

WHY EDUCATION HAS BECOME THE FIRST DECISION FOR EXPAT FAMILIES MOVING TO POLAND

Just over a decade ago, foreign managers coming to Poland primarily asked about salary levels, office location and housing standards. Today, the order of these questions looks entirely different. For families moving to Warsaw, Kraków, Wrocław, the Tricity or Poznań, the most important decision is increasingly the choice of school for their children. It is this decision that shapes the entire relocation process, including the choice of district, daily commuting arrangements and the family's everyday life.

International education is no longer a luxury available only to a select few. It has become one of the most important factors determining whether a foreign specialist will accept a job offer in Poland. This is particularly significant for families with teenagers, for whom choosing the right international high school means being able to continue their education smoothly, obtain a diploma recognised around the world and open the door to the best universities in Europe and North America. For companies, this means that the quality of international schools is becoming part of their competitive advantage in the global race for talent.

Employee relocation today involves far more than signing an employment contract and finding a place to live. Most international corporations operate extensive Global Mobility programmes designed to ensure that employees and their families can begin life in a new country as smoothly as possible. Even before a contract is signed, HR departments often prepare lists of recommended international schools, arrange campus visits and support families throughout the admissions process. Only once the school has been selected does the search for a home begin, usually in its immediate vicinity.

The quality of education determines not only the child's comfort, but also the entire family's readiness to live in another country for several years. This is particularly important for families with high-school-age children. Changing secondary school shortly before final examinations or before beginning the International Baccalaureate programme requires careful planning. As a result, access to respected international high schools increasingly influences whether a job offer in Poland is accepted. For companies, this brings measurable benefits: easier recruitment of specialists, a smoother relocation process and greater employment stability.

What Today's Parents Expect

Parents moving to Poland are increasingly unlikely to rely solely on school rankings. What matters much more is whether their child will be able to continue their education without disruption and apply to the world's best universities. The most sought-after options include the International Baccalaureate, British A Levels and the American High School Diploma. These qualifications are recognised around the world and allow students to continue their education regardless of the country to which the family may move in the future.

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When choosing a high school, parents pay particular attention to international examination results, the school's experience in preparing students for university and the number of graduates admitted to Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial College London, ETH Zürich, Bocconi, Sciences Po or universities belonging to the American Ivy League.

In addition to the curriculum, parents also value small class sizes,





HOLISTIC EDUCATION AT AKADEMEIA HIGH SCHOOL **YOUR PATHWAY TO THE WORLD'S LEADING UNIVERSITIES**

An international high school in Warsaw that combines the highest academic standards with the development of students' passions, skills, and informed educational choices.

INTERNATIONAL A LEVELS

More than 20 subjects available – from STEM to humanities, arts, and languages.
An individual pathway tailored to the chosen field of university study.

MENTORING AND UNIVERSITY GUIDANCE

Individual support in building a profile and preparing applications to the most selective universities in the world.

DEVELOPMENT BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

More than 50 clubs and projects: Model United Nations, CanSat, LEGO League, debates, social and artistic initiatives.

WELLBEING AND LEARNING SUPPORT

Close relationships with teachers, small classes, and an individual approach.
Support in learning, development, and the student's overall wellbeing.

RESULTS: STUDYING AT THE WORLD'S BEST UNIVERSITIES

53% of graduates from the Class of 2025 received offers from TOP 10 universities in the world, including: Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial, UCL, Yale, Princeton, MIT, Caltech.

In a world where success depends not only on academic results but also on a candidate's overall profile, Akademeia supports the comprehensive development of each student, both academically and personally.

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a multicultural environment, modern STEM laboratories, a broad range of sports and arts activities, campus security and psychological support. School is becoming an investment in a child's future career, rather than simply a place in which knowledge is acquired.

Helping a Child Adapt After Relocation

Moving to a new country is one of the greatest challenges a child can face, which is why the best international schools offer comprehensive adaptation programmes. These include a carefully planned transition process, a Buddy System in which a peer supports the new student, and English as an Additional Language programmes for children whose first language is not English.

As Dr Karolina Watras, Headmaster of Akademeia High School, explains:

„International families are looking for a school that provides not only academic excellence, but also a strong sense of belonging, security and support as their children transition to a new country. At Akademeia High School, adaptation is supported through a comprehensive support system. Teachers and mentors work closely with students to understand their individual needs and nurture their educational development, while our Wellbeing and Learning Support teams provide additional guidance across academic, emotional and social areas. Our unique approach to learning and rich co-curricular programme help students build confidence, develop their interests and become active members of our multicultural community”.

