

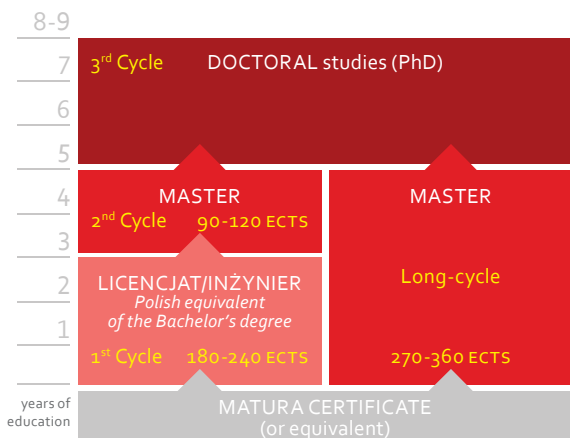
- > Katowice School of Economics • www.gwsh.pl
- > Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski Krakow University
• www.ka.edu.pl
- > Lodz Academy of International Studies • www.wssm.edu.pl
- > Pultusk Academy of Humanities • www.ah.edu.pl
- > Academy of Finance in Warsaw • www.af.edu.pl
- > Collegium Civitas in Warsaw • www.collegium.edu.pl
- > Kozminski University in Warsaw • www.kozminski.edu.pl
- > Łazarski University in Warsaw • www.lazarski.edu.pl
- > Polish-Japanese Institute of Information Technology in
Warsaw • www.pjwstk.edu.pl
- > Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities
• www.swps.edu.pl
- > University of Lower Silesia in Wroclaw • www.dsw.edu.pl
- > Academy of Management in Lodz • www.swspiz.pl
• www.swspiz.pl
- > University of Humanities and Economics in Lodz
• www.wshe.lodz.pl
- > University of Informational Technology in Warsaw
• www.eng.vizja.net
- > Silesian School of Economics and Languages in Katowice
• www.gallus.pl

COMPLETE LIST OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

The Ministry of Science and Higher Education website contains extensive information for prospective students, including a complete list of higher education institutions in Poland (SEE: www.highereducation.pl, www.mnsw.gov.pl).



Structure of studies in Poland



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 the Master's degree programmes. To obtain this degree, students must earn 180-240 ECTS credits.

Long-cycle studies

In addition to the general structure, 11 fields of study including acting, art conservation and restoration, canon law, dentistry, law, medical analysis, medicine, production and photography, pharmacy, psychology 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 a Master (*magister*, or an equivalent degree depending on the study 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, which

2nd Cycle

Second-cycle studies – Master's degree programme (1.5 to 2 years) following the first cycle studies and leading to the professional title of a Master (*magister*, or an equivalent degree depending on the study course profile). It is focused on theoretical knowledge as well as application and development of creative skills. In artistic disciplines, the focus is on the development of creativity and talents. The Master degree holders may enter a doctoral programme (third-cycle studies). To obtain the degree, students must earn 90-120 ECTS credits.

contains both basic studies and in-depth specialisation. The completion of this degree will provide a qualification corresponding to the Master's degree at the second-cycle studies.

The higher education institutions run full-time, extramural, evening and external courses. The full-time courses are defined as the basic type of studies.

For more information on studies offered by Polish higher education institutions, please visit the website of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education: www.mnsw.gov.pl

3rd Cycle

Third-cycle studies – Doctoral degree programmes (normally 3 to 4 years) accessible for graduates of Master's degree programme, leading to the 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.

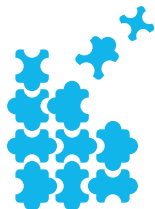
Please bear it in mind that the educational systems of many countries may differ significantly from your system, and that Poland may well belong to this group. The differences start with terminology: in English the three basic higher education degrees, Bachelor, Master and Doctor have a variety of abbreviations depending on the actual field of study (there is the BA and BSc, MA, MBA and MSc, PhD and DSc, etc.). In Polish, there are four main terms referring to academic titles/degrees: *licencjat* or *inżynier* (the equivalent of Bachelor, being the first post-secondary degree you can get as a student), *magister* (the equivalent of Master) and *doktor* (the equivalent of Doctor) no matter whether you graduate in arts or e.g. molecular biology.

However, the individual degrees may not be fully compatible with the degrees conferred within the higher education system in your country, and we strongly recommend that you check with your school or the public authorities in your country which degree you will be bringing home according to your domestic legislation after graduation from a Polish school.

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 receive the passing (at least “satisfactory”) marks for all assessments and examinations in the subjects covered by the curriculum and obtain performance assessment credits for all integrated placements.

ECTS credits



EUROPEAN
Higher Education Area

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

The ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) is the standard adopted by all the universities in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) in the process of convergence between Europe's higher education systems. Since 2007, all Polish higher education institutions are required to use ECTS for both credit transfer and

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

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

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.

accumulation within their degree programs. The ECTS credits allow foreign students' periods of study at HEIs in Poland to be recognized.

For more information on the adjustment to the Bologna Process and ECTS credits please visit:

www.mnsw.gov.pl (Ministry of Science and Higher Education, general information on the Bologna Process); www.ehea.info (European Higher Education Area); www.bologna2009benelux.org (The Bologna Process, official website).

Diploma

In order to graduate, the 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 obtain a passing mark for that project;
- > pass the diploma examination.

Upon graduation, the student receives a diploma of completion of studies in a specific field of study together with a **Diploma Supplement** (copy of the diploma translated into a foreign language, describing the degree, level and specialisation).



