

STUDY IN POLAND!

**TOP UNIVERSITIES, DEGREE
PROGRAMMES AND...
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO
KNOW TO STUDY IN POLAND.**

Enrollment for the 2026/2027 academic year is now underway. International students in Poland are facing new challenges. Applicants continue to target the country's largest academic centres, attracted by the quality of education and competitive tuition costs. Students from outside the European Union, however, must expect additional difficulties. Visa procedures have become increasingly stringent.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN POLAND



Comedy Between Poland and Lithuania

Moira Adomaite is a Lithuanian stand-up comedian living between Poland and Lithuania. In this episode of Poland Today, Urszula Ożarowska talks with her about humour, national stereotypes and the art of performing comedy across cultures. Can Poles laugh at themselves? Who has more self-irony and distance – Poles or Lithuanians? And is humour

truly universal, or does it change from one country to another?

Adomaite came to Poland because of her husband, a pilot whose work brought them closer to Lithuania, while Warsaw became an important part of their everyday life. Today, she travels regularly between Vilnius and Warsaw, building a life that combines family, mobility, creativity and the stage.

For Adomaite, Poland is not just a place of residence. It is also a space where she can develop as a performer and test her comedy in an international environment. She sees Warsaw as a city that offers freedom, safety and a growing English-speaking comedy scene.

Her comedy is shaped by living between cultures. Performing in English, Adomaite observes how humour changes from one audience to another. For her, comedy is the art of recognising universal human experiences and delivering them in a way that people from different

backgrounds can understand. She jokes about cultural differences, language barriers and national habits, but tries to do it in a way that connects people rather than divides them.

Poland gives her rich material: the Polish language, everyday misunderstandings, national habits and the contrast between local and international life. At the same time, her experience here has been positive. She describes the comedy community as open, inclusive and supportive.

For Adomaite, comedy is also personal. It has helped her deal with anxiety and difficult moments. On stage, even painful experiences can become something lighter, relatable and human.

Full version available at:
www.youtube.com/@poland_today



From Mozambique to the Polish Stage

Chelsea Alphy is a singer from Mozambique who came to Poland to study computer engineering and unexpectedly built a music career in Warsaw. In this episode of Poland Today, Urszula Ożarowska talks with her about leaving home, finding a new artistic family and turning Poland into a place of opportunity. Her first days in Poland were connected with student life, new friendships and the

challenge of adapting to a different culture. She studied in English, met people from many countries and gradually built close relationships with Poles. In her view, Polish people can seem reserved at first, but once a real friendship is formed, it becomes sincere and lasting.

Music soon became the centre of her life in Poland. Although her academic path was technical, Alphy's passion was always singing. She performs R&B and new-school music, combining English, Portuguese and local languages from Mozambique. For her, music is a way to express emotion, faith, gratitude and identity. It also helps her stay close to home, especially when she sings sounds and melodies connected with her family, church and country.

Her appearance on the Polish television show „Must Be the Music” became an important breakthrough. The experience opened new doors, gave her wider recognition and connected her with other artists. In Warsaw, she also created

an international band, bringing together musicians from Poland and other countries.

Alphy says Poland has made her stronger. The language barrier and distance from Mozambique were difficult, but she found support, friendship and artistic space here. She values Polish directness, respect for time and professionalism, which have helped her grow both personally and musically.

Today, Chelsea Alphy wants to perform on bigger stages and festivals, bringing her culture, energy and music to audiences in Poland and beyond. For her, Poland is no longer only a place of study. It is where her artistic journey truly began.

Full version available at:
www.youtube.com/@poland_today



THEORY, BUT ALSO PRACTICE

Nicola Secchi, who comes from a Polish-Italian family, decided to pursue his education in Poland. „I checked university rankings and online forums, but I also called individual universities”, recalls the third-year Applied Computer Science student at Wrocław University of Science and Technology. „Other people’s opinions were crucial for me because I didn’t know anyone in Poland, so I had to rely on information I found online and obtained over the phone”, he says.

