



Ambasáid na hÉireann | An Pholainn
Embassy of Ireland | Poland
Ambasada Irlandii | Polska

Guide for Irish Students in Poland

The Embassy can be contacted during office hours on +48 22 564 2200.

In case of an emergency out-of-hours, you can call the same number and follow recorded instructions to reach the Officer on Duty.



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Welcome

The [Embassy of Ireland](#) is delighted to see growing numbers of Irish students enrolling at universities in Poland. You are part of the strong and excellent relationship between Ireland and Poland. There are approximately 2,000 Irish people living in Poland, around 100,000 of Polish people living in Ireland and, with direct flights from Ireland to 11 Polish cities, there is very good connectivity between both countries.

While you are in Poland, you are a welcome member of the Irish community and we are here to support you during your stay should the need arise.

Register

Registration with the Embassy [online](#) means that we have a record of your details. This information will allow us to contact you and provide assistance, if necessary and possible, if there is an unforeseen crisis such as a natural disaster or civil unrest, or if you have a family emergency while you are overseas. Through registration, we can include you in our contingency planning in the event of a crisis or an emergency situation.

Newsletter

If you wish to stay informed about Irish-related news and events happening in Poland, we encourage you to sign up to our mailing list. We issue a newsletter once every few months. You can indicate this during registration above, or you can contact the Embassy directly at warsawembassy@dfa.ie.

Where to find us

Embassy of Ireland

Ul. Mysia 5 (Sixth Floor)

00-496 Warsaw

Phone: +48 22 564 22 00

Email: warsawembassy@dfa.ie; Web: www.ireland.ie/poland

Facebook: [@AmbasadaIrlandii](#)

Twitter: [@IrlEmbWarsaw](#)

Honorary Consulate of Ireland – Poznań ul.

ul. Fredry 7, lok. 48 (Masztalarnia)

61-701 Poznań

Poland

Tel: +48 501 432 144

Email: konsulat@irlandia.pl



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What can the Embassy do for you?

Poland is a safe country, where Irish visitors and residents generally have a safe and enjoyable experience. However, if something goes wrong, the Embassy is here to help you.

Your trust is very important to us and we will treat you in a **strictly confidential** manner. We will not share information about your situation without your consent.

The support offered by us is **non-judgmental** and is built around your needs. We will share with you any information received regarding your case, and we commit to being fully transparent in our actions.

We can be contacted during office hours on **+48 22 564 2200** or by email at warsawembassy@dfa.ie. In case of a genuine out-of-hours emergency, you can call the same number and follow the instructions to reach the Officer on Duty.

You can find our Consular Charter and learn more about what we do [here](#) and see all our latest activities [here](#).



Consular Assistance Charter



An Roinn Gnóthai Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

The Department of Foreign Affairs provides consular assistance to Irish citizens in difficulty abroad through its network of Embassies and Consulates, and through the Consular Directorate in Ireland.

We are committed to being responsive, professional and supportive in our contact, and handle all cases confidentially.

Know Before You Go

- ▶ Follow the Department's **Travel Advice**
- ▶ Check that your **passport** is valid and also bring your **passport card** where accepted
- ▶ Purchase comprehensive **travel insurance**
- ▶ Bring your **European Health Insurance Card** when travelling in Europe
- ▶ Have a valid **visa** where required
- ▶ Before you go, register on the Department's **Citizens Registration** platform
- ▶ Check what vaccinations are recommended for your trip
- ▶ Share your travel plans with family and friends

We Can

- ✓ Offer you practical advice and assistance in the case of a death, serious injury, detention, or other emergency abroad
- ✓ Issue you with a temporary travel document in emergency circumstances
- ✓ Provide you with information on local legal and medical supports
- ✓ Advise you on relevant local practices, and on organisations and services which may be able to provide you with additional assistance
- ✓ Make contact with your family or friends on your behalf
- ✓ Provide assistance in the event of an emergency/crisis overseas

We Cannot

- ✗ Provide you with legal advice, legally represent you or intervene in the judicial processes of another country. You should be aware that laws and practices across the world can differ greatly
- ✗ Influence the visa or immigration decisions of other countries
- ✗ Give you medical advice or pay for your medical bills
- ✗ Intervene in commercial or insurance matters or disputes
- ✗ Provide financial support



Passports

Your passport is an important document and should always be kept safe.

