K12 ACADEMICS — INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERIES

Studying in Poland

A guide for international students & families — how Polish higher education works, the national student visa and residence card, affordable tuition, 900+ English programs, and work rights.

K12 ACADEMICS

Find Your Community

2026 EDITION

ABOUT K12 ACADEMICS

The world's largest education resource.

Online since 2004, K12 Academics has helped millions of families, students and educators **find the right school, college, camp, business and program in their community** — for every kind of learner.

AFFORDABLE, CENTRAL, 900+ ENGLISH PROGRAMS

Poland is one of Central Europe's most popular — and affordable — study destinations, with **900+ English-taught programs**, low living costs, and strengths in **medicine, engineering, and business**. Non-EU students get a **national (D) visa** and then a **residence card (Karta Pobytu)**. Note: **new 2025 rules** add a NAWA eligibility certificate and a B2 language requirement. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal or immigration advice. Poland's rules changed in 2025 (NAWA eligibility certificate, B2 language requirement, admission caps) and figures change. The details here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with the Polish consulate, NAWA, and your university**.

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STEP 01 OF 10

Understand Why Students Choose Poland

WHAT TO KNOW

Poland offers **affordable tuition and low living costs, 900+ English-taught programs, strong medicine/engineering/business options, and a central location** — plus vibrant student cities (Warsaw, Kraków, Wrocław) and a growing job market.

BY THE NUMBERS

Affordable	900+ English programs	Medicine & engineering
tuition & living	across fields	strong draws

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Poland's **affordability and breadth of English programs** against the newer, stricter 2025 requirements — it's excellent value in central Europe.

GOOD TO KNOW

Poland is a top choice for **English-taught medicine** and engineering at a fraction of Western-European cost.

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STEP 02 OF 10

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

Polish higher education includes **universities and technical universities**. Leading names: the **University of Warsaw, Jagiellonian University (Kraków), Warsaw University of Technology, Wrocław**, and AGH. Degrees follow the European bachelor's—master's—doctorate structure.

BY THE NUMBERS

Universities	Warsaw / Jagiellonian	3+2
+ technical universities	the leaders	European structure

HOW TO HELP

Choose among Poland's **universities and technical universities** by field and city — and confirm each program's language and requirements.

GOOD TO KNOW

Poland's **technical universities** are strong in engineering and IT — a major draw for international students.

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STEP 03 OF 10

Get the Visa & Residence Card

WHAT TO KNOW

Non-EU/EEA students need a **national (D) visa** to enter (valid up to a year), applied for via the **e-Konsulat** portal and the consulate. For stays over 90 days you then apply **in Poland** for a **temporary residence card (Karta Pobytu)**, valid up to 3 years.

BY THE NUMBERS

National (D) visa	e-Konsulat	Karta Pobytu
to enter	book & register	residence card in Poland

HOW TO HELP

Apply for the **D visa via e-Konsulat** before travel, then apply **in Poland for the Karta Pobytu** before your visa expires — residence-card processing can be slow, so start early.

WATCH OUT

Karta Pobytu processing is **slow (often months) in Warsaw and Kraków** — apply as soon as you're eligible.

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STEP 04 OF 10

Handle Admissions & the New 2025 Rules

WHAT TO KNOW

Apply **directly to universities**. Under **2025 rules**, you now need a **NAWA eligibility certificate** (confirming your diploma qualifies you to study) and proof of **B2 proficiency** in the language of instruction. Universities also face a cap on foreign-student share.

BY THE NUMBERS

Apply directly	NAWA certificate	B2 language
to universities	new, mandatory	now required

HOW TO HELP

Get your **NAWA eligibility certificate** and **B2 language certificate** early (both are newly required in 2025), and apply directly to your universities.

WATCH OUT

The **NAWA eligibility certificate and B2 requirement are new in 2025** — don't rely on older guides; confirm the current process.

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STEP 05 OF 10

Plan for Tuition & Funding

WHAT TO KNOW

EU/EEA students study **free at public universities in Polish**. **English-taught programs** (for all students) typically cost **€2,000–5,000/year** at public universities (medicine higher). **NAWA** offers scholarships (e.g., "Poland My First Choice").