Nicola explains that support for international students at Wrocław University of Science and Technology is of a very high standard. He praises the Centre for Domestic and International Relations as well as the activities of ESN (Erasmus Student Network). He is also actively involved in helping others: he is a co-founder of the **PoloniaToMy.pl** platform and the originator and organiser of „**Studia in Polonia**”, the largest higher education

“
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fair promoting Polish universities held in Rome. The event brought together 11 Polish universities, including the Medical University of Warsaw, AGH University of Kraków, Jagiellonian University and Warsaw University of Technology, along with dozens of students from Polish schools and young Italians interested in studying in Poland.

„When I came to Poland, I was prepared for the Italian model of higher education, where theoretical knowledge is the most important element. Poland is different. Knowledge is important, of course, but here practical experience matters as well. There are plenty of activities and events. Student research clubs receive funding, which allows students to develop their own projects. Our university is alive! It’s not just about attending lectures and going back to your dormitory to study. There are research clubs, student organisations, meetings and something is always happening”,



Nicola explains. „Before coming to Poland, I knew I wanted to live in a student dormitory so I could meet people and... because it was inexpensive. In Italy, there are very few pormitories”, he adds.

Around **1,400 international students** are currently studying at Wrocław University of Science and Technology, a ccounting for nearly 8% of the total student population. The largest groups come from **Ukraine, India and Belarus**.

THE 21ST-CENTURY STUDENT RESIDENCE: MORE THAN JUST A PLACE TO SLEEP. HOW IS THE ROLE OF PRIVATE STUDENT HOUSING CHANGING?

Today’s student accommodation is about much more than providing a room. Students are looking for a place where they can live, study, connect with others, and feel at home.

At Student Depot, we see that while location and price remain important, students increasingly value community, safety, modern amenities, and an easy booking process. Shared spaces, gyms, study areas, and resident events help create an environment where friendships are built and students can thrive.

For many, especially first-year and international students, a private student residence is not just accommodation it is their first home away from home. The role of modern student housing has evolved from simply offering a bed to creating a supportive community that enhances the overall university experience.

Sylvia Rogalska
Sales & Marketing Director
Student Depot





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Private Dormitories

PRESTIGE COMES AT A PRICE

In the latest **Perspektywy University Ranking**, the **University of Warsaw (UW)** and the **Jagiellonian University** shared first place. Both institutions also lead the rankings in terms of internationalisation indicators. Their strong position is further confirmed by the international university ranking published by **Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)**. The QS ranking evaluates universities according to several criteria, including research quality, graduate employability, internationalisation and the student-to-faculty ratio. It helps international applicants compare universities across countries and academic disciplines, while also assessing the attractiveness of their educational choices.

„I chose the University of Warsaw because it is the best university”, says **Khumoyun Odiljonov** from

Uzbekistan. „The rankings confirm it, but so do the wide range of study programmes, student exchange opportunities and career prospects, including international ones”, adds the graduate of International Relations at the University of Warsaw.

His path to the university, however, was not an easy one. He had previously studied at a private university, but, as he admits, the quality of education is not equally high everywhere.

„You have to search carefully, verify everything and ask questions. Not knowing Polish is often a barrier. For me, choosing the right university was crucial in building my future”, he notes.

Khumoyun Odiljonov also points out that one of the University's greatest strengths is the support it provides to international students, making everyday life much

„**FOR ME, CHOOSING THE RIGHT UNIVERSITY WAS CRUCIAL IN BUILDING MY FUTURE**”, HE NOTES.



easier. Students arriving from distant parts of the world, just like him, can count on accommodation in university dormitories, solving one of the most difficult logistical challenges.

A key role is played by the **Welcome Point UW** (<https://welcome.uw.edu.pl/>) – an information centre for international students at the University of Warsaw that assists with administrative formalities, organises integration events and offers support through fellow students and university staff.

„Thanks to this kind of support, students feel well looked after”, he concludes.

In **2025**, the University of Warsaw had **4,078 international students**. The largest groups of long-term international students came from **Ukraine, Belarus, China, Türkiye, India, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan**. The most popular fields of study among international students included **Finance, International Investment and Accounting, the Undergraduate Programme in International Relations, Management, Data Science and Business Analytics, Psychology, the Graduate Programme in International Relations, the International Business Programme, Quantitative Finance, and International Relations**.