Accreditation and quality assurance

The Polish higher education system is well developed. The quality of the education provided is monitored and regularly evaluated. The main Polish institutions in charge of quality assurance in higher education are: the State Accreditation Committee, the General Council of Higher Education and the Conference of Rectors of the Academic Schools in Poland.

The **STATE ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE** (*Państwowa Komisja Akredytacyjna – PKA*) is the only statutory body responsible for evaluating the quality of higher education. Its opinions and resolutions have a legally binding effect. Since 2009, it is full member of ENQA (the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education) and was officially admitted to the European

Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) established to enhance the transparency and trust in quality assurance.

The State Accreditation Committee is an independent institution working within the higher education system in Poland for the improvement in the quality of education. The primary objective of the Committee is to support Polish public and non-public higher education institutions in the development of educational standards matching the best models adopted in the European and global academic space. These activities aim to ensure that the graduates of Polish higher education institutions rank high on the national and international labour market, and to enhance the competitiveness of Polish higher education institutions as European institutions. The State Accreditation Committee carries out its mission by conducting obligatory assessments of the quality of education and giving opinions on applications for the authorisation to provide degree programmes, submitted by higher education institutions. (SEE: www.pka.edu.pl)

The **GENERAL COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION** (*Rada Główna Szkolnictwa Wyższego – RGSW*) co-operates with the Minister of Science and Higher Education and with other governmental bodies in developing the state educational policy in the area of higher education. The Council is responsible for defining the fields of study and developing educational standards. These stand-

ards are then implemented in accordance with a separate regulation by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (SEE: www.rgsu.edu.pl).

The **CONFERENCE OF RECTORS OF THE ACADEMIC SCHOOLS IN POLAND** (*Konferencja Rektorów Akademickich Szkół Polskich – KRASP*) is in charge of the so-called peer accreditation in Poland. This type of accreditation is voluntary and is carried out by eight accreditation committees established by the rectors of different types of HEIs involved in the KRASP activities. Accreditation granted by the KRASP committees is seen as the proof of high quality instruction at a given institution or faculty (SEE: www.krasp.org.pl)

OTHER NATIONAL QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY:

- > Accreditation Commission for Technical HEIs (KAUT) • www.kaut.agh.edu.pl
- > University Accreditation Commission (UKA) • www.uka.amu.edu.pl
- > Foundation for the Promotion and Accreditation of Economic Education (FPAKE) • www.fundacja.edu.pl
- > Association of Management Education FORUM (SEM FORUM) • www.semforum.org.pl
- > National Council for Accreditation of Medical Education (KRASZM) • www.mz.gov.pl

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). The ones who failed take the exams again in September.

Scholarships and exchange programmes

Polish Government scholarships

The Polish Government offers a number of scholarships and fellowships intended for university students, researchers or lecturers for studying and doing research at Polish public universities and institutions under either bilateral international agreements or a decision of the Minister responsible for higher education. Foreign student scholarship applications falling within such a quota are sent by Polish consular or diplomatic missions to the Bureau for Academic Recognition and International Exchange (*Biuro Uznawalności Wykształcenia i Wymiany Międzynarodowej – BU-WiWM*). There the applications are reviewed by the Bureau's Section for Recruitment and Education of Foreigners in Poland. The final decision is

taken by the Minister of Science and Higher Education. (SEE: www.buwiwm.edu.pl)

Scholarships offered by HEIs

Apart from the Polish Government scholarships, a number of Polish higher education institutions also offer their own scholarships. These scholarships are often related to a specific field of study or degree programme at a specific institution. Some higher education institutions have agreements with partner institutions in countries throughout the world. The available options have to be checked with particular universities.

European Union scholarships

Students can also come to Poland within one of the European Union programmes in which Polish HEIs are actively involved, in particular the Life-

long Learning Programmes (LLP), the educational programmes creating the opportunities for co-operation at all levels and in various fields.

The **ERASMUS PROGRAMME** (comprising special programmes for students from EU/EEA countries and Turkey) promotes the European student exchange. The exchange programmes are coordinated on the basis of bilateral agreements between two universities or departments. The students can spend a study period of 3 to 12 months at a higher education institution in another participating European country. They do not pay fees at the foreign university and take home the course credits that they earn abroad. Student mobility for placements similarly enables the students of higher education institutions to do a traineeship or internship in an enterprise or other type of organizations in another European country (SEE: <http://ec.europa.eu/education/erasmus>; www.erasmus.org.pl)

The **ERASMUS MUNDUS PROGRAMME** supports academic excellence and the attractiveness of Europe's higher education worldwide, and fosters cooperation with targeted third countries with the objective of contributing to their development. Erasmus Mundus supports: > joint programmes at postgraduate level, or the establishment of inter-institutional cooperation partnerships, between universities from Europe and non-EU countries; > scholarships for study, research or teaching periods for individual students, researchers and uni-

versity staff in the context of joint programmes at postgraduate level or interinstitutional cooperation; > projects aimed at enhancing the attractiveness, profile, visibility and image of European higher education worldwide (SEE: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus; www.erasmusmundus.org.pl)

TEMPUS is a programme that supports modernisation of higher education in Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, North Africa and the Middle East countries. The programme allows universities from the European Union and the partner countries establish partnerships and offer scholarships for student exchanges within such partnerships (SEE: <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus>; www.tempus.org.pl)

The **LEONARDO DA VINCI PROGRAMME**, another component of the LLP programme, provides financial support for student vocational training schemes and for the development of innovative training, educational programmes or teaching materials. This programme is targeted at young people in initial vocational training (SEE: http://ec.europa.eu/education/leonardo-da-vinci/doc1018_en.htm; www.leonardo.org.pl)

The Foundation for the Development of the Education System – National Agency of Lifelong Learning Programme (SEE: www.frse.org.pl, www.llp.org.pl).

