



**SKOLARIFY**

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITY INTELLIGENCE

THE PREMIUM GUIDE TO STUDYING IN POLAND

# Bachelor's *in Poland*

A step-by-step playbook to win an English-taught undergraduate place in Poland — from choosing a programme to landing your visa.

EDITION

**2026 / 27 Intake**

PREPARED BY

**Skolarify Research Desk**

# A serious degree, *without the price tag.*

Poland has quietly become one of Europe's smartest undergraduate destinations: EU-recognised degrees, hundreds of English-taught programmes, and living costs a fraction of Western Europe.

**900+**

English-taught programmes across Polish universities

**65k+**

international students enrol in Poland every year

**€1.5–5k**

typical English-taught bachelor tuition per year

**EU + Schengen**

degree recognised across the EU; travel 29 countries



## Recognised everywhere

Poland follows the Bologna system, so your 3-year bachelor is understood and accepted across the EU and beyond.



## Genuinely affordable

Tuition and living costs are far below the UK, Germany or the Netherlands — without a drop in academic standing.



## Study fully in English

You don't need Polish to earn your degree; Polish is a bonus for life and work, not an entry barrier.

# How the system *actually works.*

There is no single national portal. Understanding these four facts saves you weeks of confusion.



## No central application — you apply per university

Poland uses the **IRK** system (*Internetowa Rejestracja Kandydów*). Each university runs its own IRK portal; you register, upload documents and track your offer there.



## 3-year bachelors, Bologna-style

Most bachelor's degrees take 3 years. Exceptions like some engineering, medicine and law follow longer integrated tracks.



## Public vs private

400+ institutions exist. Public universities generally rank higher and are more competitive; private universities offer flexibility and rolling intakes.



## One main intake

The academic year starts in **October**. A smaller number of programmes offer a February intake — useful as a backup.

### READ THIS FIRST

Because every university admits independently, you can — and should — apply to several in parallel. There is no cap on how many IRK applications you submit.

# Do you *qualify?*

Undergraduate entry in Poland is refreshingly grade-based. For most programmes there is no SAT and no entrance exam.

## Core requirements

- ✓ **Secondary school certificate** equivalent to the Polish *Matura* (high-school diploma), legalised or apostilled.
- ✓ **English proficiency** — typically IELTS 6.0–6.5 or TOEFL iBT ~80, unless prior study was in English.
- ✓ **Minimum grades** meeting the programme's GPA threshold (varies by university and course).
- ✓ **Valid passport** and a recent photo for registration.

## Programme-specific extras

- ✓ **Medicine / Dentistry:** strong biology & chemistry background; often an entrance test.
- ✓ **Engineering:** mathematics prerequisites.
- ✓ **Art & Design:** a portfolio and/or practical assessment.
- ✓ **Some competitive courses:** a short interview.

### GRADES OVER TESTS

For the vast majority of programmes, admission is decided on your school grades — not a standardised exam. A strong, well-documented transcript is your single biggest asset.

# Six steps *to an offer.*

1

## Shortlist 3–5 programmes

Browse [study.gov.pl](https://study.gov.pl) and university sites. Filter by city, field and language. Check each programme's prerequisites and fees before you commit.

2

## Prepare & legalise documents

Get your diploma apostilled and translated. This is the slowest step — start 2–3 months early.

3

## Register in each university's IRK

Create an account, complete the form, upload scanned PDFs, and pay the registration fee.

4

## Wait for the decision

Processing typically takes 2–8 weeks. You're notified via the IRK portal and email.

5

## Accept & pay the deposit

Confirm your place in IRK and pay the tuition deposit (often one semester). The university issues your acceptance letter.

6

## Apply for your visa

Use the acceptance letter to apply for a National (type D) visa or, for EU/EEA students, register a residence.

# Your document *pack.*

Assemble this folder once, reuse it for every application. Missing or un-legalised documents are the #1 cause of delays.

- ✓ **Secondary-school diploma** + transcript (apostilled)
- ✓ **Certified translation** into English or Polish
- ✓ **English test certificate** (IELTS/TOEFL) or waiver proof
- ✓ **Passport** scan (bio page)
- ✓ **Passport-style photo** (digital)
- ✓ **Motivation statement** (if requested)
- ✓ **Portfolio / test results** (art, medicine, etc.)
- ✓ **Proof of registration-fee payment**

## APOSTILLE VS. NOSTRIFICATION

An **apostille** authenticates your diploma for use abroad — get it in your home country. **Nostrification** is a formal Polish equivalence procedure (~PLN 3,150, 2–4 months) sometimes required for regulated professions. Most bachelor applicants only need the apostille + translation.