THE MOST INTERNATIONALIZED UNIVERSITIES IN POLAND

Public universities

1

University of Warsaw

2

Jagiellonian University in Kraków

3

Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań

4

Warsaw University of Technology

5

AGH University of Krakow

Non-public universities

1

Kozminski University in Warsaw

2

Polish-Japanese Academy of Information Technology in Warsaw

3

Vistula University in Warsaw

4

Lazarski University in Warsaw

5

SWPS University in Warsaw



Source: *Perspektywy University Ranking 2026*
Details: ranking.perspektywy.pl

SIMPLY AN INTERNATIONAL CAMPUS

Among Poland's private universities, business and technology institutions are at the forefront. The leading schools include **Kozminski University** (the leader in the ranking of private universities) and the **Vistula University of Finance and Business**. At the latter, the student body consists of **55 proc. Polish students and 45 proc. international**

students (according to Vistula University data). Students praise the university's international student support office. Unlike at some public universities, where, as they put it, „bureaucracy can be rigid”, Vistula is perceived as a place where formalities are handled efficiently. Its modern, practical approach to education, focused on developing con-

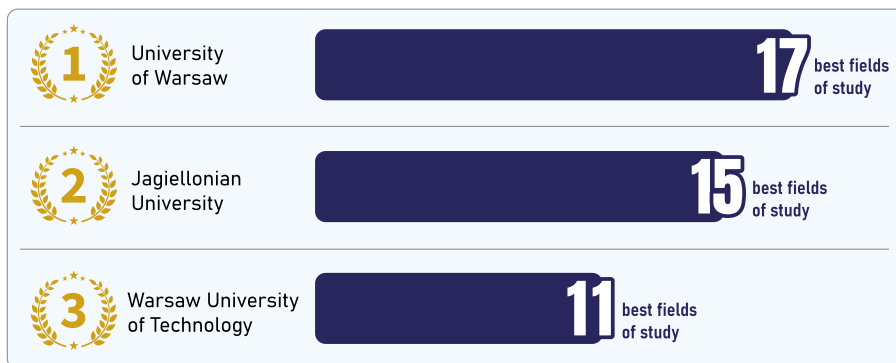
crete professional skills, is also highly appreciated. Many students point to the diverse student community, thanks to which the campus becomes „naturally” international.

„Our international students come from many regions of the world, particularly from European Union countries (Spain, Italy, Germany and France), East and South Asia (China, India and Vietnam), North America and Eastern Europe”, says **Davut Han Aslan**, Vice-Rector for Student Affairs at the Vistula University of Finance and Business.

He adds that the greatest demand is for English-language programmes in **Management, Finance, Economics, International Relations and Computer Science**. Students also eagerly choose **dual-degree programmes** offered in cooperation with partner institutions in the **United Kingdom, the United States and Canada**.

Within the IT sector, the most popular specialisations are those related to **Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity**. These are professions that offer excellent prospects for satisfying and well-paid careers. ■

THE LEADERS IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF BEST, MOST FREQUENTLY CHOSEN FIELDS OF STUDY ARE:



Source: Perspektywy University Ranking 2026
Details: ranking.perspektywy.pl

REAL BARRIERS

The stricter visa and migration regulations introduced in **2025**, aimed at tightening the education system and eliminating the phenomenon of fictitious students, have changed the realities of student recruitment.

Previously, studying in Poland was sometimes treated simply as an easy „gateway” to the **Schengen Area**. That is no longer the case.

Among the new requirements is the obligation to prove proficiency in the language of instruction at a minimum **B2 level**, as well as much stricter verification of the authenticity of documents and more thorough checks by consular authorities regarding applicants' purpose of travel and financial stability. Universities are now required to monitor student attendance and academic progress

more closely, while the new labour market regulations make the possibility of taking up employment without a work permit dependent on the status of the university (which can be verified at **radon.nauka.gov.pl**). Combined with lengthy procedures at provincial offices, this has significantly extended the process of legalising residence.

