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Poland, The Quick Facts



Country Size:
312.679 sq.km

Population
38,43 Mio (2017)

Language
Polish

Capital
Warsaw

Median Age
39.7

Currency
Euro

Economy
GDP Per Capita
13.811 USD/person (2017)
Unemployment Rate
3.7% (2019)

To learn more about this unique country visit https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/countries/member-countries/poland_en

This Country Profile was prepared by EURAXESS NA.

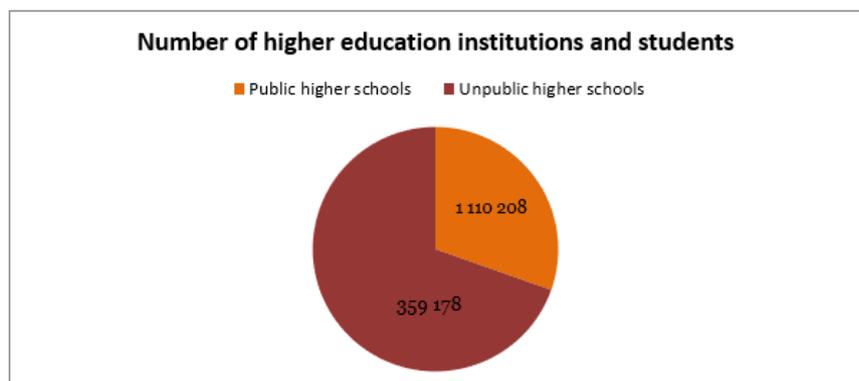
1 EURAXESS Country in Focus: POLAND

1.1 Introduction

Poland is a country located in central Europe near Baltic Sea, Sudetes- and Carpathian Mountains. With a population of ca. 38.5 million people, Poland is the sixth most populous member state of the European Union. Poland's capital and largest city is Warsaw.

Poland has a developed market and it is a regional power. It has the eighth largest and one of the most dynamic economies in the European Union, achieving at the same time a high rank on the Human Development Index. Moreover, the Polish Stock Exchange in Warsaw is the largest and most important in Central Europe. Poland is a developed country, which keeps a high-income economy along with great standards of living, life quality, safety, education and economic freedom.

The country provides free university education, state-funded social security and a universal health care system. Poland has 15 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, 14 of which are cultural. It is a member state of the European Union, the Schengen Area, the United Nations, NATO, the OECD, the Three Seas Initiative, and the Visegrád Group.



[SEE POLAND](#)

Source: <https://www.openaire.eu/item/poland>

1.2 Facts & Figures



➤ **The Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN)** is an independent research institution. PAS comprises currently 79 research establishments (scientific institutes, research centres, research (archives, libraries, museums, foreign scientific centres).

➤ **Polish Universities.** Poland has 18 classical universities, mainly in the largest cities. The oldest one is Jagiellonian University in Cracow, established in 1364. The highest ranked and the biggest is University of Warsaw (394th global, Webometrics ranking). The most famous graduates of this university are: Henryk Sienkiewicz (Literature Nobel Prize winner, 1905), Józef Rotblat (Nobel Peace Prize, 1995), Czesław Miłosz (Literature Nobel Prize 1980), Menachem Begin (Nobel Peace Prize, 1978), Leonid Hurwicz (Economics Nobel Prize, 2007), Jan Łukasiewicz (logician and philosopher – his concepts were used to build computer memory by Turing, Bauer and Hamblin, as a basis of computer Burrough B5000, design multi-programmed KDF9 computer system, many Hewlett Packard calculators Forth programming language and PostScript page description language), Alfred Tarski (one of the four the most notable logicians of all times – just next to Aristotle, Gottlob Frege and Kurt Gödel).

➤ **Research-development units** are state institutions operating as separate entities in terms of legal basis, organisational arrangements and funding mechanisms, supervised by various sector ministries that conduct R&D work in line with the needs of the national economy and social life. Among 189 units there are research institutes, central laboratories and research and development centres.

➤ **Development units** are business entities active in R&D. Apart from their primary activities, they are also involved in applied research. Currently about 700 development units are operating in Poland.

➤ **Patents.** In terms of applications of inventions for protection, Poland is ranked 17th in the world, while in terms of granted patents – 15th on the list of the World Intellectual Property Organization among all countries in the world. It is worth noting that the highest number of patents is reported by Polish universities and research institutes, not private companies, which is a distinctive feature of other countries.¹

➤ Only researchers of the University of Warsaw got ca. 250 million złoty (67 million USD) from grants.

¹ Source: https://www.wnp.pl/tech/polska-na-15-miejscu-na-swiecie-pod-wzglem-liczby-przyznanych-patentow,316297_1_0_0.html



[The Polish National Agency For Academic Exchange](#)



[The National Centre for Research and Development](#)



[The National Science Center Science Center \(NCN\)](#)



[The Foundation for Polish Science](#)

1.3 Funding Opportunities

➤ [The Polish National Agency For Academic Exchange](#) (Polish: Narodowa Agencja Wymiany Akademickiej, NAWA) is the new entity in Poland established in 2017. It is set up to coordinate state activities driving the process of internationalization of Polish academic and research institutions. The mission of NAWA is to foster the development of Poland in the area of science and higher education, support international mobility of students, academics and researchers and the process of internationalization of Polish HEIs and research institutions, promote Polish science and higher education as well as popularize teaching of the Polish language.