Studying in foreign languages

The Polish higher education institutions offer a diverse range of study programmes in Polish and in foreign languages, mainly in English. The number of degrees in foreign languages is growing. Every institution publishes online information about the fields of study in which it offers education. At present, more than a half of the 119 existing fields of study are accessible in a foreign language.

The Ministry of Science and Higher Education website contains extensive information for prospective students, including a list of higher education institutions in Poland (SEE: www.highere-education.pl, www.mnispw.gov.pl).

More information about studying in Poland is also available on the websites of the Conference of Rectors of the Academic Schools in Poland (www.krasp.org.pl) and the Study in Poland Project (www.studyinpoland.pl).

STATE COMMISSION FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF PROFICIENCY IN POLISH

State Commission for the Certification of Proficiency in Polish as a Foreign Language is composed of representatives of major Polish academic centers teaching Polish as a foreign language. The Commission sets the examination dates, appoints members of the examination boards, develops materials indispensable for staging the examinations, supervises them and issues certificates confirming the level of proficiency in Polish.

The main object of the state certificate examinations in Polish as a foreign language is to determine the candidates' level of proficiency in Polish regardless of the institution where they study Polish as a foreign language, and the curriculum, educational materials and methods used induring the learning process. Proficiency in Polish has been defined as the ability to understand oral and written modern Polish and to use Polish in speaking and writing.

A certificate in Polish as a foreign language is the only state document confirming the proficiency in the Polish language. Those wishing their level of proficiency in Polish documented may take such examination. So far, certificate examinations in Polish have been popular among foreigners studying in Poland.

Foreigners studying in Poland or applying for admission to universities in Poland are also interested in obtaining the certificate of Polish as a foreign language. The certificate exempts students planning their further education in Poland from preparatory courses held prior to the commencement of studies.

Depending on the type of studies offered, the Higher Education Institutions set different requirements for

foreigners as to their proficiency in Polish. The B1 basic proficiency in Polish as a foreign language is required in the case of artistic and sports-related disciplines (music, arts, physical education studies). In general, other faculties require the B2 intermediate level of proficiency in Polish, which is stipulated in the Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education on taking up and carrying out studies by foreigners.

Information on Polish language certificates is provided by the State Commission for Certification of Command of Polish as a Foreign Language, SEE: www.certyfikat-polski.pl

THE POLISH LANGUAGE

Polish belongs to West-Slavic group of the Indo-European family of languages. Due to its structure, it is classified as an inflected and synthetic system. As an individual language, Polish evolved in the 10th century and played an important role in the establishment and development of the Polish state. Until the 14th century, Polish existed only in the form of several regional spoken variations. As a literary, superregional language, Polish was distinguished in the 15th and 16th centuries, which is demonstrated by the extensive collection of Renaissance literary works written in the language.

The number of people speaking Polish as their mother tongue exceeds 45 million, of which 38 million live in Poland. Large groups of Poles and ethnic Poles have been living outside Poland for many generations, mainly in the USA, Canada, Australia, Germany, UK, France, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Lithuania and Ukraine.

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

Studying in the Polish language

Pursuant to the Act on the Polish Language, Polish is the language of lectures, examinations and diploma theses at all Polish universities and colleges. Hence foreigners who wish to study in Polish language are required to possess a command of Polish, allowing them to understand the lectures and other forms of tuition. For this reason, the candidates are required to:

- > complete a preparatory Polish language course at one of the institutions appointed by the minister of education
- > obtain the Polish Language Certificate issued by the State Commission for Certification of Command of Polish as a Foreign Language.
- > receive confirmation from the HEI they apply to that their preparation and command of Polish allow them to undertake the studies.

Polish language and culture courses

Below you will find a list of some of the institutions which offer Polish language courses for foreigners:

- > Center of Teaching of Polish for Foreigners, Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz • www.ukw.edu.pl
- > School of Polish Language and Culture, University of Silesia, Katowice • www.sjkip.us.edu.pl
- > The Center for Polish Language and Culture in the World, The Jagiellonian University in Krakow • www.uj.edu.pl/Polonia
- > The School of Polish Language and Culture, The Jagiellonian University in Krakow • www.uj.edu.pl/SL
- > International Educational Centre, Cracow University of Technology • www.educentre.info
- > The School of Polish Language and Culture, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin • www.kul.pl/school
- > The Polish Language and Culture Centre for Polish People from Abroad and Foreigners,

Courses in Polish language and culture or in survival Polish with orientation programmes are organized by most universities hosting foreign students. This type of course can last for a few weeks just before the academic year, or run for the whole semester.

Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin • www.cjkip.umcs.lublin.pl/eng/

- > The School of Polish Language for Foreigners University of Lodz • www.sjpdn.uni.lodz.pl
- > The School of Polish Language for Foreign Students, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan • www.schoolpl.amu.edu.pl
- > The Centre of Polish Language and Culture for Foreigners, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun • www.fil.umk.pl/skijpdo/wersja_a/
- > The Centre of Polish Language and Culture for Foreigners "Polonicum", University of Warsaw • www.polonicum.uw.edu.pl
- > School of Polish Language and Culture for Foreigners, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University • www.polish.wnh.uksw.edu.pl/eng/
- > The School of Polish Language and Culture for Foreigners, University of Wrocław • www.sjpik.uni.wroc.pl
- > The Department of Polish Language for Foreigners, Wrocław University of Technology • www.snjo.pwr.wroc.pl



Admission requirements

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

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, leading to the professional title of a *licencjat* or an *inżynier* (Engineer), as well as the 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 enroll 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 is open to holders of *licencjat* or *inżynier* (Engineer) degree, the Master's degree (magister or an equivalent degree) or the equivalent of the Polish

higher education diploma entitling the holder to enroll in such programmes in Poland.