As a result, data published by the **Information Processing Centre – National Research Institute (OPI PIB)** in **July 2026** show that the number of international students has fallen by **more than 7,000**, while first-year enrolment was **nearly 9,000 students lower** than in the previous year.

Representatives of the **Warsaw School of Economics (SGH)**, when asked about this year's recruitment, confirm that compared

with previous years there has been noticeably lower interest in studying, largely due to the increased difficulty of obtaining the documents required for admission. Applicants now need both a decision from the **Director of the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA)** and a visa.

„The greatest challenges remain factors beyond the universities' control, including the lengthy process of obtaining NAWA decisions regarding the recognition of foreign diplomas and visa procedures. Another significant obstacle is the limited availability of appointments at consulates, which in practice prevents some qualified candidates from starting their studies in Poland despite meeting all the requirements”, says the previously quoted **Davut Han Aslan** from Vistula University.

Administrative formalities have been a challenge for international students for years.

„For me, the biggest problem was simply enrolling at a university. Polish universities are still not fully prepared for applicants holding foreign secondary-school diplomas. Every university converted grades differently — some awarded the maximum number of points, while others gave none at all. The differences were enormous”, recalls **Nicola Secci**.

Khumoyun adds that his biggest problem is the lack of a residence permit, for which he has already been waiting a long time. „Without it, you can return home, but you never know whether you will be granted another visa and be able to come back”, he says.

Moreover, with a residence permit, students do not need an additional work permit. The residence card also serves as an identity document for banking, renting accommodation or even visiting a doctor. „It simply makes life easier”, concludes the student from Uzbekistan. ■

MONTHLY STUDENT LIVING COSTS

Category of expenses	Large city (e.g. Warsaw, Kraków)	Smaller city (e.g. Toruń, Opole)
 Accommodation	480 - 3,200 PLN (112 - 744€)	400 - 2,000 PLN (93 - 465€)
 Food	800 - 2,000 PLN (186 - 465€)	800 - 1,400 PLN (186 - 326€)
 Transport	55 - 70 PLN (13 - 16€)	0 - 50 PLN (0 - 12€)
 Other	450 - 900 PLN (105 - 209€)	350 - 650 PLN (81 - 151€)
 Total (excluding tuition)	1,785 - 6,170 PLN (416 - 1,434€)	1,550 - 4,100 PLN (360 - 954€)



Official calculations and minimum amounts required to obtain a residence card or student visa are the same across the country - details can be found on the government portal [Study.gov.pl](https://study.gov.pl).



Source: Indicative data. It should be expected that prices may be higher in October.

MORE THAN JUST AN APARTMENT: CREATING PLACES WHERE STUDENTS AND GRADUATES FEEL AT HOME

You can furnish a new apartment in a single weekend. Finding your favourite café, a nearby library, or neighbours you enjoy chatting with takes much longer. Yet it is these everyday experiences that make a place truly feel like home.

Moving to a new city – or even a new country – often marks the beginning of a new chapter, whether it is starting university, launching a career, or pursuing new opportunities. For students and young professionals, choosing where to live is no longer just about the apartment itself. The surrounding neighbourhood and the opportunity to quickly become part of the local community are equally important. As a result, the role of developers and rental housing providers is evolving. Today, they are increasingly creating not just buildings, but places that encourage connections and make everyday life more comfortable.

Large cities continue to attract new residents, and we want settling into a new place to be just as comfortable as the

apartment itself. That is why we offer not only modern, fully furnished apartments and professional customer service, but also initiatives that help residents discover their neighbourhood and get to know their neighbours. We organise welcome coffee meet-ups, guided local walks, and run the Vantage Club programme, which introduces residents to nearby businesses through exclusive discounts. Since international residents make up more than half of our community, we also communicate in three languages to ensure everyone feels at home – says Joanna Kubiak, Operations Director at Vantage Rent.

These initiatives reflect a broader trend shaping the living sector, where community events, resident benefits, local partnerships, and shared activities are becoming increasingly important. They make it easier for people to explore their new city, build relationships, and feel part of the community. For young people – many of whom are living independently or moving to a new city for the first time – this creates genuine added value.

