

# Why Study in Poland?

*In May 2011, the Honorary Consulate of Poland was invited to participate in a panel organized by European Studies Program at FIU about Study Abroad. There were representatives from many countries including Germany, Italy, Spain, France and Canada. Mrs. Beata Paszyc showed a film about the beauty of Poland and talked about practical issues involving studying in Poland. Here are some of the highlights of her presentation.*



## **For high quality of educational system**

Polish university education system has a history of 650 years of educating high profile professionals. Education was always very important to Polish people. It was even a prime concern of Polish Kings and Queens in 12th century Poland. Polish academic traditions reach back to 14th century. The Jagiellonian University in Kraków was established in 1364, as the second university in Central Europe. In 1773 King Stanislaw August Poniatowski, established the Commission of National Education, the world's first Ministry of Education. Today's Polish universities continue the glorious traditions of their predecessors. Warsaw University for example is ranked first in the Top Coder international IT ranking. It resulted with a profit not only for Poland, but also for many countries all over the world, where the Poles brought their professionalism and the spirit of innovation. Want some examples? Ignacy Domeyko established the geology research in 19th century Chile. Between 1872 and 1876 Ernest Malinowski built the world's highest located railroad in Peru. Bronisław Malinowski was a creator of modern anthropology. Ten Nobel Prizes were awarded to Polish artists, scientists and other public figures. Maria Curie-Skłodowska is one of only four laureates to receive a prize twice. Polish

specialists of all professions are highly appreciated by the recruiters worldwide. Especially Polish doctors, engineers, architects and IT specialists are acclaimed, but other Polish graduates are also considered to be fully prepared to compete on a global job market. The quality of the system is guaranteed by State Accreditation Committee, which monitors all Polish higher education institutions. According to its control results, over 80% of the Polish universities have outstanding and good rankings.

## **For low costs of studying and living**

Although Poland undergoes through a process of rapid economic development, the cost of living is still significantly lower than in most of the EU countries. A total amount of 200-400 Euros is enough to cover the basic cost of accommodation, food and transport. The cost of entertainment and participation in cultural events are also much lower than EU average. The basic cost of studies is also very competitive. The minimum rate is 2000 Euro a year, what's a few times lower than the EU average.

## **For rapid economical development**

Since 20 years Polish economy has significantly been growing. According to Central Statistical Office's data, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2008 was in real terms 4.8 per cent higher than in 2007. In 2007 GDP recorded 6.7 per cent growth. The rate of the value added growth for whole economy in 2008 was 4.9 per cent (6.6% in 2007). According to the latest European Commission's forecast, in 2010 the GDP growth may dip to 2.0 per cent. Taking into account, however, international crisis and -1.8 per cent GDP growth forecast for the EU-25, Poland's result is a symptom of Polish strong economy. The unemployment level decreases very quickly, falling from almost 20% in 2004 to 9,5 % in 2009.

## **For high level of personal security**

In spite of popular image, Poland is much safer than most of the European countries. Even the Nordic countries, considered as very safe, have much higher crime rate than Poland.

## **For culture and entertainment**

Polish culture is well known in the world, for both historical heritage and present achievements. Five Polish writers were rewarded with Nobel Prize. Historical composers like Karol Szymanowski, Fryderyk Chopin and Ignacy Paderewski, and present ones like Henryk Górecki, Witold Lutosławski or Krzysztof Penderecki wrote new chapters in the history of music. Academy Award winners Andrzej Wajda, Janusz Kamiński, Roman Polański, Golden Palm winner Krzysztof Kieślowski and many other film industry artists are recognized all over the world. Polish cultural institutions provide high quality entertainment for all tastes. The number of festivals, book fairs, concerts, gigs, and other kinds of entertainment is massive. There's also something for sport fans. In 2012 Poland will host the UEFA European Football Championships. One of the most important sport events in the world will attract thousands of fans from all Europe.

## **Why choose Poland?**

Polish educational system provides high quality services. That is proven by the success of Polish professionals working all over the world, acclaimed as perfectly educated, creative and effective. Studies in Poland cost much less than in most European countries, and cost of living is much lower.

## **Do I have to speak Polish?**

There are English courses available for international students, so you don't have to speak Polish. If you prefer to study in Polish you will have to graduate a Polish course before you start studying. Courses are organized at several Polish universities.

## **How can I find a course of my interest?**

You just need to use our website's search engine. 22 Universities and hundreds of courses are available, so it's easy to find a course, whatever the subject of your choice is. ☺

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