

Advisory for Indian students in Poland

1. Universities:

Ministry of Science & Higher Education has put up on its website a list of public universities under its control. The list is available at the hyperlink: <https://www.gov.pl/web/nauka/wykaz-uczelni-publicznych-nadzorowanych-przez-ministra-wlasciwego-ds-szkolnictwa-wyzszego-publiczne-uczelnie-akademickie>

Ministry of Science & Higher Education has also put up on its website, a list of Higher Vocational Schools under its control. The list is available at the hyperlink:

<https://www.gov.pl/web/nauka/wykaz-uczelni-publicznych-nadzorowanych-przez-ministra-wlasciwego-ds-szkolnictwa-wyzszego-panstwowe-wyzsze-szkoly-zawodowe>

Students wishing to study in Poland are advised to apply in these institutions only for higher studies as getting a student visa would be easy. Students may please avoid applying through agents and particularly, university's admission/tuition fees should be paid directly to the institution's bank account and not through any agent's account.

2. Visa

Poland is a part of the Schengen zone. There are several types of visas to choose from, details of the relevant ones are as follows:

- “C” type – a short-term Schengen visa allowing the holder to stay in the Schengen territory for up to 90 days in 180 days period
- “D” type – a long-term national visa issued for up to one year allowing travel around the Schengen area for up to 90 days in a 180 days period A visa can only be extended in exceptional situations. Should you need to stay in Poland longer than specified in your visa please do apply for the temporary residence permit.

As per Polish Embassy in New Delhi's website:

“Appointments for visa registrations are opened in the e-konsulat visa system twice a week: on Tuesdays at 3pm and Fridays at 3pm. Opening new slots is a subject to general availability/limits per day. Registration a visa application for a different purpose than indicated in the type of a visa, making corrections or changes in the visa application after completing the registration may cause a visa refusal. If any mistake is found in the application before applying for the visa it is

necessary to email a request to the Consular Section to cancel the registration. New registration for the same person will be applicable only after 24h from the cancellation date. It is not allowed to register one applicant for different appointment dates. Please register visa applications carefully and with proper attention.”

Slots for student visas are opened as per the schedule of semesters. More information on this can be found on the e-konsulat visa system of the Polish Embassy.

3. Temporary Residence Permit

When you receive the residence permit, a Temporary Residence Card will be issued which is an ID card that proves that you have a residence permit. Together with your travel document, it allows you to cross the Polish border. The first residence permit is issued for the period of 15 months. It can be renewed for periods of up to 3 years but not longer than the remainder of your studies.

ATTENTION: You should apply for the Temporary Residence Card immediately upon arrival in Poland and please do not wait for the expiry of the existing visa as it generally takes 8 to 12 months for the Temporary Residence Card to be approved.

You have to apply for a Temporary Residence Permit with the local Voivodship Office. You can find a complete list of offices here: <http://www.migrant.info.pl/> The documents you will need to legalize your stay include an application form, photos and documents proving your identity and citizenship, address, purpose of stay (a certificate from your school) health insurance and possession of sufficient funds. For detailed information check out the Voivodship Office’s website.

4. Insurance

If possible, it is recommended that students purchase their own international medical insurance prior to their arrival in Poland. Otherwise they are required to sign a voluntary health insurance agreement with the National Health Fund (*Narodowy Fundusz Zdrowia – NFZ*) and pay their own insurance fees. Students also have the option of purchasing additional accident insurance.

5. PESEL

The PESEL number is an identification number given to every Polish citizen when they are born and registered in Poland. Moreover, expats who meet certain criteria can also apply for the PESEL number. PESEL number is not mandatory for all expats but very helpful, especially in terms of medical care and taxes. It is mandatory for those who work in Poland and paying taxes. If you do not have it

can be problematic to submit your tax declaration. Students need a house address validated by rent agreement for PESEL.

6. **Safety and security**

Most visitors to Poland experience no difficulties. Serious crime against foreigners is relatively rare, but incidents do occur. You should also be alert to the possibility of street crime and petty theft, and that foreigners may appear to be easy target. Keep valuables and cash out of sight, especially in crowded areas and tourist spots where pickpockets and bag snatchers operate.

There is a higher risk of robbery at main rail stations and on all train services, especially overnight sleeper trains. You are most at risk while boarding and leaving trains.

If you have been robbed, please inform your local Police station (it's better to go with someone who speaks Polish because local police office may / may not speak English).

Please use only official taxis, which have the name and telephone number of the taxi company on the side of the door and on the top of the taxi. They will also show a rate card on the window of the vehicle. Taxis with a crest but no company name are not officially registered taxis.

Avoid traveling in late nights and avoid indulging in any kind of altercation.

7. **Local travel**

In general public transport in Poland is very good. You buy tickets from ticket vending machines (vending machines are available inside the buses and trams also) or you can use apps "[skycash](#)", "Jakdojade" and "MoBilet" (available in English). Please note that in order to purchase 'reduced' ticket (with discount), you should have a valid ID issued by the **Polish** institution. **Tickets must be validated at the start of a journey.** You will be fined on the spot if you're travelling with an invalid ticket.

8. **Renting an apartment**

One should be alert while dealing with agents. They shouldn't take money from you in advance. Proof of payment made for rentals should be kept safely and all payments w.r.t. rentals should be made through bank only. All documents related to renting of the apartment may be kept safely. Photos of the premises may be taken before taking possession. Landlords may charge for repairs/wear and tears before the premises is handed over to them.

9. **Emergency numbers**

For all emergencies – 112

Police: 997

Fire: 998

Ambulance: 999

Embassy of India: +48-606700105 (email: cons.warsaw@mea.gov.in)

10. Registration with the Indian Embassy

All Indian students should please register with Indian Embassy immediately on arrival in Poland. Links for registration are as follows:

<http://www.indianembassywarsaw.in/register.php>

Indian students may also register at:

https://portal2.madad.gov.in/AppConsular/user/RegistrationBaseAction?request_locale=en&userType=Student
