

## THINKING OF COMING TO POZNAN ?

Here you will find a few useful tips concerning residence permission, healthcare, education and transport.

### RESIDENCE

**EU citizens** and their family members, who are not EU citizens, can stay in Poland for up to three months without having to meet any of the conditions of residence, other than possessing valid travel document. An EU citizen may possess other valid document confirming his/her identity and citizenship. If the residence in the territory of the Republic of Poland lasts longer than three months, an EU citizen and a member of his family who are nationals of the EU are required to register their stay,.

The citizens of many **non-EU** countries are required to obtain a Polish visa in order to enter and remain in Poland. Polish consular services abroad are responsible for issuing visas.

A foreigner may request different types of visas:

- Air Transit Visa (A): an "A" visa allows a foreigner to pass through the airport of one or more Schengen Area countries;
- Schengen Visa (C) A "C" visa allows a foreigner to remain in the Schengen Area for up to 90 days within a period of 180 days. The period is calculated from the first entry;
- Individual Country Visa (D) A "D" visa allows a foreigner to enter a single country and stay within its borders for up to one year. The validity of such a visa depends on the purpose of travel.

Visas are issued by Polish consulates. If a foreigner intends to stay in Poland for longer than the authorized period of stay, he should apply for another visa or residence permit at a Polish consulate abroad.

Foreigners who intend to legalize their stay in Poland, pursuant to starting or continuing work in Poland, should apply for a temporary residence and work permit. The decision on granting temporary residence and work permit contains information about the foreigner's employer, the position in which the foreigner will be employed, the minimum remuneration that the foreigner may receive for the given position, working time and the type of contract, pursuant to which the foreigner will be employed.

A document confirming the identity of a foreigner during his/her stay in Poland is a residence card. This document, together with a passport within its validity period, confirms the right to stay in Poland and entitles the foreigner to cross the Polish national border multiple times without the need to have a visa.

**See more at:**

<http://www.migrant.info.pl/residence-in-poland-regulations-applicable-after01052014.html>

<https://udsc.gov.pl/en/>

<https://www.poznan.uw.gov.pl/en/general-information>

<https://cudzoziemcy.gov.pl/en/>

## HEALTHCARE

A resident of Poland may receive public medical assistance or opt for private medical care and pay fees for healthcare services provided.

If a person wants to enjoy free public health care services, insurance with the **National Health Fund (NFZ)** is necessary. A holder of NFZ insurance may also use the services of private medical facilities, but such a facility must have a signed contract with the NFZ.

All those employed in Poland, including foreigners, are obliged to possess health insurance. This means that every month a contribution is paid on their behalf (usually done by their employer) to the NFZ. Immediate family members of the insured person may also benefit from free medical assistance after proper registration with the NFZ, if they are not insured under a different title.

If a person (including a foreigner) is not insured in the NFZ, he can also benefit from health care services upon payment of a fee. If such a person has an insurance policy taken out in a private company, that insurance company covers the costs of healthcare. In many private medical facilities it is possible to purchase a subscription, or pay a monthly facility-specific fee, which covers a package of specific medical services. Prices vary depending on the institution and the services covered. Detailed information can be obtained directly from the individual private insurance companies.

Foreigners residing in Poland on the basis of a visa cannot, in principle, benefit from free public healthcare services.

Average costs of private health services in Poznan, in PLN, as of November 2018:

General practitioner appointment – PLN 70 – 100

Medical specialist appointment – PLN 120 - 200

Dentist – PLN 100 – 200

**See more at:**

<http://www.migrant.info.pl/Zdrowie.html>

<http://lang.zus.pl/en/about-zus/types-of-social-insurance-and-principles-of-subjection-to-these-insurances-within-zus>

<http://nfz.gov.pl/dla-pacjenta/zalaw-spraw-krok-po-kroku/jak-ubezpieczyc-sie-dobrowolnie/>

<https://www.gov.pl/web/zdrowie/finansowanie-leczenia-cudzoziemcow-w-polsce>

## EDUCATION

Every child between the ages of 7 and 18 living in Poland is subject to compulsory education, i.e. he or she must attend school under pain of sanctions against the parents. This obligation also applies to children who do not possess Polish citizenship, regardless of the migration status of their parents in Poland.