For high-school students, support in selecting subjects, preparing for international examinations and planning their future academic path is equally important. Schools are also placing growing emphasis on students' mental wellbeing and on integrating entire families into the local community.

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School as the Centre of an International Community

A modern international school is becoming much more than a place of learning. It is a centre of international community life, bringing together families representing dozens of nationalities.

Cultural festivals, sporting events, workshops and charity initiatives help build relationships that often develop into lasting friendships and professional connections. They also give students an opportunity to begin creating an international network even before starting university.

Education as an Element of Poland's Investment Attractiveness

When an investor assesses a new location, the decision is based not only on taxation, labour costs or the availability of office space. Increasingly, investors also ask whether their key managers will be willing to relocate to Poland with their families.

For this reason, the quality of international schools, especially high schools offering the International Baccalaureate, A Levels or the American High School Diploma, is becoming an important element of the country's investment attractiveness. A strong educational offer supports the development of shared services centres, the technology sector, research and development,

and industrial investments requiring the presence of foreign experts. International high schools are becoming part of a country's economic infrastructure, just like airports, motorways and modern office space. The stronger the educational offer, the greater the country's ability to attract global talent.

How to Choose the Right School

The process of choosing a school should begin many months before the planned relocation. Parents should consider not only the curriculum, but also the school's educational philosophy, the qualifications of its teachers, class sizes, the number of nationalities represented among students and the range of extracurricular activities available.

In the case of high schools, particular attention should be paid to international examination results, the universities chosen by graduates, the experience of academic counsellors and the school's effectiveness in preparing students for admission to the world's leading universities.

It is worth visiting the campus and speaking to the school leadership, teachers and parents of current students. Location is also important, as it has a significant impact on the everyday comfort of the entire family.



LEADING INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOLS IN POLAND

Poland today offers an increasingly wide range of international schools designed to meet the needs of families from around the world. These include respected high schools offering the International Baccalaureate, A Levels or the American High School Diploma, as well as schools following British, American, Canadian or French systems of education.

Each institution has its own educational philosophy, academic offer and student profile. What they share, however, is a common goal: to provide young people with an environment in which they can develop their talents, gain international experience and prepare for study at the world's leading universities. For foreign families, choosing the right school is one of the most important decisions connected with relocating to Poland. It is therefore worth becoming familiar with institutions that have long enjoyed the trust and recognition of the international community.



Akademeia High School

A leading international high school in Poland, offering a British-based curriculum culminating in A Level qualifications. The school is known for its strong academic results, personalised approach to education and comprehensive university preparation. Its graduates receive offers from highly regarded universities in the UK, Europe and North America, including Oxford, Cambridge, UCL, Yale, Brown and Caltech.



American School of Warsaw

The largest and most widely recognised American school in Poland. It offers a complete educational pathway from the earliest grades through High School, following the American curriculum and the International Baccalaureate programme. Students from dozens of countries study here, creating a genuinely international community.

The British School Warsaw – Nord Anglia Education

Part of the global Nord Anglia Education network. The school offers the British curriculum leading to IGCSE examinations and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. It stands out for its high academic standards, international environment and broad range of extracurricular activities.



TE Vizja

A modern school offering both the Polish curriculum and international educational pathways. It is increasingly chosen by foreign families living in Warsaw because of its multicultural environment and emphasis on developing the skills of the future.

International American School of Warsaw

A school following the American model of education within an international setting. It places particular emphasis on an individual approach to each student, the development of language skills and effective preparation for studying abroad.



Canadian School of Warsaw

One of the best-known bilingual schools in Poland. It combines elements of the Polish national curriculum with education in English and preparation for international examinations.



Thames British School Warsaw

A British school offering education from nursery through to high school. It follows the British curriculum and offers Cambridge examinations and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, providing students with a continuous educational pathway through to an internationally recognised school-leaving qualification.

British Primary School of Wilanów

A British primary school following the National Curriculum for England. It is valued for its intimate atmosphere, individual approach and high standard of English-language education. For many families, it provides a natural first stage of education before choosing a British secondary school.



International Trilingual School of Warsaw

A distinctive school based on education in three languages. Its multilingual environment supports children from different cultural backgrounds and prepares them to function confidently in an increasingly global world.

Meridian International School

A school focused on developing academic and social skills in a multicultural environment. It places emphasis on the individual development of each student, foreign-language learning and preparation for international university education.