ACCESS TO THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES is open to applicants who hold the Master's degree (*magister* or an equivalent degree) or the equivalent of the Polish higher education diploma entitling the holder to enroll in such programmes 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 (*numerus clausus*). The admission conditions and procedures may be similar across an 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 by 31 May of the year preceding the academic year to which they refer.

As of 1 May 2004, 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 the residence permit,
- > have the refugee status granted by the Republic of Poland,
- > enjoy temporary protection in the territory of the Republic of Poland,
- > are migrating employees – citizens of an EU Member State or of an EFTA State being member of the European Economic Area Treaty, 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 low-income scholarships.

Foreign certificates of education may be recognised in Poland on the basis of international agreements or – in the absence of such agreements – according to the regulations on nostrification.

International agreements, to which the Republic of Poland is a party, regulating the legalisation of foreign diplomas can be found on the website of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (SEE: www.mnisiw.gov.pl)

Nostrification Recognition

According to the Regulation of the Minister of Education and Science, any **school certificate** obtained abroad must be legalised in the country in which it was issued and then submitted to the local educational authority (*kuratorium oświaty*) in Poland in order to be nostrified (recognised). The documents must contain a clause confirming that their holders have access to higher education institutions in their own countries.

Nostrification of the certificate obtained abroad can be performed only once. The nostrification certificate is valid only if accompanied by the original certificate obtained abroad or a duplicate thereof.

Holders of **foreign diplomas** who want to study in Poland, need to make sure that their diploma can be recognised as the equivalent of a Polish diploma or else the recognition procedure is required. The agency responsible for the recognition of foreign credentials for academic purposes is the national information centre ENIC-NARIC Poland, operating within the Department of Higher Education Organization and Supervision of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (SEE: www.mnispw.gov.pl)

The costs of studying in Poland

Full-time studies (in the Polish language) at the state Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are free for Polish students and foreigners who commence studies in Poland on terms applicable to Polish citizens. These include citizens of EU/EEA and students who hold the Polish Charter (Karta Polaka). All other foreigners are required to pay tuition fees of no less than:

- > EUR 2,000 per year for vocational higher studies, Master's and postgraduate programmes,
- > EUR 3,000 per year for doctoral, postgraduate and specialist courses as well as scientific, artistic, specialist and habilitation internships,
- > EUR 3,000 per year for vocational courses and apprenticeships,
- > EUR 2,000 per year for a language course, including the course preparing for studying in Polish.

The fees at private higher education institutions are established by institution itself.

The tuition fees range from EUR 2,000 to 6,000 per year and depend on the institution and study programme (for medical schools and MBA programmes: about EUR 8,000 – 12,000 per year).





Living in Poland





Visas

Students from the EU countries

Among European countries, Poland has one of the most stable, dynamically developing economy and its young society is open for changes and new challenges. Foreign students are warmly welcomed to come to Poland to study. There are, however, a few issues which they should be aware of before coming. What follows are a few pieces of practical information which you may find useful.

Students from the EU countries can enter Poland with a valid travel document or another document confirming identity and citizenship. If a student intends to visit Poland's neighboring countries (not all of them are EU Member States), a passport is recommended. For stay up to three months no legalization of stay is necessary. For stay exceeding three months an EU student has to register the residence. In the case of students the registration document is issued for one year (with a possibility of extending it). The document is issued by the Department of Citizens Affairs of the Voivodeship Office (province administration, *Urząd Wojewódzki*).



*Came to
Poland.
Discover
Europe.*

Since December 2007 Poland is a member of the Schengen Area so you can apply for the **Schengen Visa** in the Polish Consulate in your country. If you have a Schengen Visa you can freely travel around in the Schengen Area (Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Austria, Greece, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia). We would like to remind you that United Kingdom and Ireland are Member States of the EU but do not belong to the Schengen zone. Cyprus, Bulgaria and Romania so far are also outside the Schengen zone.

Students from countries outside the EU and EEA area

Students from countries outside the EU and EEA area can enter Poland on the basis of a valid travel document (passport) and visa (if required). A student of a non-EU country should generally file an application for visa at the Consulate of the Republic of Poland in his/her country of legal residence. A short-term visa entitles the holder to stay in Poland for up to three months, a long-term visa for up to one year. It is possible to extend a visa only in particularly justified cases. The visa can be extend only once.

What documents do you need to apply for a visa?

We recommend contacting the Polish Consulate in your country for a complete list of documents required for a visa application. As a rule, you will be asked to present:

- > a valid travel document,
- > 2 up-to-date photographs,
- > documents which confirm the purpose of entry,
- > sufficient means of subsistence,
- > health insurance.

There are many countries whose citizens can visit Poland as tourists **without a visa**. These include all EU/EEA countries, Australia, United States, Canada, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia and Singapore (for the complete list, visit the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: www.msz.gov.pl). A visa is still required for a stay exceeding three months or when entering the country to take up paid employment.

Detailed information on the rules covering entry and stay in Poland can be obtained from the Polish embassies and consular offices. For the complete information visit the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: www.msz.gov.pl

Temporary Residence Card

All international students staying in Poland longer than three months are required to obtain temporary residence permit. The permit is issued for the period of a student's stay in Poland, but not longer than for two years (usually for one year). It can be extended. Evidence of the permit is a Temporary Residence Card (*Karta pobytu czasowego*) – an identity card for foreigners in Poland which (together with a passport) allows passing the border as often as you like without a visa.

