

Credential Templates – Republic of Poland

International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS), Government of Alberta

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Country: Poland (Republic of Poland)
Certificate of Completion of Basic Vocational School

Category: Vocational

Credential Actual Name:

*Swiadectwo ukonczenia zasadniczej szkoly
zawodowej*

Credential English Name:

Certificate of Completion of Basic Vocational
School

Time Period Credential Offered: Current (post-1990s reform)

Issuing Body: Issued by the school, following format and standards prescribed by the Ministry of National Education

Admission Requirements:

- Certificate of Completion of Lower Secondary School (*Swiadectwo ukonczenia gimnazjum*)

Admission to basic vocational schools is based on the results of the lower secondary school final examination and, in some cases, final grades for specific program-related subjects.

Program Description:

Two- or three-year vocational secondary school program.

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

- Employment
- Supplementary Technical Secondary School (three-year program)
- Supplementary General Secondary School (two-year program)
- External professional examinations (*egzamin zawodowy*) leading to a Diploma of Professional Qualification (*Dyplom potwierdzajacy kwalifikacje zawodowe*)

IQAS Recommendations:

Generally compares to the completion of Grade Ten.

IQAS Rationale:

Basic Vocational School programs involve a minimum of two years of full-time study; some programs may last as long as three years. The length of the program is determined by the educational requirements of the profession. The general education hours are the same for all programs, regardless of whether the program is two or three years in length. Entry is usually based on the completion of lower secondary school.

Education at basic vocational schools prepares students for employment as skilled workers in almost 80 professions, covering the following broad fields:

- Arts
- Business and administration
- Engineering technology
- Manufacturing and processing
- Architecture and construction
- Agriculture, forestry and fishery
- Retail and general services

The following is a sample program structure of a Basic Vocational School program:

Basic Subject Framework (Classes 1-2, full time) as outlined by the Ministry of National Education – Basic Vocational School	
Subjects	Cumulative hours per week over two years
Language Arts (Polish)	5
Foreign Language	3
History and Social Studies	2
Mathematics	4
Physics and astronomy	2
Geography and environmental protection	2
Basics of entrepreneurship	1
Physical Education	6
Civil Defence	2
Lessons with the Home-Room Teacher	1
Vocational subjects following a program for a chosen profession	35
Religion/Ethics	4
Hours at the Principal's discretion (information technology and preventive health care recommended)	3
Total	70

After completion of Basic Vocational School, students may continue their studies in a three-year Supplementary Technical Secondary School program or a two-year Supplementary General Secondary School program. Students may also take external professional examinations (*egzamin zawodowy*) leading to a Diploma of Professional Qualification (*Dyplom potwierdzający kwalifikacje zawodowe*).

Conclusion

The Certificate of Completion of Basic Vocational School involves two to three years of full-time study, with entry based on the completion of lower secondary school. It usually comprises a combination of general education coursework and vocational studies. It allows an individual to seek employment, obtain a professional qualification or continue studies in Supplementary Technical or Supplementary General Secondary School programs.

Based on the above information and placement recommendations of other evaluation resources, IQAS compares the Certificate of Completion of Basic Vocational School from Poland to the completion of Grade Ten.

Grading:

The grading scale for school education is prescribed by the Ministry of National Education. From 1992, the following 6-point grading scale has been used.

Mark	Polish Descriptor	English Descriptor	IQAS Comparison (%)
6	celujący	excellent	90%
5	bardzo dobry	very good	80%
4	dobry	good	70%
3	dostateczny	satisfactory	60%
2	dopuszczający*	acceptable	52%
1	niedostateczny	fail	fail

*'mierny' until 1999

A student is promoted to a higher grade after receiving at least 'acceptable' (2) marks in all compulsory subjects at the end of the school year. If he/she fails one subject (mark 1 – *niedostateczny*) he/she can take a 'correction' examination (*egzamin poprawkowy*) before the next school year begins. Those who fail this examination are not promoted.

Prior to the 1991 reform of the school system, there was one grading scale used at all levels of education, including post-secondary. It was centrally prescribed by the Ministry of National Education.