Today, the quality of a place to live is determined by far more than floor space, interior finishes, or proximity to a university campus or workplace. Equally important are a welcoming neighbourhood, a sense of security, convenient access to local amenities, opportunities to explore the surrounding area, and the comfort of living with a pet. These are the factors that transform an apartment into something more than just an address – they make it a place people genuinely want to return to. ■





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FALLING IN LOVE WITH POLAND

People planning to study in Poland often ask about the language barrier. In larger cities, a command of English is usually sufficient for studying and everyday life. Sometimes, however, reality proves otherwise.

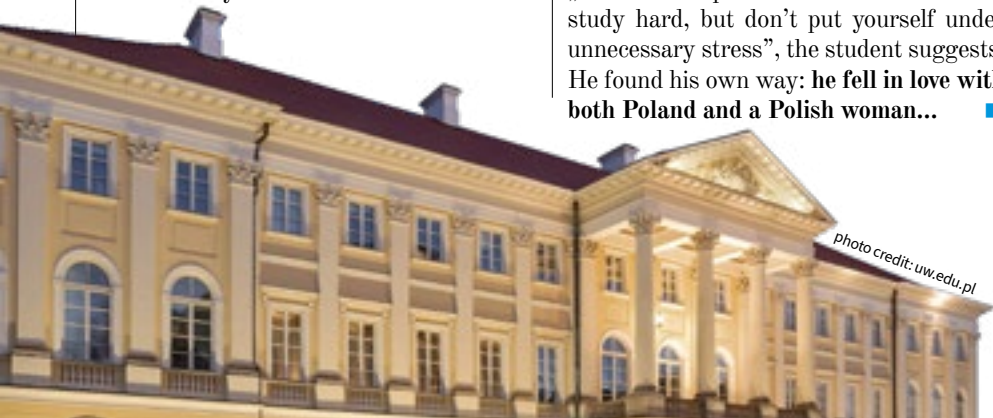
„At our university, senior students work with Polish patients. That is where the problem arises: without a good command of Polish, they cannot communicate with either the supervising doctors or the patients. What saved me was a one-year Polish language course and my Polish friends”, says a medical student from Norway.

Khumoyun, on the other hand, studied in English but learned Polish “on the go” – in the dormitory, at the university and on the streets. He volunteered to assist international students and doctoral candidates at government offices and sometimes even in hospitals.

„Without knowing Polish, life can be difficult”, he admits.

Even Nicola, despite speaking Polish well enough to study in the language, initially did not understand everyday colloquial expressions or abbreviations such as “Zappsy” or „BLIK”.

„I have one piece of advice for others: study hard, but don't put yourself under unnecessary stress”, the student suggests. He found his own way: **he fell in love with both Poland and a Polish woman...**



HOW MUCH DOES STUDYING IN POLAND COST?



Tuition fee per semester

1,500 – 8,500 PLN

349 - 1,977 €



Less expensive programs at smaller regional universities:

EUR 1,200 – 1,500

per academic year

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN POLAND

in the 2024/2025 academic year



>32,4K

international students began their studies in Poland



3,980 – 6,000 PLN

is the average monthly spending of an international student in Poland

GROWING DEMAND FOR MODERN STUDENT ACCOMMODATION IN POLAND

Poland is experiencing significant growth in demand for modern student accommodation, driven by both domestic students and the rapidly growing international academic community. Over 60 proc. of our residents are from abroad. Current prices in our student accommodations typically range from €300 to €850 per month, depending on the room type. Our primary customers are students who prioritize a high standard of living, safety, and a vibrant community. We are seeing an increase in the number of international students choosing

Poland as a study destination – a trend that aligns perfectly with the broader European market, where institutional student accommodation has evolved from a niche, alternative resource into a mature, highly sought-after real estate sector. Demand in Poland remains high, as students increasingly seek accommodation that combines modern, private spaces with shared living spaces.

Paulina Salamaga
Residence Manager
Yugo Kraków



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