Polish Charter (*Karta Polaka*)

Students who hold the Polish Charter (*Karta Polaka*) may stay and study in Poland on special terms. Polish Charter is a document which confirms belonging to the Polish nation. Holders of the Polish Charter are entitled to use the educational system on the same conditions as citizens of Poland. They may take up studies at all levels of education on the same conditions as citizens of Poland. Besides, they have the right to work and apply for

scholarships and other forms of aid available for foreigners.

However, receiving the card does not imply acquiring Polish citizenship or confirmation of the Polish origin. The Charter does not entitle to cross the border without a valid visa or to settle in the territory of the Republic of Poland. The Polish Charter does not legalize the stay in Poland, but ensures its holder a number of rights facilitating its contacts with the Republic of Poland. A holder of the Polish Charter who intends to enter the territory of the Republic of Poland should legalize his/her stay in accordance with the general rules.

According to the legal regulations, the Polish Charter can be granted to a person who on the day of applying for the charter is a citizen of the Republic of Armenia, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Belarus, Republic of Estonia, Georgia, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Lithuania, Republic of Latvia, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Republic of Uzbekistan or possessing a status of a stateless person in one of the listed countries. The Polish Charter can be granted to a person who declares belonging to the Polish nation and meets several additional conditions (for detailed information visit the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: www.msz.gov.pl)



Medical insurance

Healthcare in Poland is available for **students from the 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 services free of charge in Poland.

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. 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

Accommodation

There are several options for arranging accommodation and these differ from one HEI to another. Housing costs depend on the location and quality of the accommodation but the prices per month usually range from EUR 50 to EUR 200 in the dormitories to 100-500 EUR in private apartments.

Many Polish HEIs have their own dormitories managed by the administration. The dormitories may differ in standard. The cost of accommodation in a students' dormitory ranges from EUR 100 to EUR 200 per month for a single room and from EUR 50 to EUR 100 for a shared room, depending on the standard.

It is common for international students to share bigger apartments in the city centre. Rental prices in the centre may be a bit more expensive but one can cut costs and time on transportation. Splitting the rent amongst friends may offer an opportunity to find great accommodation at an affordable price.

Cost of living in Poland

Monthly expenses (average value)

Rent in a shared flat (or dormitory)	80-100 EUR
Food	100-150 EUR
Transportation (in big cities)	15-20 EUR
Telephone/mobile, internet, TV	20-30 EUR
Study materials	30-50 EUR
Other expenses (leisure/entertainment)	70-100 EUR

Examples of other selected prices:

bread (1 loaf)	0,80 EUR
milk (1 litre)	0,70 EUR
lunch at a canteen	3,00 EUR
coffe in a café	2,50 EUR
cinema ticket	5,00 EUR

Below are some examples to give an idea of the amounts students spend per month. Prices very depending on the city. Monthly living cost of an average student in Poland ranges from EUR 300 to EUR 600.

STUDENT CARD

All students receive a student identity card entitling them to a 50% discount for public transportation in the city and a 37% discount for transportation via national railways (only when they are under age of 26). The card also entitles students to use university library, sports and other facilities, but also to discounts on tickets to cinemas, theatres and museums.

Working in Poland as a student

The EU/EEA citizens and holders of the Polish Charter are not obliged to obtain a work permit in Poland. To be able to study in Poland, a **non-EU/EEA student** must demonstrate that he/she possesses sufficient means to cover the costs of living in Poland. However, some students may wish to combine their studies with a part-time job and thus obtain additional income. In this case non-EU/EEA student need to apply for a work permit, which is granted only if no EU citizen can fill the position. Nevertheless, students should think carefully about whether this is in their best interests, as it may affect their academic performance.





Useful Information

Higher Education in Poland

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

Teaching staff is professional, helpful and open to share their scholarly and practical experience with their students. People I meet every day on campus and in town are very friendly. So, overall the atmosphere is very, very good, much better than I expected coming here from a remote part of the world and so different cultural background. Come and study in Poland!

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION

MINISTERSTWO NAUK I SZKOLNICTWA WYŻSZEGO

■ www.mnispw.gov.pl

The main task of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education includes: > managing budgetary resources in the fields of science and higher education > coordinating relevant projects co-financed by the European structural funds > promoting Polish science and higher education abroad and at the domestic level > drawing up projects and strategies concerning the development of the Polish research and higher education system > supervising structures and institutions in view of the ongoing reforms and modernization, cooperation with foreign institutions and participation in international programs and events concerning science, research and higher education > dealing with all matters concerning Polish and foreign students, lecturers, and researchers working at Polish scientific and higher education institutions.

THE FOUNDATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

FUNDACJA ROZWOJU SYSTEMU EDUKACJI (FRSE)

■ www.frse.org.pl

The Foundation for the Development of the Education System is a State Treasury foundation, the main goal of which is a wide-thought support of actions aimed at development of the educational system in Poland. The Foundation achieves its goal by conducting European Union educational programmes and other international programmes in the field of education. The Foundation coordinates the programmes: "Lifelong Learning Programme" and "Youth in Action"; it also supervises National Contact Points for the European Union Programmes: Erasmus Mundus and Tempus, the National Bureau of the Eurodesk pro-

gramme and the SALTO EECA Eastern Europe and Caucasus Resource Centre. In Poland, the Foundation also implements the European Union's initiative European Language Label and eTwinning action. The Polish Bureau of Eurydice – an information network on education in European countries – is also affiliated with the Foundation. Since 2007 the Foundation has been coordinating the Polish-Lithuanian Youth Exchange Fund, and - since 2008 - the Scholarship and Training Fund (in cooperation with EEA countries – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and the Scholarship Fund Sciex-NMSch (cooperation with Switzerland).