Mark	Polish Descriptor	Polish abbreviation	English Descriptor	IQAS Comparison (%)
5	bardzo dobry	bdb	very good	90%
4	dobry	db	good	75%
3	dostateczny	dst	satisfactory	60%
2	dopuszczający	ndst	fail	fail

Because the grading scale was limited, teachers often added a plus (+) or minus (-) to a mark (e.g. a 4+ was considered better than 'good' but not quite 'very good'). This practice was permitted for the internal assessment of individual projects and tests. Only a full mark could be used as a final mark on official documentation (certificates of promotion or completion).

Country: Poland (Republic of Poland)
Certificate of Completion of General/ Specialized/ Supplementary General Secondary School and Matriculation Certificate

Category: Secondary

Credential Actual Name:

- *Swiadectwo ukonczenia liceum ogolnoksztalcacego*
- *Swiadectwo ukonczenia liceum profilowanego*
- *Swiadectwo ukonczenia uzupelniajacego liceum ogolnoksztalcacego*
- *Swiadectwo dojrzalosci liceum*
- *Swiadectwo dojrzalosci liceum profilowanego*

Credential English Name:

- Certificate of Completion of General Secondary School
- Certificate of Completion of Specialized Secondary School
- Certificate of Completion of Supplementary General Secondary School
- Matriculation Certificate from General Secondary School
- Matriculation Certificate from Specialized Secondary School

Time Period Credential Offered: Current (post-1990s reform)

Issuing Body:

- The Certificate of Completion is issued by the school, following format and standards prescribed by the Ministry of National Education
- The Matriculation Certificate is issued by the Regional Examination Commission.

Admission Requirements:

- Certificate of Completion of Lower Secondary School (*Swiadectwo ukonczenia gimnazjum*) is required for admission to General and Specialized Secondary School.
- The Certificate of Completion of Basic Vocational School (*Swiadectwo ukonczenia zasadniczej szkoly zawodowej*) is required for admission to Supplementary General Secondary School.

Program Description:

General Secondary School (*liceum*): three-year secondary school program

Specialized Secondary School (*liceum profilowane*): three-year secondary school program, incorporating general vocational training

Supplementary General Secondary School (*uzupelniajace liceum ogolnoksztalcace*): two-year secondary school program for holders of a Certificate of Completion of Basic Vocational School

Matriculation Certificates: Students who have completed General Secondary School, Specialized

Secondary School or Supplementary General Secondary School may sit the Matriculation Examination. The resulting Matriculation Certificate is required for admission to colleges and university-level studies.

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

Certificate of Completion of General/ Specialized/ Supplementary General Secondary School:

- Employment
- Admission to post-lyceum school programs

Matriculation Certificate:

- Employment
- Admission to college programs
- Admission to university-level degree programs

IQAS Recommendations:

The Certificate of Completion of General Secondary/ Specialized Secondary/ Supplementary General Secondary School generally compares to the completion of a High School Diploma.

The Matriculation Certificate generally compares to the completion of a High School Diploma. [Acknowledge in the program description that a Matriculation Certificate includes examinations required for university admission.]

Course Equivalencies:

Courses identified from the Certificate of Completion of General Secondary/ Specialized Secondary/ Supplementary General Secondary School – 30-level (Grade 12) courses.

Courses identified from the Matriculation Certificate – 30-level (Grade 12) courses.

IQAS Rationale:

General Secondary School programs involve three years of full-time study following the completion of lower secondary school and prepare students for admission to higher education. However, some of the graduates chose to enter the workforce, even though completion of general secondary school does not give any professional qualification. The school year is organized in a similar way as in lower secondary institutions.

The core curriculum for general secondary school is organized by subjects. Educational paths similar to those at the gymnasium level are also included within the core curriculum, with some additional areas (e.g. “Preparation for Family Life”). The core curriculum is obligatory, but teachers are free to supplement it with ‘selected curriculum’. Teachers can choose from a variety of textbooks on the lists approved by the Minister. They can also decide on methods of teaching and teaching aids according to the school environment.

