

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION
IN THE
Poland My First Choice NAWA PROGRAMME
No 14 of 5 May 2023**

I. SCOPE OF THE CALL

Pursuant to Article 19(1) of the Act of 7 July 2017 on the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange, the Director of the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange hereby announces a call for applications for participation in the **Poland My First Choice NAWA Programme** (hereinafter the “Programme”).

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAMME

2.1. Programme objective

The objective of the Programme is to encourage young people from developed countries to pursue education at Polish university-type higher education institutions¹ by means of offering scholarships for second-cycle studies.

The scholarship offer is addressed to the citizens of the following countries and territories: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Spain, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macau, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, UK, Uruguay, USA.

2.2. Eligible Applicants

Eligible to apply for the scholarship are foreigners who, at the time of the call, meet all of the following conditions:

1. they are citizens of one of the following countries and territories: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Spain, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macau, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, UK, Uruguay, USA.
2. they are not Polish citizens and have not applied for Polish citizenship;
3. at the time of submitting an application for participation in the Programme, they are enrolled in first-cycle studies in a country covered by the Programme or obtained a first-

¹ In accordance with Article 14(1) of the Act of 20 July 2018 The Law on Higher Education and Science, a higher education institution shall be a university-type higher education institution if it conducts scientific activity and has scientific category A+, A or B+ in at least 1 scientific or artistic discipline.

cycle studies graduation diploma in a country covered by the Programme not earlier than in 2021;²

4. they are planning to take up full-time second-cycle studies in the academic year 2023/24;
5. they have proven command of:
 - a) Polish at level B1 or higher, if they are planning to take up second-cycle studies in Polish;
 - or
 - b) English at level B2 or higher, if they are planning to take up second-cycle studies in English.

2.3. Thematic areas of activities carried out under the Programme

The Programme makes it possible to obtain a scholarship from the NAWA Director to take up full-time second-cycle studies in Poland at university-type higher education institutions (HEIs) supervised by the Minister for Education and Science. Moreover, the Programme enables free education at public universities.

The list of university-type HEIs supervised by the Minister for Education and Science constitutes Attachment 2 to the Announcement.

The Applicant chooses the study programme and the language of education based on the offer of the HEIs listed in Attachment 2 to the Announcement. Information about studying in Poland can be found at <https://study.gov.pl/>. Information about study programmes (the offer of Polish universities) is available at: <https://studia.gov.pl/wybierz-studia>.

NAWA does not act as intermediary in the Applicants' admission process at the HEIs. The Applicants participate in the admission process at the university-type HEIs of their choice on their own and independently of the application for participation in the Programme. The Applicants should learn about the admission requirements, including requirements regarding the command of Polish and the rules of holding potential language exams.

2.4. Deadline and other requirements for submitting the application

Deadline for submitting applications	The call for applications will be open until 15 June 2023, 3 pm local time (Warsaw)
Form of submitting the application	Exclusively in electronic form via the Agency's ICT system, <u>//FILL IN THE APPLICATION//</u>
Language of the application	The application should be drafted in Polish or English
The maximum number of applications which may be submitted by the Applicant	Maximum 1 application

² First-cycle studies must be completed within a time limit that enables the Applicant to take up second-cycle studies in the academic year 2023/24.

2.5. Time frame for the implementation of studies

Date of commencement and length of the studies	The implementation of the scholarship must commence in the academic year 2023/2024 in that the Scholarship Holder takes up full-time second-cycle studies.
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2.6. Submitting the Application

List of required attachments to the application:

1. **scan of the passport page with the Applicant's personal data;**³ for citizens of the European Union, a scan of the identity document is acceptable;
2. **scan of a first-cycle studies graduation diploma** obtained in a country covered by the Programme not earlier than in 2021, **including the transcript of records** (a list of all courses completed including grades).⁴

Applicants who, at the time of submitting the application, are enrolled in the final year of first-cycle studies as well as Applicants who, at the time of submitting the application, have not yet received a first-cycle studies graduation diploma submit a scan of a certificate issued by the university containing:

- 1) full name of the Applicant,
- 2) name of the university issuing the certificate,
- 3) name of the first-cycle study programme,
- 4) (planned) date of completing first-cycle studies,
- 5) grade point average and transcript of records,
- 6) seal of the university issuing the certificate.

A model certificate constitutes Attachment 4 to the Announcement.

3. **scan of a document attesting command of the language in which the Applicant intends to study in Poland.**

If the chosen study programme is taught in Polish: scan of a document attesting command of Polish at the required level (i.e. at least B1), e.g.:

- language certificate, or
- certificate/diploma or other documents attesting graduation from a secondary school or first-cycle studies taught in Polish, or
- certificate of completion of a Polish language course.

If the chosen study programme is taught in English:

- scan of a certificate attesting command of English at level B2 or higher, valid as on the day of submitting the application (list of acknowledged certificates constitutes

³ The scan should be made in such a way that only the following data is visible: first name, last name, date of birth, photograph, document expiry date, document number, country of issue of the document. Attachment of a document without having edited out data will be treated as consent for the processing of that piece of personal data and for storing the data in the NAWA data base.

⁴ If a two-cycle study system is not common in the candidate's country of origin or study, a scan of a Master's degree or equivalent, obtained in a country covered by the Programme no earlier than in 2021, together with a transcript of records, is acceptable.

