

STUDIES 2026/27: SPACE WITHIN REACH

Recruitment for studies in the 2026/2027 academic year has begun.

The top most popular fields of study among Poles have for years been law, psychology, and computer science. Foreigners primarily choose business and management as well as medical programs taught in English. For both groups, universities have prepared new offerings: AI, space, and the green economy.

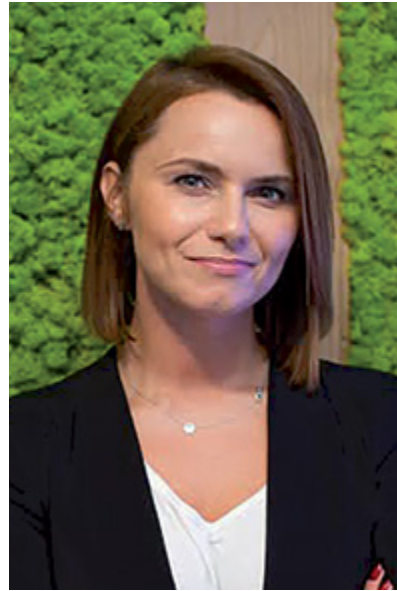


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There are currently over 1.28 million students in Poland, of whom 58% are women. Poles definitely predominate (nearly 1.17 million). They are accompanied by over 108 thousand foreigners. The domestic educational market for newcomers from abroad has significantly slowed down due to the tightening of visa procedures in Polish consulates. Who studies here? Most hold Eastern passports. Almost half of all foreign students are Ukrainians (over 47 thousand), followed by Belarusians and Turks. An increase in recruitment from African countries has been recorded, primarily from Zimbabwe (nearly 4 thousand). China closes the list of the most popular countries, although languages from Central Asia are also increasingly heard in university corridors.

For some free of charge, others must pay

The study of foreigners in Poland is based on a clear legal division: citizens of the European Union (EU/EFTA) and holders of the Polish Card study at public universities under the same conditions as Poles, that is, free of charge. Other foreign students must take into account the



The supply of dormitories in Poland is significantly insufficient, generating high demand for high-quality student accommodation, especially in cities such as Warsaw and Kraków – diagnoses
Izabela Markowska,
City Manager
at Yugo.

necessity of paying tuition fees. Most prestigious financial programs for foreign students are coordinated by the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA). About 3 thousand students benefit from NAWA scholarships every year. – Among our scholarship holders, the most popular fields of study are currently those related to business, computer science, social sciences, and medicine. Most people choose management, economics, finance, logistics, and business-related programs –

says Dr. Wojciech Karczewski, Director of NAWA. He adds that computer science is also very popular, as well as medical studies and health-related programs, including medicine, physiotherapy, and cosmetology.

Space, AI, green economy...

The authorities of Polish universities are introducing new fields of study that until recently would have been classified as science fiction. At the University of Warsaw there are second-cycle studies in human resource management using artificial intelligence, preparing managers to work in hybrid teams. The university is also focusing on data analysis by opening modern econometrics and Data Science. The Jagiellonian University is also responding to the technological revolution, and among its 13 new fields of study it announces recruitment for digital humanities for those who want to combine the sensitivity of a humanist with analytical and technological competencies. Meanwhile, the Warsaw School of Economics is meeting European Union requirements concerning sustainability reporting (ESG) and is launching master's studies in the green economy. Warsaw University of Technology encourages students with automation, robotics, and industrial computer science, while the AGH University of Science and Technology in Kraków invites students to study, among others, Space Engineering.

These universities are at the top

An analysis of the Perspektywy Academic University Ranking from recent years indicates a stable position of the leaders, with the University of Warsaw strengthening its first-place position since 2024. The capital city's university has overtaken the Jagiellonian University. A trend is the offensive of technical universities, including the





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advancement of Gdańsk University of Technology into the TOP 5 and the systematic growth of Wrocław University of Technology and Poznań University of Technology. Among NAWA scholarship holders, the largest academic centers in Poland enjoy the greatest interest. – The most frequently chosen universities are the Jagiellonian University, the Warsaw School of Economics, the University of Warsaw, Wrocław University of Technology, and Warsaw University of Technology. This shows that foreign students most willingly choose universities with a strong international position and a broad range of programs – says Director Karczewski.

As for non-public universities, the position of the leader has remained unchanged for years. Kozminski University in Warsaw distances all competitors. The university community consists of over 9 thousand students, and the university is distinguished by a large international community.

– Currently, over 1.3 thousand foreign students study with us. The most represented countries are Ukraine, Belarus, France, Uzbekistan, Spain, and Portugal. Students most often choose programs related to management, including Management



and Management and Artificial Intelligence (in English) – says Paulina Łukaszuk, spokesperson for Kozminski University. The next positions in the ranking are occupied by WSB Academy from Dąbrowa Górnicza and SWPS University (together with the Polish-Japanese Academy of Information Technology).

How much does student life cost?

Free studying at public universities is a myth. After all, the fact that a student does not pay tuition does not guarantee studying without costs. The cost of living has increased throughout Europe – in Poland as well. Many institutions, including the Jagiellonian University, recognize this problem and introduce meal subsidy programs for students.

However, the greatest burden on the budget is accommodation rental. According to data from the “Student Wallet” report, more than one-third of expenses are accommodation costs. In Poland, depending on the city – Warsaw, Kraków, Wrocław – average monthly expenses for a modest life, a room in student accommodation, and food range from PLN 3.5 thousand to PLN 5.5 thousand. In smaller academic centers, such as Toruń, Lublin, or Kielce, the budget can be reduced by about PLN 1 thousand. At Western universities the situation varies: in Germany and Austria it is only slightly more expensive, but in the Netherlands this amount increases (after conversion) to PLN 6 thousand – PLN 8.5 thousand per month. Scandinavia

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and the United Kingdom remain the most expensive, where at least PLN 6.5 thousand per month must be allocated for living expenses, and the upper limit can reach even several thousand more.