Compulsory education starts in the year in which the child turns 7 years old. In that year the child must begin education in the first grade of primary school, even if on the first day of the school year, they have not yet turned 7. Failure to fulfill this obligation may result in the parents being placed under investigation, the imposition of a fine or - in extreme cases – deprivation of their parental rights.

The Polish school system is divided into the following stages:

- kindergarten (for children 3-5/6 years of age);
- primary school (8 years; for children 6/7- 14/15 years of age);
- secondary school (different types, education lasts 3 or 4 years depending on the type of school).

Education in public schools is free of charge (also for foreign children), in private schools and association schools it is paid (as a rule). A child's stay in a public kindergarten is partially paid - the rules vary depending on location, since they are set by local governments.

The school year begins in Poland on 1 September and ends on the last Friday in June the following year. Lessons are held in schools for five days a week, Monday through Friday. Weekends (Saturday and Sunday) are free for the children.

The school year is divided into two semesters. The first semester ends in January. The second term ends in June and this is also the end of the school year. Grades given out for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester are also the final grades for the given year/form, and shall be entered on the school certificate - the document certifying that the child has completed education at a given form level.

**See more at:**

<http://www.migrant.info.pl/Edukacja.html>

<http://www.migrant.info.pl/Studia.html>

<https://www.gov.pl/web/edukacja/warunki-podejmowania-nauki-przez-cudzoziemcow-w-polskich-szkolach>

<https://www.gov.pl/web/edukacja/nauka-dzieci-przybywajacych-z-zagranicy-w-polskim-systemie-edukacji>

<https://www.ore.edu.pl/2015/09/cudzoziemcy-w-polskiej-szkole/>

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

Poznań, like most other large Polish cities, enjoys a good public transportation system consisting of busses and trams.

Public transport in the city of Poznań is organized by Zarząd Transportu Miejskiego (ZTM) - Urban Transport Authority. Trams are the core of the system - most of lines go with a frequency of 10 minutes. Bus lines play a complementary role to the tram network. This solution encourages passengers to change, offering high frequency connections with changes, instead of low frequency direct connections. It also makes the network less extensive and complicated to passengers.

Public transport passengers can choose from a variety of single-use (paper) tickets, among which we can distinguish:

- time tickets up to 10 minutes (PLN 3) or up to 40 minutes (PLN 4.6),
- single-journey ticket (PLN 4.6),
- short-term tickets: 24-hour (1 day) ticket, 48-hour (2-days) ticket, 72-hour (3-days) ticket, 7-days ticket.

It is worth keeping in mind that PhD students below 35 years of age are entitled to a 50% discount, based on a valid student ID.

If you are planning to use public transportation in Poznan frequently, you may purchase your tickets in the form of an electronic card (the PEKA Card). The card can be obtained and charged (for the first time) at designated ZTM sale points. Your first card is free. Moreover, using tPurse on the PEKA Card is cheaper than paper tickets - your fare depends on the number of stops travelled. It is worth mentioning, that also season tickets can be bought only on the PEKA Card. Season tickets are valid in any chosen area and for the selected number of days – from 14 to 366 (network tickets) and from 14 to 90 days (route tickets).

A popular transport solution is Poznań City Bike, which offers over 100 locations across Poznań. Using the bicycles for up to 20 minutes is free and the fee for the time between 20 and 60 minutes amounts to PLN 2 (for every next hour – PLN 4) . To be able to use the bikes you must register online first.

**See also at:**

<https://jakdojade.pl/poznan/trasa/>

<https://www.ztm.poznan.pl/en/>

<https://www.peka.poznan.pl/en/web/portal/peka>

<http://bustramwajkolej.pl/>



Poznan Main Station, source: [RDcorp](#) at [Pixabay](#)