We recommend that you keep electronic and paper copies of your passport, and other necessary documents, safe but accessible to you while away (e.g. with a family member at home). A useful idea is to email yourself a scan or picture of your passport and important documents, so that you can access them wherever you are.

Passport Card

The wallet-sized Passport Card can be used for travel within the EU as well as the UK, Switzerland, Norway and Iceland. You can apply online if you are over 18 years old and already hold a valid Irish passport. The Passport Card can be sent to your address in Poland. Apply online here: www.ireland.ie/passportonline

Did you know?

Under Polish law, if asked by Polish police, you must verify your identity by presenting photo ID. We do not advise you to carry your passport with you unless absolutely necessary so you should carry another form of photo ID such as a driving licence or a Passport Card. The Passport Card fits easily into a wallet and is ideal for carrying with you at all times.





Applying for a new or renewed passport

Irish passports can be renewed online from anywhere in the world through the [Passport Online](#) service.

All you need to renew online is your current passport, a digital photograph, an email address and a credit/debit card. The Passport Book or Passport Card will be sent to your address in Poland by registered post.

You can also replace a lost or stolen passport through the Passport Online service. We will cancel your missing passport automatically.

All Irish citizens, both adults and children, can also apply for a first-time passport online if they are resident in the EU. More information can be found [here](#).

Lost/Stolen Passport

If your passport is lost or stolen and you have urgent travel plans, you will need to come to the Embassy in Warsaw so that we can issue you:

- An emergency travel document valid for one journey to enable you to return home, or,
- In certain circumstances, a temporary replacement passport valid for a limited period of time.

Report theft to police

You will need to report to police that your passport was stolen. The police should issue a report confirming the details of this theft, which we ask you to provide at the Embassy.

Proof of travel

You will need to provide proof of travel i.e. a copy of an airline ticket/boarding pass. An emergency travel document cannot be issued without this.

Get passport photographs

You will need 2 passport photographs. You can often find photo booths at train stations and in most large shopping centres. Most photographers also offer this service.

Photo ID

For an emergency travel document, you should bring any other forms of photo ID.



Additional documentation required for a Temporary Passport

For a temporary passport, you will need additional documents:

- Your original long form birth certificate
- Photo identification, such as your driver's licence
- Two separate original documents showing proof of your name and address in Poland, such as college registration correspondence, a utility bill or a bank statement
- A completed and witnessed passport application form

Cost

The cost of an emergency travel document or a temporary passport is €30 / 140 PLN. This is in addition to the cost of a full replacement passport. There is an additional out-of-hours fee of €50 / 240 PLN applicable in the exceptional case where ETC needs to be issued outside of office hours. In general, a temporary passport is not issued outside of normal office hours.



Travel Advice

The Department of Foreign Affairs provides clear, reliable and up-to-date [travel advice for Poland](#) and the rest of the world. This can be accessed on the Department's [website](#).

This travel advice includes an *Overview* section, where the latest rules on travelling to and from Poland can be found, as well as sections on *Safety and Security* and *Local Laws and Customs* in Poland.

Medical Matters

112 is the all-service emergency number in Poland for ambulance, fire brigade and police

Medical insurance

Buying comprehensive medical insurance can save you and your family a lot of money if something goes wrong. It will also ensure that you get the medical attention you need. Hospital bills can quickly run into thousands of euro, and a medical evacuation back to Ireland can cost thousands more.

EHIC

The European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) makes it easier for people from the EU, EEA and Switzerland to access health and medical care services if you become ill or injured during temporary visits abroad.

Students abroad are regarded as retaining their habitual residence in their home State and are treated as “staying” in the country of study. As you are considered an Irish resident, you are entitled to get healthcare through the public system in Poland. Your card is valid for four years, so check that it is still in date. You can apply for an EHIC card through your [local health office](#) in Ireland. The EHIC does not cover repatriation costs. You can find more information about the EHIC card [here](#).