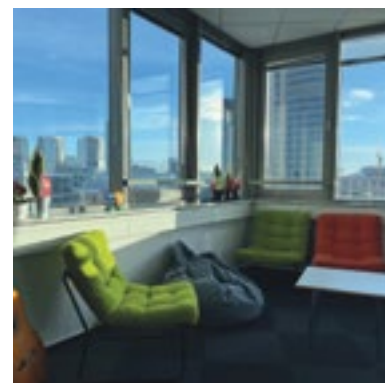
Lycée Français de Varsovie

The official French school operating under the supervision of the French education system. It prepares students for the French Baccalauréat and is a natural choice for French-speaking families, as well as for students planning to continue their education in France.



IPS International School in Wrocław

One of the most important international schools in Lower Silesia. It offers English-language education for the children of families working in Wrocław's rapidly expanding technology and business services sectors.



Liceum Artes Liberales

A Warsaw high school with a distinctive humanities and academic profile. Although it is not a traditional international school, it attracts students seeking a high standard of education, an interdisciplinary approach and preparation for study at leading universities in Poland and abroad.



REFORMING THE FUTURE THROUGH DIALOGUE: HOW TE VIZJA BUILDS GLOBAL THINKERS



When a group of Warsaw teenagers gathered in Room 234 at Vizja Park last September, they weren't role-playing for fun. Under the theme „Reforming the Future through Dialogue”, 140 delegates – students from Polish and international schools alike – spent three days negotiating positions and defending national interests entirely in English, across ten committees ranging from the Security Council to global drug policy. The event was TEVMUN25, a Model United Nations conference organised, start to finish, by the school's own secondary students, which has run before and will again this year. For TE Vizja, a Warsaw-based educational network with campuses across the city and in Gdańsk, this isn't an occasional add-on; it's how the school defines international education: a daily practice of thinking, debating, and collaborating across languages.

That international character starts with bilingualism built into the core curriculum, not bolted onto it. Students arrive with widely varying starting levels of English – Polish students and those from abroad alike – so the results are a mark of the school's whole environment, not a head start: **this year's 8th-grade national exam saw TE Vizja's four schools post English scores of 93 to 97 per cent against a 73 per cent national average, while this year's Matura graduates averaged 92 per cent versus 78 per cent nationally.**

Those results are a byproduct of a wider climate: at TE Vizja, the Polish Programme runs alongside Cambridge and IB pathways rather than apart from them, and bilingualism is part of daily life for everyone, whichever track a student is on. The Cambridge Pathway itself begins at age five with Cambridge Primary, then runs through Lower Secondary and IGCSE to, at the Mokotów campus, Cam-



bridge International A-Levels – part of the globally recognised Cambridge curriculum used in schools worldwide. Students can also choose the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB DP), earning a qualification respected by universities from London to Los Angeles without leaving Poland.

TE Vizja's idea of „international”, though, goes beyond exam boards. Oxford-style debating runs across every campus, from primary school right through to graduation. Younger students tackle assigned questions – the effect of social media on teenage life was this year's primary-school final topic, alongside nuclear power and equal pay – while secondary students pick their own, from politics to ethics and the environment. Teachers who coordinate the debates say the exercise teaches students to listen as much as to speak, and to disagree without losing respect for the other side. TE Vizja Centrum recently launched a dedicated Discussion Club for mixed primary and secondary groups, and for the most ambitious debaters, TEVMUN offers a stage for real geopolitical practice.

Taken together, this forms a coherent picture: a school where English is a work-

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OUR SCHOOLS AREN'T JUST ABOUT A GREAT FACULTY HELPING STUDENTS DRAW OUT THEIR POTENTIAL – THEY'RE BUILT ON RELATIONSHIPS THAT SHAPE IDENTITY AND GIVE MEANING TO EVERYTHING WE CALL EDUCATION AT TE VIZJA.

AND THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE: A STUDENT WHO HAS SPENT YEARS DISCUSSING GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES IN ENGLISH, OR ARGUING BOTH SIDES OF AN ISSUE IN OXFORD-STYLE DEBATE, STEPS INTO THE WIDER WORLD WITH A VOCABULARY AND A CONFIDENCE THAT NO INTENSIVE COURSE COULD BUILD IN A FEW MONTHS”, SAYS **EMILIA NAGUCKA**, PRINCIPAL OF TE VIZJA INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CENTRUM.

ing language rather than only a subject, and where academic pathways are chosen based on where a student is headed, not a single national track. TE Vizja currently operates preschools, primary schools, and secondary schools in Warsaw and Gdańsk, combining Polish curriculum options with Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge A-Levels, and IB DP tracks – built for students organising their own UN conferences and debate clubs, practising in real time the dialogue the wider world will eventually ask of them. ■

[www.tevizja.pl]