CONFERENCE OF RECTORS OF THE ACADEMIC SCHOOLS IN POLAND (CRASP)

KONFERENCJA REKTORÓW AKADEMICKICH SZKÓŁ
POLSKICH (KRASP)

 www.krasp.org.pl

The Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland (CRASP) is a voluntary association of rectors representing those Polish institutions of higher education which have the right to award the doctorate degree (or equivalent) in at least one scientific discipline. Currently, CRASP has 107 members (including 11 non-public schools) and seven institutions have the status of an associated institution. CRASP safeguards traditional academic values, including the constitutional principle of autonomy of higher education institutions which guarantees the right of these institutions to present their positions on all issues of interest to the academic community. The main aims of CRASP are:

> to inspire and co-ordinate the co-operation of the academic schools in Poland > to undertake activities leading to an establishment of an integrated system of the national education and to the development of the system of higher education > to represent the interests of higher education and science, and the common interests of its member schools, including the selec-

tion of their representatives to international associations of rectors or universities.

CONFERENCE OF RECTORS OF VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS IN POLAND

KONFERENCJA REKTORÓW ZAWODOWYCH SZKÓŁ
POLSKICH KRZASP

 www.krzasp.pl

GENERAL COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION

RADA GŁÓWNA SZKOLNICTWA WYŻSZEGO RGSW

 www.rgsw.edu.pl

The General Council of Higher Education (Rada Główna Szkolnictwa Wyższego) is an elective body of the higher education system. The council co-operates with the Ministry of Science and Higher Education and with other governmental bodies in the establishment of the state educational policy in the area of higher education: 1) it issues opinions and proposes motions in all matters related to higher education and science, 2) it issues opinions on legal regulations, 3) it issues opinions on the proposal of the state budget related to the higher education system and on the rules for distributing state subsidy to the higher education institutions, 4) it issues opinions on the proposals of statutes for higher education institutions. It is responsible for the definition of fields of study and the development of standards in education. These standards are implemented in accordance with a separate regulation by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION

MINISTERSTWO EDUKACJI NARODOWEJ

 www.men.gov.pl

MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND NATIONAL HERITAGE

MINISTERSTWO KULTURY I DZIEDZICTWA
NARODOWEGO (MKiDN)

 www.mkidn.gov.pl

The Department of Art and Culture Education MKiDN exercises protection over public art education (1st and 2nd degree) as well as higher art education. Moreover, it coordinates the development of Polish art education system syllabus, and cooperation of art schools and universities with foreign countries concerning acceptance of diplomas received from artistic schools in Poland and abroad. It is also responsible for implementing scholarship programs for pupils and students.

STATE ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

PAŃSTWOWA KOMISJA AKREDYTACYJNA PKA

 www.pka.edu.pl

BUREAU FOR ACADEMIC RECOGNITION AND INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

BIURO UZNAWALNOŚCI WYKSZTAŁCENIA I WYMIANY
MIĘDZYNARODOWEJ (BUWIWM)

 www.buwiwm.edu.pl

STUDY IN POLAND PROJECT

 www.studyinpoland.pl

The project "Study in Poland" was established on the grounds of the agreement signed by the "Perspektywy" Foundation and the Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland (CRASP). The project is administrated by The "Perspektywy" Foundation – a non-profit organization. The goal of "Study in Poland" is to promote Polish higher education abroad and to

create close cooperation with other foundations and associations in the field of education.

STUDY IN KRAKOW

 www.studyinkrakow.edu.pl

All universities in Krakow in one place. Everything you always wanted to know about studying in Krakow!

STUDY IN WARSAW

 www.studyinwarsaw.pl

Universities and colleges – members of Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Warsaw

STUDY IN WROCŁAW

 www.study-in-wroclaw.pl

Universities and colleges in Wrocław

ERASMUS STUDENT NETWORK (ESN)

ERASMUS STUDENT NETWORK POLSKA

 www.esn.pl

Erasmus Student Network (ESN) is a non-profit international student organisation. ESN mission is to represent international students, and thus provides opportunities for cultural understanding and self-development under the principle of Students Helping Students.

European programmes EU opportunities in education, culture and youth

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

I enjoyed spending one year in Lublin so much. Whenever I went out with some other people from Erasmus I would meet many Poles and we got along with them very well. I also traveled as much as I could and discover the country. I visited many wonderful places. I am sure I will return and discover more of this country and visit my friends. Come and study in Poland!

LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME

PROGRAM „UCZENIE SIĘ PRZEZ CAŁE ŻYCIE”

📄 www.ec.europa.eu/llp 📄 www.llp.org.pl

The European Commission has integrated its educational and training initiatives under a single umbrella, the lifelong learning Programme. This programme enables individuals at all stages of their lives to pursue stimulating learning opportunities across Europe. It consists of four sub-programmes: Comenius (for schools), Erasmus (for higher education), Leonardo da Vinci (for vocational education and training) and Grundtvig (for adult education).

YOUTH IN ACTION PROGRAMME

PROGRAM „MŁODZIEŻ W DZIAŁANIU”

📄 www.ec.europa.eu/youth 📄 www.mlodziex.org.pl

The Youth in Action programme aims to inspire a sense of active European citizenship, solidarity and tolerance among Europeans from adolescence to adulthood. The programme promotes mobility within and beyond the EU's borders, and encourages the inclusion of all young people, regardless of their educational, social and cultural background. It helps young people acquire new competences, and provides them with opportunities for non-formal and informal learning with a European dimension.