Specialized Secondary School programs involve three years of full-time study following the completion of lower secondary school. They also offer very general vocational knowledge in selected fields. This knowledge can be upgraded to a professional qualification, by taking short post-lyceum programs leading to external vocational/professional exams. There are 14 subject groups (*bloki tematyczne*) that can be studied at Specialized Secondary Schools.

Supplementary General Secondary School programs involve two years of full-time study following the completion of Basic Vocational School.

All secondary schools follow obligatory core curricula. Students who complete Secondary School, but who choose not to sit the Matriculation Examinations, receive a Certificate of Completion of General/ Specialized/ Supplementary General Secondary School.

Upon completion of all the secondary school programs, students are eligible to sit the Matriculation Examinations administered by the Regional Examination Commission. The resulting Matriculation Certificate (*Swiadectwo dojrzałości*) is required for admission to college and university-level studies.

Compulsory subjects (as planned for the 2009/2010 school year—compulsory subjects change over time):

There are two parts to the new Matriculation Examination (*Egzamin maturalny/ Egzamin dojrzałości*) – oral and written.

Oral exams

1. Language Arts (Polish) presentation prepared in advance (no level indicated)
2. Modern foreign language – choice of: English, French, Spanish, German, Russian or Italian (basic level)
3. Minority language, where applicable

Written exams

1. Language Arts (Polish) – including an essay component (basic level)
2. Mathematics (basic level)
3. Modern foreign language (the same language as chosen in oral part) (basic level)
4. Minority language, where applicable

Additional subjects:

In addition to the compulsory subjects, students can take up to six additional subjects from the Examination Commission approved list. They can be taken at a basic or an advanced level – written or oral, or both. If a student chooses language arts (Polish), mathematics or the same foreign language he/she took as a compulsory subject, he/she must be examined at the advanced level.

Oral exams are assessed internally, by the teachers at a student's school. Written exams are marked by the respective Regional Examination Commission. The Matriculation Examination is considered passed if 30% of the maximum number of points is earned by a student in each compulsory subject.

Students who pass the Matriculation Examination receive the Matriculation Certificate issued as a separate document. The Certificate lists all the subjects examined and the percentage achieved in each of them.

The following is a sample program structure of a General Secondary School program:

Basic Subjects Framework (classes 1-3) for General Secondary School (lyceum)	
Subjects	Cumulative hours per week in three years
Polish Language	14
Two Foreign Languages	15
History	5
Social Studies	2
Culture Studies	1
Mathematics	9
Physics and Astronomy	3
Chemistry	3
Biology	3
Geography	3
Introduction to Business	2
Information Technology	2
Physical Education	9
Defense Training	2
Lessons with the Home-Room Teacher	3
*Ethics/Religion	6
Hours at the Principal's discretion	4
Advanced level subjects	10
Total	96

**optional*

The following is a sample program structure of a Specialized Secondary School program:

Basic Subjects Framework (classes 1-3) for Specialized Secondary School (specialized lyceum)	
Subjects	Cumulative hours per week in three years
Polish Language	14
Two Foreign Languages	15
History	5

Social Studies	2
Culture Studies	1
Mathematics	9
Physics and Astronomy	3
Chemistry	3
Biology	3
Geography	3
Introduction to Business	2
Information Technology	2
Physical Education	9
Defense Training	2
Lessons with the Home-Room Teacher	3
*Ethics/Religion	6
Hours at the Principal's discretion	4
Specialized/vocational subjects	13
Total	99

**optional*

Conclusion

The Certificate of Completion of General/ Specialized Secondary School involves three years of full-time study, with entry based on the completion of lower secondary school. It allows an individual to seek employment or to sit the Matriculation Examinations. A Matriculation Certificate is required for admission to college or university programs.

Based on the above information and placement recommendations of other evaluation resources, IQAS compares the Certificate of Completion of General/ Specialized/ Supplementary General Secondary School from Poland to the completion of a High School Diploma. IQAS compares the Matriculation Certificate from Poland to the completion of a High School Diploma.

Grading:

The grading scale for school education is prescribed by the Ministry of National Education. From 1992, the following 6-point grading scale has been used.