What the Embassy can do

If you become ill or need hospital treatment while in Poland, we can help you to deal with the situation:

- We can contact your family, friends or designated emergency contact in Ireland.
- We can help you to find English-speaking local doctors, medical facilities, air ambulance companies and English-language translators and interpreters.
- We can communicate with medical personnel or hospital authorities. However, we do not provide medical interpretation or medical translations.



Looking after your Wellbeing

Although rewarding, enriching and exciting, sometimes the experience of living away from home can also be psychologically or emotionally challenging. There are a number of resources that promote mental wellness available online that can be accessed in English. These include:

WellnessWorkshop.ie - an online wellness workshop that shares practical tools to help you maintain your wellness when you are feeling good and improve your wellness during difficult times.

YourMentalHealth.ie - a place to learn about mental health, how to support yourself and the people you love.

MyMind.ie - online counselling and psychotherapy services with fees are based upon employment status, offering students affordable services.

The Samaritans - a safe place for you to chat any time you like, in your own way – about whatever's getting to you. You don't have to be suicidal. You can call the Samaritans in Ireland **for free** from Poland using the following freephone number: (+48) 800 012 274.



Legal Issues

Registration of residence in Poland

Irish citizens, as EU nationals, have the right to live, work and travel in Poland freely for periods of up to three months without having to register with the Polish authorities.

However, Irish citizens who plan to spend an extended period in Poland – more than 90 days – are obliged to register with the local voivode office (Urząd Wojewódzki) and have a *Certificate of registration of residence of a European Union citizen* issued. This also includes Irish students in Poland.

When requesting this certificate, you will be asked to present documentation showing evidence that you are working, studying or training in Poland or that you have sufficient economic resources to maintain yourself and any dependants. Contact your local voivode office for further details. You can find full details on the procedure [here](#).

Upon registration, you should also receive a PESEL number. This is an individual identification number that will help you in your engagements with Polish authorities. More information on obtaining this number can be found [here](#).

Alcohol

It is against the law to consume alcohol in public places in Poland and fines may be imposed.

Public drunkenness (i.e. in the streets, on public transport, etc.) may be dealt with very severely by the Polish authorities, who have the right to detain people overnight in detoxification centres. If you are detained overnight in a detoxification centre, you must pay for the cost of the stay.

The drink-drive limit in Poland is 20 milligrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood, which is lower than in Ireland (50 milligrammes).

Missing Persons

If you suspect that a friend has gone missing, the Embassy can offer you advice and practical help on what you can do.

Your first action in any case where you believe a person to be missing is to contact your local police station and file a missing person's report.

You can report a missing person at any time. Contrary to popular belief, there is not a certain length of time before a person can be reported missing. In fact, the sooner you act, the better.



Arrest and Detention

If you are arrested in Poland, you have the right to contact the Embassy for help and advice.

Our staff can offer non-judgmental advice and practical help, regardless of the alleged offence and no matter whether you are innocent or found guilty.

What the Embassy can do:

- We can arrange for your family or friends to be informed of your detention and help you to keep in contact with them, if you wish.
- We can give you a list of local English-speaking lawyers.
- We can alert the relevant authorities to any concerns you may have about your safety and treatment, including any health concerns.

The Embassy cannot get you out of prison, pay fines or give the authorities guarantees on your behalf. We also cannot offer legal advice or interfere in any way in the judicial process.



Safety and Security

Reporting a crime

If you are a victim of a crime, report it to the local police immediately. You can contact the Embassy if you require assistance.

What the Embassy can do:

- We can help you to find local, English-speaking legal and medical practitioners.
- We can assist you to deal with the police.
- We can get in touch with family and friends and help make arrangements to get you home, if that's what you want.

The Embassy cannot give you legal or medical advice, we cannot provide formal interpretations or translations, and we cannot book or pay for flights on your behalf.

Stay Safe on Nights Out

Like at home, you should take steps to ensure that nights out are safe as well as enjoyable.