ERASMUS PROGRAMME

PROGRAM ERASMUS

📄 ec.europa.eu/education/erasmus 📄 www.erasmus.org.pl

Erasmus supports increased mobility in higher education – particularly among students, but also among teachers and other staff. The aim is to foster a Europe-wide approach to higher education. Offering students exposure to other countries and cultures not only enriches their study experience but also promotes a more European-minded, flexible and mobile workforce that improves Europe's competitiveness and innovation potential.

Students can spend a study period of between 3 and 12 months at a higher education institution in another participating European country. They do not have to pay fees at the foreign university and can take home the course credits that they earn abroad.

Student mobility for placements similarly enables students at higher education institutions to do a traineeship or internship in an enterprise or another organisation in another European country.

ERASMUS MUNDUS

■ eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus

■ erasmusmundus.org.pl

The Erasmus Mundus Programme supports academic excellence and the attractiveness of Europe's higher education worldwide, and fosters cooperation with targeted third countries with the objective of contributing to their development.

The programme enhances quality in higher education through scholarships and academic cooperation between Europe and the rest of the world. Erasmus Mundus supports: > joint programmes at the postgraduate level, or the establishment of inter-institutional cooperation partnerships, between universities from Europe and non-EU countries; > scholarships for study, research or teaching periods for individual students, researchers and university staff in the context of joint programmes at postgraduate level or inter-institutional cooperation; > projects aimed at enhancing the attractiveness, profile, visibility and image of European higher education worldwide.

LEONARDO DA VINCI PROGRAMME

■ http://ec.europa.eu/education/leonardo-da-vinci/doc1018_en.htm

The Leonardo da Vinci programme is helping European citizens to acquire new skills, knowledge and qualifications, and have

them recognised across borders in order to improve their employability on changing labour markets. It also supports innovations and improvements in vocational education and training systems and practices.

T EMPUS – MODERNISING HIGHER EDUCATION

■ eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus

Tempus is the EU-funded programme that supports the modernisation of higher education in the EU's neighbouring countries in the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, North Africa and the Middle East. Tempus is part of the EU's "Neighbourhood", "Enlargement" and "Development" policies, which aim to promote prosperity, stability and security in these regions. The Programme contributes to cooperation in higher education between the European Union and the partner countries. Tempus promotes the voluntary convergence of higher education systems in these countries with EU developments in higher education.

BOLOGNA PROCESS

■ http://ec.europa.eu/education/higher-education/doc1290_en.htm

The Bologna Process aims to create the "European Higher Education Area" to provide citizens with choices from a wide and transparent range of high quality courses, with smoother recognition procedures. Three priorities were defined to reach these ambitious goals: the establishment of comparable degree systems, a European dimension to quality assurance systems, and the recognition of degrees and study periods abroad. The Bologna Process has set in motion a series of reforms necessary to make higher education systems more compatible and comparable, more competitive and more attractive to citizens.

General Information on Poland

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

What I particularly like about studying in Cracow is that the students here, regardless of their origin or nationality, are adventurous and ambitious. And it is so exciting to live in a cosmopolitan city with so rich a historical legacy! This combination makes studying a memorable and pleasant educational experience. *Come and study in Poland!*

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

MINISTERSTWO SPRAW ZAGRANICZNYCH

🇵🇱 www.msz.gov.pl

Polish consular agencies abroad – the list is available on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

POLAND

🇵🇱 www.poland.gov.pl

Official promotional website of the Republic of Poland

POLAND ON THE INTERNET

🇵🇱 www.poland.pl

Poland.pl (and its Polish version Polska.pl) website is to help everybody – Poles, members of Polish communities abroad, and foreigners – get access to valid, legal, and reliable sources of information about Poland. The website offers a different way of looking at „Poland and Polish” society, from the perspective of contemporary information society. Polska.pl and Poland.pl are non-profit projects, managed by the Research and Academic Computer Network (NASK) – a co-creator and propagator of the idea of the Information Society.

POLISH TOURIST ORGANISATION

POLSKA ORGANIZACJA TURYSTYCZNA

🇵🇱 www.pot.gov.pl

Polish Tourist Organisation is a governmental body responsible for promotion of tourism to Poland (publishes and distributes tourist brochures and multimedia productions). It runs a network of international offices in Europe, Asia and North America:

- > Polish National Tourist Office (UK & Ireland)
🇵🇱 www.poland.travel/en-gb
- > Office National Polonais de Tourisme (Belgium)
🇵🇱 www.pologne.travel/fr-be

- > Pools Informatiebureau voor Toerisme (Belgium)
 www.polen.travel/nl-be
- > Polska Organizacja Turystyczna (Czech Republic)
 www.polsko.travel/cz
- > Polnisches Fremdenverkehrsamt (Germany)
 www.polen.travel/de
- > Polska Statens Turistbyrå (Norway)
 www.polen.travel/no
- > Polska Statens Turistbyrå (Sweden)
 www.polen.travel/sv
- > Polska Statens Turistbyrå (Denmark)
 www.polen.travel/dk
- > Organización Turística de Polonia (Spain)
 www.polonia.travel/es
- > Office National Polonais de Tourisme (France)
 www.pologne.travel/fr
- > Ufficio Turistico Polacco (Italy)
 www.polonia.travel/it
- > Lengyel Nemzeti Idegenforgalmi (Hungary)
 www.lengyelorszag.travel/hu
- > Poolse Organisatie voor Toerisme (The Netherlands)
 www.polen.travel/nl
- > Polnisches Fremdenverkehrsamt (Austria)
 www.polen.travel/de-at
- > Польская Туристическая Организация (Russia)
 www.poland.travel/ru
- > Польська Туристична Організація (Ukraine)
 www.polscha.travel/uk
- > Polska Organizacja Turystyczna (Israel)
 www.polin.travel/he
- > Polish National Tourist Office (Japan)
 www.poland.travel/ja
- > Polish National Tourist Office (USA, North America)
 www.poland.travel/en-us

POLAND.TRAVEL

 www.poland.travel

Poland's Official Travel Website.

