

Education in Poland starts at the age of six (or seven) years in primary school (in Polish *szkola podstawowa*). Next is the lower secondary level consisting of three years in gymnasium (*gimnazjum*), starting at the age of 13, ending with an exam. This is followed by upper secondary level, which has several alternatives, the most common being the three years in a *liceum* or four years in a *technikum*. Both end with a maturity examination (*matura*, roughly equivalent to British A-levels examination and quite similar to French baccalauréat), and may be followed by several forms of upper education, leading to *licencjat* or *inżynier* (Polish equivalents of *Bachelor's degree*), *magister* (Polish equivalent of *Master's degree*) and eventually *doktor* (Polish equivalent of *Ph. D. degree*).

Pre-primary education (0 grade is obligatory for children at the age of 6 years old)

Primary school (lasts for 6 years). Age level from 7 to 13

Gymnasium – lower secondary level (lasts for 3 years). Age level from 13 to 16

Upper secondary level (*liceum* lasts or 3 years ; *technikum* lasts for 4 years). Age level for *technikum* is from 16 to 20. Age level for *liceum* is from 16 to 19.

University education (3 years of study for *licencjat* or *inżynier*; 2 years more for *Master's degree*)

Grades

- 1 (*niedostateczny, insufficient*)
- 2 (initially *mierna, poor*, later renamed *dopuszczający, passing*)
- 3 (*dostateczny, sufficient*)
- 4 (*dobry, good*)
- 5 (*bardzo dobry, very good*)
- 6 (*celujący, excellent*)

Foreign languages

Students in Polish schools typically learn one or two foreign languages at schools.

English - 65.9%

German - 33.3%

French - 13.3%

Spanish - 10.2%

Russian - 6.1%

Italian - 4.3%

Latin - 0.6%

Others - 0.1%

Detailed information about studies after graduating from secondary education.

Young people can choose between post – secondary studies (non – university level) or university level studies.

Non-university level:

Non-university level education in Poland is provided by *szkoły policealne* and *szkoły pomaturalne*. The *szkoły policealne* train students in a variety of vocational fields. The graduates obtain the *świadectwo ukończenia szkoły policealnej* (certificate of completion of education in post-secondary school), and can then take a vocational examination and obtain the *dplom uzyskania tytułu zawodowego* (vocational title diploma). The vocational training in this type of schools lasts between 1 and 2.5 years, depending on the field of studies. The *szkoły pomaturalne* train only nurses and midwives, and the graduates are awarded the *dplom ukończenia szkoły pomaturalnej* (diploma of completion of education in the post-secondary school). The duration of education is 2.5 years. Since 1999 the training of nurses and midwives is organized as higher studies.

University level studies:

University level first stage:

First level studies are organized both by university-type higher education institutions and the institutions of higher professional education (*wyższe szkoły zawodowe*). The graduates are awarded the professional title of *licencjat* (after 3 years of study) or *inżynier* (after 3.4 or 5 years of study) following a thesis or diploma project. Until 2004, they obtained the *dplom ukończenia studiów wyższych* (diploma of completion of higher studies). Since 2005 the name of the qualification awarded is *dplom ukończenia wyższych studiów zawodowych* (diploma of completion of higher professional studies). The graduates can continue their education at university-type institutions and non-university-type institutions in complementary courses of the second level and obtain the title of *magister* or equivalent. The professional title of *licencjat* has been awarded since 1992. Additionally, since 2005 the title of *licencjat położnictwa* is awarded to graduates of higher professional studies in midwifery and the title of *licencjat pielęgniarstwa* in nursing. The graduates of higher professional studies in architecture are awarded the title of *inżynier architekt*. Military schools and the School of Police award the title of *oficer dyplomowany* to the graduates of first level studies. The Main School of Fire Service grants them the title of *inżynier pożarnictwa*.

University level second stage:

The studies of the second stage are organized in the university-type and non-university-type higher education institutions as uniform studies lasting for 5-6 years or as complementary studies lasting for 1.5 - 2 years. They are offered to holders of the professional titles of *licencjat* or *inżynier* or equivalent. The graduates are awarded the title of magister or one of its equivalents after submitting and defending a thesis or a diploma project (with the exception of studies in medicine). Until 2004, the graduates of magister-level courses obtained the *dyplom ukończenia studiów wyższych* (diploma of completion of higher studies). Since 2005, the graduates of uniform magister-level studies obtain the *dyplom jednolitych studiów magisterskich* (diploma of completion of uniform master-level studies) and the graduates of complementary magister-level courses obtain the *dyplom ukończenia uzupełniających studiów magisterskich* (diploma of completion of complementary magister-level studies). The holders of the title of magister or its equivalent may continue their education at postgraduate level. The professional titles that are equivalent to the title of magister are awarded by different kinds of second level higher education after studies usually lasting for 5 years.

University level third stage:

The academic degree of doktor can be obtained in two ways: by students of third level (postgraduate) studies that usually last for 3-4 years, or by persons who combine their professional work with academic research and the elaboration of a dissertation. All candidates must hold the professional title of magister or equivalent. To be awarded the degree of doktor, the candidate must submit and successfully defend a doctoral dissertation that is assessed positively by two supervisors and pass doctorate examinations. The degree of doktor can be conferred either by higher education institutions or by research institutes entitled to award it. Since March 2003, the name of the qualification awarded as an equivalent to the degree of doktor in artistic disciplines is *doktor sztuki* (former name: *kwalfikacje pierwszego stopnia*).

University level fourth stage: Doktor habilitowany:

The degree of *doktor habilitowany* is awarded to candidates who already hold the degree of doktor. It can be obtained either by academic staff of higher education institutions and research units, or by persons who combine their research work with other professional activities. To be awarded the academic degree of *doktor habilitowany* the candidate must: have remarkable scientific or artistic achievements; submit a habilitation dissertation which contributes to the development of a given scientific discipline; receive a favourable assessment of his/her dissertation from three supervisors; pass a habilitation examination and deliver a favourably assessed habilitation lecture. Since March 2003, the name of the qualification awarded in artistic disciplines as an equivalent to the degree of *doktor habilitowany* is *doktor habilitowany sztuki* (former name: *kwalfikacje drugiego stopnia*). The holders of the *doktor habilitowany* degree are eligible for the academic post of professor at higher education institutions and can be awarded the academic title of *profesor* conferred by the President of the Republic of Poland.