Do not leave drinks or food unattended and beware of accepting drinks from strangers or recent acquaintances. There have been a small number of reports of drinks being spiked in bars and nightclubs in Poland.

Be careful using debit or credit cards in bars and nightclubs. There have been reports of large amounts of money being taken from bank cards in some bars and nightclubs in Poland. Check your bill carefully and if you have any concerns about the establishment, consider paying in cash. Report any suspicious activity on your bank account immediately to your bank and to police.

Driving in Poland

If you have a valid driving license in Ireland, this will be accepted in Poland. Please note, however, that driving in Poland can be quite different from driving at home. If you plan to drive in Poland, we encourage you to familiarise yourself with the rules in place on Polish roads in advance.

Sexual Assault

Anybody, regardless of age, gender or circumstances, may be the target of a sexual assault. Most sexual assaults are committed by someone known to the victim.



If you are the victim of a sexual assault, the Embassy is there to help. Anything you tell us is kept in confidence and we make absolutely no judgements about you or your situation. The Embassy has male and female staff – you can ask to speak to a male/female if you wish.

Seek Medical Treatment Immediately

If you or someone you know have been sexually assaulted, it is very important to seek medical attention as soon as possible after the assault.

The Embassy can help you to deal with medical authorities.

Reporting Sexual Assault

The decision on whether to report the crime to police is for you to take, but you should be aware that a delay in doing so may hamper the collection of forensic and other evidence.

The Embassy can help you to deal with police and put you in touch with a local, English speaking lawyer.

Remember: Our staff will never make judgements about you or your situation, and anything you tell us will be kept in the strictest confidence.

Dublin Rape Crisis Centre

The Dublin Rape Crisis Centre provides counselling for people who have experienced rape or sexual assault.

In Ireland, the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre provides a National 24-Hour Sexual Violence Helpline: 1800 778 888.

Outside of Ireland, the Rape Crisis Centre can be contacted on +353 1 6614911 between 8am and 7pm Monday to Friday, and 9am – 4pm Saturday.



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Crisis Situations

Poland is a safe country. However, in the case of a major crisis such as a natural disaster, epidemic, you should:

- ✓ Follow the instructions of Polish authorities.
- ✓ Call home. Let your family know that you are safe and stay in regular contact with them.
- ✓ Follow the Embassy's Twitter account for up-to-date advice: [@IrEmbWarsaw](https://twitter.com/IrEmbWarsaw)
- ✓ Make sure you are registered with the Embassy:
<https://www.ireland.ie/en/dfa/overseas-travel/citizens-registration/>
- ✓ Call the Embassy at **0048 22 5642200** or send us an email at warsawembassy@dfa.ie if you have specific concerns.



Irish Organisations in Poland

There are several Irish organisations in Poland which you might be interested in. Find out more about them below:



The Irish Polish Chamber of Commerce promotes and develops Irish-Polish trade and investment and arranges business networking events.

www.irishpolish.pl



Cumann Warszawa is the Gaelic Football Club in Poland. If you are interested in playing, please contact:

www.europegaa.eu/eu-clubs/warszawa



The **Irish Culture Foundation** promotes Irish culture and Irish events around Poland.

www.fki.home.pl



St. Patrick's Foundation provides financial support for a variety of needy causes in Poland with funding centrally derived from the St. Patrick's Charity Ball and the Ball's sponsors.

www.irishball.pl



The **Warsaw Irish Pop-Up Club** organises regular meet-up opportunities for Irish people in Warsaw. These events have recently included family brunches, sports events (e.g. All Ireland Final, Six Nations), traditional Irish music sessions, social gatherings and more.

<https://www.facebook.com/irish.popup.warsaw>



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Bord Bia, Ireland's Food Promotion Board, promotes Irish food and drink in Poland. Borda Bia has an office in the Embassy.

www.bordbia.ie



Enterprise Ireland promotes the development and growth of Irish enterprises across global markets. The Warsaw office is the Embassy Commercial Section.

www.enterprise-ireland.pl