# Tuition, living & *scholarships.*

## Tuition — per year (English)

Business, IT, Humanities	€1,500–4,000
Engineering & Sciences	€2,000–5,000
Medicine & Dentistry	€10,000–15,000+
EU/EEA, Polish-taught (public)	€0

## Living — per month

Smaller cities (Lublin, Łódź)	€350–550
Warsaw / Kraków	€500–850

## Ways to cut the cost



### University merit scholarships

Many HEIs waive or discount tuition for strong academic records — apply the moment admission opens.



### National & regional schemes

NAWA and government programmes fund selected international students; deadlines often precede programme deadlines.



### On-campus & part-time work

Student visas generally permit part-time work; dorms are the cheapest housing.

### BUDGET FOR THE VISA

Consulates ask for proof of funds — roughly €7,000–€12,000 for the year (tuition + living). Prepare bank statements or a sponsorship letter early.

## TIMELINE

# A year-long *countdown.*

Deadlines vary by university, but this rhythm keeps you ahead. Non-EU applicants should work to the earliest dates — visas take time.

### 10-12 MONTHS BEFORE

#### Research & shortlist

Pick programmes, note fees and prerequisites, book your English test.

### 8-9 MONTHS BEFORE

#### Legalise documents

Apostille and translate your diploma & transcript. This is the long pole.

### 6-7 MONTHS BEFORE

#### Open IRK accounts & apply

Submit to each university as portals open; pay registration fees.

### MID-JULY - MID-AUG (NON-EU)

#### Application deadlines

Non-EU deadlines fall earliest to allow visa time; EU/EEA often to mid-September.

### AUG-SEP

#### Accept, pay, apply for visa

Confirm your place, pay the deposit, book the consulate appointment.

### OCTOBER

#### Arrive & enrol

Register your residence, collect your student card, begin classes.

# Insider moves that *actually help.*



## Apply to a 'reach + safe' spread

Mix one competitive public university with two solid options that have rolling admissions. Offers arrive at different speeds.



## Start the apostille first

It gates everything else and depends on external offices. Begin before you've even finalised your shortlist.



## Tailor each motivation statement

Name the specific programme, modules and city. Generic letters read as generic and rank lower.



## Scan everything at high quality

Blurry or cropped uploads trigger re-submission requests that cost you days.



## Lock housing the day you accept

University dorms fill fast; secure yours as soon as you confirm your place.

### THE QUIET ADVANTAGE

February intakes and private universities with rolling admissions are underused backups. If spring deadlines slip, you often still have a route in.

# From offer *to campus.*

EU/EEA citizens don't need a visa — just register their stay. Everyone else follows this path.

1

## **National (type D) visa**

Apply at the Polish consulate with your acceptance letter, proof of funds, insurance and accommodation. Book early — slots are limited.

2

## **Health insurance**

Arrange coverage for the visa. Non-EU students can later sign a voluntary agreement with Poland's NFZ health fund.

3

## **Temporary residence permit**

A degree lasts longer than a visa — apply for a temporary residence permit soon after you arrive.

4

## **Register & settle**

Contact the university's International Relations Office for arrival, PESEL number, banking and orientation.

### **DON'T TRAVEL ON TUITION ALONE**

Consulates want to see you can support yourself. Keep clean, recent bank statements and your sponsorship documents ready.



**SKOLARIFY**

# Don't hunt for opportunities. *Let them find you.*

Everything in this guide — scholarships, deadlines, supervisors, funded positions — changes weekly. Skolarify keeps it live, matches it to **your** profile, and tells you exactly what to apply to next.

## — WHERE SKOLARIFY FITS IN



### **Every English-taught programme, filtered**

We surface programmes that match your grades, budget and field — without the 400-website scavenger hunt.



### **Deadline & scholarship alerts**

Get told when a matching intake or scholarship opens — before it quietly closes.



### **Application-ready profiles**

Keep your documents, transcripts and statements in one place, reused across every IRK portal.

## **THE SKOLARIFY DIFFERENCE**

General AI tools can draft a motivation letter. They can't tell you which live call closes next Tuesday, which supervisor has funding right now, or whether you clear an eligibility cap. That verified, continuously-updated opportunity layer is what we do.



# SKOLARIFY

*Your shortcut to the right opportunity.*

Skolarify matches students and researchers to verified scholarships, funded PhD positions, supervisors and academic jobs — from a live, continuously updated opportunity layer, not a static list. This guide is one small part of what we help you navigate.



This guide is prepared by Skolarify for general information and is not official government or university advice. Figures, deadlines, eligibility rules and programme details change frequently — always confirm against official sources before applying: [nawa.gov.pl](https://nawa.gov.pl), [study.gov.pl](https://study.gov.pl), [euraxess.pl](https://euraxess.pl) and each university's own IRK admission portal. Tuition and living-cost figures are indicative ranges in EUR/PLN and vary by university, city, field of study and academic year. Skolarify is not affiliated with NAWA or any university unless stated.