Attachment 3 to the Announcement), or

- scan of a document attesting graduation from first-cycle studies taught in English. Citizens of countries covered by the Programme where English is an official language do not have to submit a document attesting to the command of English.

4. **cover letter** (up to three A4 pages) in Polish or in English including, among others: description of interests, reasons for the choice of the study programme and university in Poland, description of the subject area of the planned Master's thesis, description of the expected impact of the stay in Poland on the Applicant's further academic/scholarly/professional development,
5. **optional: scans of documents attesting to the Applicant's special achievements.**

If the Attachments are in a language other than Polish or English, it is required to attach translations into Polish or English. Acceptable translations are such made by a sworn translator or certified by a Polish diplomatic or consular post or made by a Polish language teacher or a regular translator and certified with the seal of a translator.

2.7. Procedure for the assessment and selection of applications for financing

General assumptions	Applications will be subject to formal and merit-based assessment.
Formal assessment	The purpose of formal assessment is to verify the applications to ensure that they meet the formal criteria specified in this Announcement.
Merit-based assessment	The purpose of merit-based assessment is to verify the applications to ensure that they meet the qualitative criteria specified in Announcement.

The merit-based assessment of applications under the Programme is carried out by the Evaluation Team on the basis of the content of the applications and attachments as well as results of potential interviews with the Applicants. The Evaluation Team reserves the right to invite to interviews selected Applicants who have obtained the best results for criterion 1.

	Criterion	Maximum score
1.	Grade point average in first-cycle studies based on graduation diploma or grade point average certificate.	0-60
2.	Coherence of the planned learning pathway (based on the cover letter and other documents attesting to academic achievements, publications, awards), including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - goals set by the Applicant, academic interests, activity related to the chosen study programme so far, - reasons for the choice of the study programme and the university in Poland, - subject area of the Master's thesis or research, - expected impact of the studies and participation in the Programme on the Applicant's further academic, scholarly, or professional development, 	0-40

	- special achievements attested by appropriate documents.	
	In total:	0-100
	Maximum score:	100

The Evaluation Team carries out merit-based assessment on the basis of the content of the applications and attachments as well as results of potential interviews with the Applicants. The Evaluation Team reserves the right to invite to interviews selected Applicants who have obtained the best results for criterion 1. If an Applicant receives no invitation to an interview, it does not mean a negative result of merit-based assessment.

The Evaluation Team grants points for grade point average in reference to the Polish grading system following the below guidelines:

GPA	Score
up to 3.54	0
3.55-3.94	20
3.95-4.54	30
4.55-4.74	45
4.75 and more	60

Grade point average obtained in countries with different grading systems from Poland will be converted to the Polish scale on the basis of the inter-country grade conversion system. In the case of doubts related to the grading scale in a given country, interpretation of the grade point average or impossibility of its conversion, the Evaluation Team may rely on the opinion of external experts or Polish diplomatic missions.

Applicants who score 0 points for criterion 1 (arithmetic mean of the first-cycle studies grades) will not be assessed regarding to criterion 2 and will be granted a total of 0 points in the entire merit-based assessment.

The condition for the Applicant to receive a positive merit-based assessment is to obtain a total of at least **60 points**, including at least 20 points for criterion 1 and at least 20 points for criterion 2.

Applicants who score fewer than 60 points or fewer than 20 points for criterion 1 or fewer than 20 points for criterion 2 will obtain a negative merit-based assessment and may not receive funds under the Programme.

Funds under the Programme are awarded on the basis of the result of merit-based assessment, i.e. scholarships under the Programme will be granted to Applicants who obtain the highest score in merit-based assessment.

2.8. Project budget

The Scholarship of the Director of the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange covers:

1. monthly scholarship during the regular period of study,
2. exemption from education fees **at public HEIs**.

The financial terms and conditions of education at non-public HEIs supervised by the Minister of Education and Science are determined by the HEIs. The issue of payment for studies should in such

cases be settled individually between the Scholarship Holder and the relevant non-public HEI. The matter of education fee exemptions rests with the non-public HEI.

The scholarship is paid during the regular period of education for a **maximum of 12 months** per academic year, starting from the first month of classes at the HEI. The scholarship amounts to **PLN 2,000 per month**.

In the case of a documented fortuitous event, the Agency Director may increase the scholarship by PLN 500 on a one-off basis at the written request of the Scholarship Holder.

The NAWA Director's scholarship is paid through the HEI at which the Scholarship Holder is studying (not applicable to the payment of the emergency allowance).

2.9. Amount of funds available under the call for applications

Total amount of funds allocated for the call is approx. PLN 1,680,000, including approx. PLN 210,000 for scholarships paid in 2023. The Agency reserves the right to change the allocation of funds.

2.10. Additional information

The Scholarship Holder is obliged to submit an annual report on the completion of education in the given academic year by 31 October of each academic year.

The first report should be submitted after the completion of the first year of studies under the Programme. Scholarship Holders who begin their studies in the summer semester submit their first report after that first semester.

2.11. Planned date of announcing the results of the Call

The results of the Call will be announced by 31 August 2023.

2.12. Source of Programme funding

State budget

III. ATTACHMENTS

1. REGULATIONS OF THE POLISH NATIONAL AGENCY FOR ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES Programmes for natural persons taking up education of 15 February 2023,
2. List of university-type higher education institutions,
3. List of acknowledged English language certificates,
4. Model certificate.

IV. CONTACT WITH THE AGENCY

For additional information, please contact us (working days, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm):

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