Mark	Polish Descriptor	English Descriptor	IQAS Comparison (%)
6	celujący	excellent	90%
5	bardzo dobry	very good	80%
4	dobry	good	70%
3	dostateczny	satisfactory	60%
2	dopuszczający*	acceptable	52%
1	niedostateczny	fail	fail

**'mierny' until 1999*

A student is promoted to a higher grade after receiving at least ‘acceptable’ (2) marks in all compulsory subjects at the end of the school year. If he/she fails one subject (mark 1 – *niedostateczny*) he/she can take a ‘correction’ examination (*egzamin poprawkowy*) before the next school year begins. Those who fail this examination are not promoted.

Prior to the 1991 reform of the school system, there was one grading scale used at all levels of education, including post-secondary. It was centrally prescribed by the Ministry of National Education.

Mark	Polish Descriptor	Polish abbreviation	English Descriptor	IQAS Comparison (%)
5	bardzo dobry	bdb	very good	90%
4	dobry	db	good	75%
3	dostateczny	dst	satisfactory	60%
2	dopuszczający	ndst	fail	fail

Because the grading scale was limited, teachers often added a plus (+) or minus (-) to a mark (e.g. a 4+ was considered better than ‘good’ but not quite ‘very good’). This practice was permitted for the internal assessment of individual projects and tests. Only a full mark could be used as a final mark on official documentation (certificates of promotion or completion).

Country: Poland (Republic of Poland)

Certificate of Completion of Technical/ Supplementary Technical Secondary School and Matriculation Certificate

Category: Secondary

Credential Actual Name:

- *Swiadectwo ukonczenia technikum*
- *Swiadectwo ukonczenia technikum uzupelniajacego*
- *Swiadectwo dojrzalosci technikum*

Credential English Name:

- Certificate of Completion of Technical Secondary School
- Certificate of Completion of Supplementary Technical Secondary School
- Matriculation Certificate from Technical Secondary School

Time Period Credential Offered: Current (post-1990s reform)

Issuing Body:

- The Certificate of Completion is issued by the school, following format and standards prescribed by the Ministry of National Education
- The Matriculation Certificate is issued by the Regional Examination Commission.

Admission Requirements:

- Certificate of Completion of Lower Secondary School (*Swiadectwo ukonczenia gimnazjum*) is required for admission to Technical Secondary School.
- The Certificate of Completion of Basic Vocational School (*Swiadectwo ukonczenia zasadniczej szkoly zawodowej*) is required for admission to Supplementary Technical Secondary School.

Program Description:

Technical Secondary School (*technikum*): four-year secondary school program, incorporating technical education with general upper secondary school education.

Supplementary Technical Secondary School (*uzupelniajace technikum ogolnoksztalcace*): three-year secondary school program, incorporating technical education with general upper secondary school education for holders of the Certificate of Completion of Basic Vocational School.

Matriculation Certificate: Students who have completed Technical Secondary School or Supplementary Technical Secondary School may sit the Matriculation Examination. The resulting Matriculation Certificate is required for admission to college and university-level studies.

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

Certificate of Completion of Technical/ Supplementary Technical Secondary School:

- Employment
- Admission to post-lyceum school programs
- External professional examinations (*egzamin zawodowy*) leading to a Diploma of Professional Qualification (*Dyplom potwierdzający kwalifikacje zawodowe*)

Matriculation Certificate:

- Employment
- Admission to college programs
- Admission to university-level degree programs

IQAS Recommendations:

The Certificate of Completion of Technical/ Supplementary Technical Secondary School generally compares to the completion of a High School Diploma, including technical training.

The Matriculation Certificate generally compares to the completion of a High School Diploma. [Acknowledge in the program description that the Matriculation Certificate includes examinations required for university admission.]

Course Equivalencies:

Courses identified from the Certificate of Completion of General Secondary/ Specialized Secondary/ Supplementary General Secondary School – 30-level (Grade 12) courses.

Courses identified from the Matriculation Certificate – 30-level (Grade 12) courses.

IQAS Rationale:

Technical Secondary School programs last four years and incorporate technical/professional education with general upper secondary school education. At the end of Class 4, students can take the Examination for Vocational Qualifications. Passing this examination results in receiving the Diploma of Professional Qualifications (*Dyplom potwierdzający kwalifikacje zawodowe*).