➤ [The National Centre for Research and Development](#) (Polish: Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju, NCBiR) has already supported 8900 project, 2039 companies, 2657 scientific units for general amount of 43 billion zloty (10 billion USD). Its mission is to support the creation of innovative solutions and technologies that increase the competitiveness and innovation of the Polish economy. The NCRD is to strengthen the collaboration between business and academia, leading both to a greater engagement of entrepreneurs in research funding, as well as to a more effective commercialization.

➤ [The National Science Center](#) (Polish: Narodowe Centrum Nauki, NCN) is a governmental grant-making agency responsible for providing financial support for the conduct of basic science research in Poland and various programs to assist scientists throughout their careers.

➤ [The Foundation for Polish Science](#) (Polish: Fundacja na rzecz Nauki Polskiej, FNP) is an non-governmental, non-political and non-profit institution which mission is science support. It is the largest source of science funding in Poland besides the state budget. The Foundation realizes its statutory purposes through: support for great scholars and research teams in all fields of inquiry; assisting innovative ventures and commercialization of scientific discoveries and inventions. Check out their recent [report](#).

➤ **Ministry Grants.** The Ministry of Science and Higher Education has funds allocated to financing scientific research. The most prestigious are: Diamond Grant (a researcher may receive up to 59000 USD of funding) and National Program for the Development of Humanities (amount of donation is between 80000USD and 135000USD). If you want to know more, click → <https://www.granty-na-badania.com/p/granty-ministerstwa.html>

➤ **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)**
Attractive European grants for researchers wishing to enhance their career based on research & training project in Europe. Supporting all domains of research, providing attractive salary at freely chosen host are only a few of MSCA advantages assured by the European Commission.

➤ **European Research Council (ERC)**
Prestigious ERC grants finance frontier research in any scientific area. Researchers of any nationality may apply for funding with European host institutions and do their research that will push the existing frontiers of science further. In the years 2014-2020, the Council has a budget of ca. 13 billion € (being part of the Horizon 2020 Programme) allowing to support nearly 7000 grants of individual Principal Investigators (PIs) and their teams.

1.4 MSCA in Poland

Experienced researchers willing to move to Poland can apply for an Individual Fellowship (IF) of the Marie Skłodowska - Curie Actions (MSCA), irrespective of their country of origin. Poland is in the list of widening countries. Therefore, from 2018 to 2020, proposals above the quality threshold of 70% but not retained for funding through the MSCA IF call with a host institution in Poland will be automatically reassigned to the Widening Fellowships call.

As most research is performed in public universities and research institutes, these are also where most research jobs are available. Many of the positions available are published on the [EURAXESS webpage](#).

1.5 EURAXESS Poland

Poland belongs to the **EURAXESS** initiative that provides support to researchers and their families when coming to this country (in key areas such as visas, housing, schooling, etc.). [National Contact Point for Research Programmes of the European Union](#) is the national coordinator of the Polish network. Additional information can be found at www.euraxess.pl. Poland has easy residence permit procedures for researchers outside Europe:

1) **European Union Blue Card**

The EU Blue Card is a special type of residence permit called temporary residence permit for the purpose of highly qualified employment, allowing high-skilled non-EU citizens to work and live in the European Union countries (excluding Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom) for a period exceeding 3 months. In practice, the Card is issued for a period exceeding the work contract duration by 3 months but for a max. period of 3 years.

The Blue Card gives its holders some benefits like:

- having the Card makes it easier to receive the long-term EU residence permit.
- the EU Blue Card is issued for a period exceeding the work contract duration by 3 months (but for no more than 3 years), while the regular residence permit is issued for the same duration as the work contract.
- family members of Blue Card holders who receive a residence permit for the purpose of family reunification can work in Poland without the obligation to obtain work permit.
- in order to apply for the Blue Card you do not need to submit a document from the Tax Office – a certificate confirming that you have no tax obligations in Poland.

To find out more, visit www.EURAXESS.pl



<http://euraxess.pl>

2) Temporary residence permit in order to conduct research

The residence permit is dedicated to the foreign researcher, who has at least professional title corresponding to Polish Master's degree or equivalent. The permit is given on the basis of hosting agreement for the purposes of carrying out research project concluded with a research institution with its registered office on the territory of Poland. The hosting agreement may be concluded between the researcher and research institution.

1.6 Bilateral academic collaboration between Poland and India

Under the legal framework of the intergovernmental agreement signed in 1993 Poland and India are actively strengthening their bilateral academic cooperation. It is particularly visible in regards to the numbers: while in 2013 there were only less than 500 Indian students in Poland, in 2018 it already more than 3700! Indian nationals are the second biggest group of foreigners (after Ukrainians) in Poland applying for diploma recognition with the goal of either finding a job or in order to begin their studies.

Polish universities have more than 70 existing MoUs with Indian counterparts, the last two signed in February 2019 on the occasion of the Bengal Global Business Summit in Kolkata. Research cooperation is going strong with the activities of the Centre for Contemporary India Research and Studies at the Warsaw University that cooperates closely with 14 European and 10 Indian universities. It is also a partner of the Polish Embassy in New Delhi, and arranges study visits of renowned Indian scientist to Poland. At the same time delegations of Polish universities regularly visit India, for example during the upcoming Eduexpos 2019 fair in Chennai, Mumbai, Bangalore and Delhi in March/April.

Polish language is currently taught at Delhi University and Manipal University in Karnataka. The number of Indian students learning Polish is significantly increasing at those institutions, due to the growing interest and awareness of study opportunities in Poland, but also because of the dedicated language instructors.