Dormitories with a private bathroom, gym, and co-working zone

The market of public student dormitories in Poland is facing a crisis. JLL experts point out that the country lacks nearly 400 thousand beds. In the struggle for survival, universities are massively eliminating old 3- and 4-person rooms, transforming them into modern single rooms. The result? Standards are improving, but the pool of available places is shrinking. A public dormitory is becoming a luxury good, available to only every tenth student. Fees in public facilities in the largest agglomerations range from PLN 500 (for a multi-person room) to as much as PLN 1.7 thousand per month (for a single room).

– Despite the large higher education sector, the supply of dormitories in Poland is significantly insufficient, generating high demand for high-quality student accommodation, especially in cities such as Warsaw and Kraków – diagnoses Izabela Markowska, City Manager at Yugo. Those who cannot count on a public place look for opportunities by renting apartments or in the private dormitory sector. Example accommodation prices in Polish dormitories operated by Yugo range from slightly over PLN 1.2 thousand to over PLN 3 thousand (€300 to €850) per month. This does not differ from the average – generally in Poland, for an independent studio with a private bathroom, high-speed internet, a gym, and a co-working zone included, rates start from PLN 2.5 thousand per month.

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Izabela Markowska notes that with the growing number of foreign students, the dormitory market in Poland is entering a new phase of development.

– Students looking for accommodation consistently list quality, safety, convenience, and a strong sense of community as the most important factors when choosing accommodation, alongside modern amenities and well-designed living space. Demand is also growing for accommodation that combines private space with shared study and social space, allowing students to enjoy both independence and social interaction during their studies – emphasizes Markowska. This is supported by “Live Your Best Life” – a comprehensive support and community-building

program that helps young people enter adulthood, taking care of their development and first steps in the labor market.

Maybe studies in English?

Accommodation and food costs are only part of the expenses. At non-public universities, tuition fees are added. Sometimes they are also a significant budget item when a student chooses studies in English. The cost of one year of master's studies in English is no less than PLN 10 thousand (humanities programs).

– At our university, in the case of studies in Polish, the fee starts from PLN 12.5 thousand per semester, while studies in English cost from PLN 19.4 thousand – reports Paulina Łukaszuk from Kozminski University.



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The costs of studying in English can be reduced thanks to scholarships. In the NAWA Banach Program, among selected top candidates from countries covered by the program, the vast majority of students (around 95%) study in English. It is also worth checking the scholarship system at a specific university.

– The best candidates, including those from abroad, may receive a scholarship covering up to 100% of tuition fees in the first year of studies. In subsequent years, support may amount to up to 75% of tuition fees, provided that a high grade average and activity at the university are maintained. Scholarships for candidates are awarded, among others, on the basis of secondary school examination results in the case of first-cycle studies or entrance test results in the case of second-cycle studies – says the spokesperson of Kozminski University. The hit of Polish education for newcomers remains English-language medical programs. Medical programs at universities in Gdańsk, Łódź, Warsaw, or the School of Medicine in English (operating within

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the Faculty of Medicine of the Jagiellonian University) have for years enjoyed interest from candidates from Scandinavian countries, Germany, and India. Fees for one year reach PLN 60–70 thousand.

What should you study to earn well?

Official data from the nationwide system for monitoring the economic careers of graduates, known as ELA, confirm that the market rewards niche technical fields and medical professions. In the AI, Big Data, and cybersecurity sectors, specialists are often employed even before defending their master's thesis. Data Science graduates from the Warsaw School of Economics start with

salaries reaching PLN 14–15 thousand gross, and computer science graduates from the Jagiellonian University or AGH exceed PLN 13 thousand. Outside IT, high salaries are offered by heavy industry and automation. Due to difficult working conditions and staff shortages, graduates of mining and geology at technical universities in Lower Silesia and Silesia earn PLN 12–15 thousand right from the start. Interesting observations are also provided by statistics concerning the medical sector. Thanks to the amendment of minimum salary rates, from July 2026 newly graduated master's degree holders in nursing and midwifery will earn over PLN 9 thousand gross as their basic salary. ■





HOW MUCH DOES A STUDENT'S LIFE COST PER MONTH?

3,979.22 PLN	according to the average, this is the monthly cost of maintaining a student in Poland.
4,500.00 PLN	this is the absolute minimum needed to survive a month in Warsaw.
1,200–1,500 PLN	this is how much the rental of a room or modest accommodation alone costs on average.
641.18 PLN	this is how much the average student spends every month on basic grocery shopping.
560.00 PLN	this is the average monthly cost of tuition in paid and part-time studies.
200.00–400.00 PLN	this is the average budget for entertainment, culture, and outings with friends.
55.00–150.00 PLN	this is the monthly cost of public transport tickets and commuting to university.
70.00–150.00 PLN	this is how much phone, internet, and streaming platform subscription bills cost every month.

Data based on the "Student Wallet" report, prepared by the Warsaw Institute of Banking and the Polish Bank Association. Data from 2025.

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– THE BEST CANDIDATES, INCLUDING THOSE FROM ABROAD, MAY RECEIVE A SCHOLARSHIP COVERING UP TO 100% OF TUITION FEES IN THE FIRST YEAR OF STUDIES.