Supplementary Technical Secondary School programs last three years and prepare students for admission to higher education institutions. The admission to supplementary schools is based on successful completion of basic vocational school. By enrolling in a supplementary technical secondary school, graduates of basic vocational school have the chance to expand their vocational knowledge, and progress to the professional level of a technician in a particular field.

Supplementary technical secondary schools follow the Ministry of National Education recommendations for the basic subject framework, curriculum, and assessment.

Students who complete Technical School, but who choose not to sit the Matriculation Examinations, receive a Certificate of Completion of Technical/ Supplementary Technical Secondary School.

Upon completion of secondary school, students are eligible to sit the Matriculation Examinations administered by the Regional Examination Commission. The resulting Matriculation Certificate

(*Swiadectwo dojrzałości*) is required for admission to college and university-level studies.

Compulsory subjects: (as planned for the 2009/2010 school year—compulsory subjects change over time):

There are two parts to the new Matriculation Examination (*Egzamin maturalny/ Egzamin dojrzałości*) – oral and written.

Oral exams

1. Language Arts (Polish) presentation prepared in advance (no level indicated)
2. Modern foreign language – choice of: English, French, Spanish, German, Russian or Italian (basic level)
3. Minority language, where applicable

Written exams

1. Language Arts (Polish) – including an essay component (basic level)
2. Mathematics (basic level)
3. Modern foreign language (the same language as chosen in oral part) (basic level)
4. Minority language, where applicable

Additional subjects:

In addition to the compulsory subjects, students can take up to six additional subjects from the Examination Commission approved list. They can be taken at a basic or an advanced level – written or oral, or both. If a student chooses language arts (Polish), mathematics or the same foreign language he/she took as a compulsory subject, he/she must be examined at the advanced level.

Oral exams are assessed internally, by the teachers at a student’s school. Written exams are marked by the respective Regional Examination Commission. The Matriculation Examination is considered passed if 30% of the maximum number of points is earned by a student in each compulsory subject.

Students who pass the Matriculation Examination receive the Matriculation Certificate issued as a separate document. The Certificate lists all the subjects examined and the percentage achieved in each of them.

The following is a sample program structure of a Technical Secondary School program:

Basic Subjects Framework (classes 1-4) for Technical Secondary School (*technikum*)

Subjects	Cumulative hours per week in four years
Polish Language	14
Two Foreign Languages	15
History	5
Social Studies	2
Culture Studies	1
Mathematics	9
Physics and Astronomy	3
Chemistry	3
Biology	3
Geography	3
Introduction to Business	2
Information Technology	2
Physical Education	12
Defense Training	2
Lessons with the Home-Room Teacher	2
*Ethics/Religion	8
Hours at the Principal's discretion	3
Professional specialization	50
Total	139

**optional*

The following is a sample program structure of a Supplementary Technical Secondary School program:

Basic Subject Framework (Classes 1-3, full time) as outlined by the Ministry of National Education – Supplementary Technical Secondary School	
Subjects	Cumulative hours per week over three years
Language Arts (Polish)	9
First Foreign Language	11
Second Foreign Language	
History and Social Studies	5
Knowledge of Culture	1
Mathematics	6
Physics and Astronomy	2
Chemistry	2
Biology	2
Geography	2
Basics of Entrepreneurship	1

Information Technology	1
Physical Education	9
Lessons with the Home-Room Teacher	1
Professional subjects	31
Religion/Ethics	6
Hours at the Principal's discretion (Information technology and Preventive Health Care recommended)	5
Total	94

Conclusion

The Certificate of Completion of Technical School involves four years of full-time study, with entry based on the completion of lower secondary school. It allows an individual to seek employment, obtain a professional qualification or to sit the Matriculation Examinations. A Matriculation Certificate is required for admission to college or university programs.

Based on the above information and placement recommendations of other evaluation resources, IQAS compares the Certificate of Completion of Technical/ Supplementary Technical Secondary School from Poland to the completion of a High School Diploma, including technical training. IQAS compares the Matriculation Certificate from Poland to the completion of a High School Diploma.