BY THE NUMBERS

EU (Polish)	English programs	NAWA
free at public unis	~€2k–5k/yr	scholarships

HOW TO HELP

Budget the **English-program tuition** (or study in Polish, free for EU students) plus low living costs, and pursue **NAWA scholarships**.

GOOD TO KNOW

NAWA's "Poland My First Choice" scholarship covers tuition and provides a stipend — worth applying for.

6 STEP 06 OF 10

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

For the visa you must prove funds — recently about **PLN 8,000 (~€1,850)** in an accessible account — plus **proof of tuition payment** (often for the full first year) and **accommodation**.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds	Tuition paid	Accommodation
~PLN 8,000 (~€1,850)	first year	dormitory/rental

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds** at the current amount, **tuition payment**, and a **real accommodation document** (dormitory letter or rental agreement — hotel bookings are often rejected).

WATCH OUT

Consulates often want **full first-year tuition paid** and a genuine accommodation document — not a hotel booking. Prepare both.

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STEP 07 OF 10

Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

Programs are in **Polish** (free for EU at public universities) or **English** (900+ programs). Under 2025 rules you must prove **B2** in the language of instruction (e.g., IELTS/TOEFL for English). Some Polish helps daily life and work.

BY THE NUMBERS

Polish	English	B2 required
free for EU	900+ programs	2025 rule

HOW TO HELP

Prove **B2 in your program's language** (a new requirement) — IELTS/TOEFL for English programs — and learn some Polish for daily life and work.

GOOD TO KNOW

The **B2 language certificate is now mandatory** — check your university's accepted tests early.

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STEP 08 OF 10

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

After arriving, get a **PESEL (national ID number)**, arrange **health insurance** (NFZ voluntarily ~PLN55/month or private), and register your address. Have documents **translated into Polish (certified) and legalized/apostilled**. Living costs are low.

BY THE NUMBERS

PESEL	Health insurance	Translate docs
national ID number	NFZ or private	certified Polish

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin — **PESEL, health insurance, address registration** — and prepare **certified Polish translations** of documents; Poland—s low living costs are a real plus.

GOOD TO KNOW

Documents generally need **certified Polish translation** — prepare them before applying.

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STEP 09 OF 10

Understand Work Rules

WHAT TO KNOW

Enrolled **full-time students face no work-hour restrictions** and need **no separate work permit** during their studies — a generous rule that supports part-time work and internships.

BY THE NUMBERS

No hour limit	No work permit	Internships
for full-time students	needed	widely supported

HOW TO HELP

Take advantage of Poland's **flexible student work rules** (no hour cap, no separate permit for full-time students) for part-time jobs and internships.

GOOD TO KNOW

Poland's **no-work-hour-limit** rule for full-time students is unusually generous — useful for experience and income.

10 STEP 10 OF 10

Thrive & Work After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

After graduating, you can apply for a **temporary residence permit to search for a job or start work** in Poland. Demand is growing in **tech, engineering, business, and healthcare**, with EU-wide recognition of Polish degrees.

BY THE NUMBERS

Job-search permit	Growing demand	EU recognition
after graduating	tech, health, business	of your degree

HOW TO HELP

Plan for the **post-study job-search residence permit**, build networks during study, and target Poland's in-demand sectors if you want to stay.

GOOD TO KNOW

Poland's growing economy and **post-study job-search permit** make staying on realistic — confirm current conditions.

QUICK REFERENCE

Studying in Poland: The Essentials

A snapshot — rules changed in 2025, so confirm everything with the Polish consulate, NAWA, and your university.

The system

Universities and technical universities (University of Warsaw, Jagiellonian, Warsaw Tech, Wrocław, AGH); 900+ English-taught programs; European degree structure.

Visa & card

Non-EU students get a national (D) visa (via e-Konsulat), then apply in Poland for a temporary residence card (Karta Pobytu, up to 3 years) for stays over 90 days.

New 2025 rules

A NAWA eligibility certificate and B2 proficiency in the language of instruction are now required; universities face a cap on foreign-student share.

Money

EU study free in Polish at public universities; English programs ~€2,000–5,000/year; prove ~PLN 8,000 funds plus tuition and accommodation; NAWA scholarships.

Work & after

Enrolled full-time students face no work-hour limit and need no separate permit; a post-study job-search residence permit supports staying to work.

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