EDEN EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS OF EXCELLENCE

 www.edenpoland.pl/en

Discover your EDEN in Poland. These are unique places that offer visitors inimitable atmosphere, picturesque landscapes, fascinating culture and hospitable welcome from local people. They are emerging European tourist destinations, often little known, which pursue the objective of economic growth in such a way as to ensure social, cultural and environmental sustainability.

 www.poland-convention.pl

The Convention Bureau of Poland is a governmental institution – a division of the Polish Tourist Organisation, focused on the promotion of Poland's unique qualities as a business tourism destination, as well as on providing neutral, professional advice to all considering Poland as a venue for their future events.

ADAM MICKIEWICZ INSTITUTE

INSTYTUT ADAMA MICKIEWICZA (IAM)























 www.iam.pl

IAM is a state cultural institution whose task is to promote Polish culture around the world and actively participate in international cultural exchange, present both the heritage and contemporary achievements of Polish culture. The main goal of the Adam Mickiewicz Institute is to increase the value of Poland's brand as a cultural asset and to boost Poland's effectiveness and efficiency in the area of culture.

www.culture.pl

Portal developed and operated by the Adam Mickiewicz Institute. A complete repository of knowledge about Polish culture in and outside Poland. Information on current events accompanied by an encyclopedia / glossary with more than 2,800 bios of Polish culture makers. State-of-the-art on-line portal using multimedia technologies: photo galleries, audio files, a calendar and map of cultural events.

POLISH CULTURAL INSTITUTES – ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS AND WEBSITE OF THE POLISH CULTURAL INSTITUTES IN THE WORLD:

- > Polnisches Institut in Berlin (Germany)
 **www.polnischekultur.de**
- > Polnisches Institut Düsseldorf (Germany)
 **www.polnisches-institut.de**
- > Polnisches Institut in Berlin, Filiale Leipzig (Germany)
 **www.polinst-l.de**
- > Poľský inštitút (Bratislava, Slovakia)
 **www.polinst.sk**
- > Institut Polonais (Brussels, Belgium)
 **www.culturepolonaise.eu**
- > Institutul Polonez (Bucharest, Romania)
 **www.culturapoloneza.ro**
- > Lengyel Intézet (Budapest, Hungary)
 **www.lengyelintezet.hu**
- > Польський Інститут у Києві (Kiev, Ukraine)
 **www.polinst.kiev.ua**
- > Polish Cultural Institute in London (United Kingdom)
 **www.polishculture.org.uk**
- > Instituto Polaco de Cultura (Madrid, Spain)
 **www.culturapolaca.es**
- > Польскі Інстытут ў Мінску (Minsk, Belarus)
 **www.instpol.by**
- > Польский культурный центр в Москве (Moscow, Russia)
 **www.ipol.ru**
- > Отдел культуры Генерального консульства Республики Польша в Санкт-Петербурге (Saint Petersburg, Russia)  **www.polinst.ru**
- > Polish Cultural Institute in New York (USA)
 **www.PolishCulture-NYC.org**
- > Institut Polonais (Paris, France)
 **www.institut.pologne.net**
- > Poľský inštitut v Prahe (Prague, Czech Republic)
 **www.polskyinstitut.cz**
- > L'Istituto Polacco di Roma (Rome, Italy)
 **www.istitutopolacco.it**
- > Полският институт в София (Sofia, Bulgaria)
 **www.polinst-bg.org**
- > Polska institutet (Stockholm, Sweden)
 **www.polskainstitutet.se**
- > Polish Institute in Tel Aviv (Israel)
 **www.polishinstitute.org.il**
- > Polnisches Institut in Wien (Vienna, Austria)
 **www.polnisches-institut.at**
- > Lenkų Institutas Vilniuje (Vilnius, Lithuania)
 **www.lenkukultura.lt**



Foundation for the Development
of the Education System

Published by the Foundation for the
Development of the Education System
(FRSE), Warsaw 2011

Compiled by: Jan Andrzej Nicał and FDES
Promotion and Information Team

Graphic design by: Justyna Marciniak

Printed by: Chromapress Sp. z o.o.

Photos used in this publication are provided
by the featured universities: *University of
Warsaw* (cover, p. 38), *Medical University of
Białystok* (p.10), *Nicolaus Copernicus Univer-
sity in Torun* (p. 12, 35), *Gdansk University
of Technology* (p. 15), *University of Wrocław*
(p. 19), *Gdynia Maritime University* (p. 27),
Warsaw University of Life Sciences – SGGW
(p. 32); *THETA Agency* (p. 4) and *Krzysztof
Kuczyk* (p. 6, 30)

ISBN 978-83-62634-28-6

Free copy



**HIGHER
EDUCATION
IN POLAND**

Come and study!

Some reasons to choose Poland: european education > internationally accepted diplomas > interesting education offer > safe and stable environment > rich tradition and culture > friendly people > beautiful landscapes > low cost of living > vibrant student life > value for money...

www.

highereducation.pl