Grading:

The grading scale for school education is prescribed by the Ministry of National Education. From 1992, the following 6-point grading scale has been used.

Mark	Polish Descriptor	English Descriptor	IQAS Comparison (%)
6	celujący	excellent	90%
5	bardzo dobry	very good	80%
4	dobry	good	70%
3	dostateczny	satisfactory	60%
2	dopuszczający*	acceptable	52%
1	niedostateczny	fail	fail

*'mierny' until 1999

A student is promoted to a higher grade after receiving at least 'acceptable' (2) marks in all compulsory subjects at the end of the school year. If he/she fails one subject (mark 1 – *niedostateczny*) he/she can take a 'correction' examination (*egzamin poprawkowy*) before the next school year begins. Those who fail this examination are not promoted.

Prior to the 1991 reform of the school system, there was one grading scale used at all levels of

education, including post-secondary. It was centrally prescribed by the Ministry of National Education.

Mark	Polish Descriptor	Polish abbreviation	English Descriptor	IQAS Comparison (%)
5	bardzo dobry	bdb	very good	90%
4	dobry	db	good	75%
3	dostateczny	dst	satisfactory	60%
2	dopuszczający	ndst	fail	fail

Because the grading scale was limited, teachers often added a plus (+) or minus (-) to a mark (e.g. a 4+ was considered better than ‘good’ but not quite ‘very good’). This practice was permitted for the internal assessment of individual projects and tests. Only a full mark could be used as a final mark on official documentation (certificates of promotion or completion).

Country: Poland (Republic of Poland)
Certificate/ Diploma of Completion of Post-Lyceum School

Category: Post-Secondary

Credential Actual Name:

- *Swiadectwo ukonczenia szkoly policealnej*
- *Dyplom ukonczenia szkoly policealnej*

Credential English Name:

- Certificate of Completion of Post-Lyceum School
- Diploma of Completion of Post-Lyceum School

Credential Alternate Actual Name(s):

- *Dyplom ukonczenia policealnego studium zawodowego*

Credential Alternate English Name(s):

- Diploma of Completion of Post-Secondary Vocational Studies

Time Period Credential Offered: Current (post-1990s reform)

Issuing Body: Issued by the school, following format and standards prescribed by the Ministry of National Education

Admission Requirements: Completion of general/ technical/ specialized secondary school

Program Description:

One to two-and-a-half-year professional program

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

- Employment
- External professional examinations (*egzamin zawodowy*) leading to a Diploma of Professional Qualification (*Dyplom potwierdzajacy kwalifikacje zawodowe*)

IQAS Recommendations:

The Certificate/ Diploma of Completion of Post-Lyceum School [one-year program] generally compares to the completion of a post-secondary Certificate

The Certificate/ Diploma of Completion of Post-Lyceum School [at least two-year program] generally compares to the completion of a post-secondary Diploma.

IQAS Rationale:

Programs offered by post-lyceum schools are based on the professions and occupations classification, as set by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. The Ministry of National Education prescribes the length and content of a program corresponding with a particular profession. The subjects studied are directly linked to the student's chosen occupation, and there is no element of general education at such schools (with the exception of physical education).

Program lengths vary from one year (e.g. dental assistant, handicapped persons assistant), to two-and-a-half years (e.g. dental technician, social worker, or air transport mechanical technician). Courses can be taken as day or evening study. The length of the program taken through either mode is approximately the same. Upon completion of the final examinations, successful graduates receive a Certificate/ Diploma of Completion (*Świadectwo/ Dyplom o ukończeniu szkoły policealnej*) and the title of a skilled worker or a technician. In order to practice their profession, graduates of post-lyceum schools may take an external professional examination (*egzamin zawodowy*) leading to a Diploma of Professional Qualification (*Dyplom potwierdzający kwalifikacje zawodowe*).

The following is a sample program structure of a Post-Lyceum School program:

Compulsory subjects	Cumulative hours per week in one-year program
Professional Training	32
Physical Education	3
Professional Practicum	varied

Conclusion:

The Certificate/ Diploma of Completion of Post-Lyceum School involves one to two-and-a-half years of full-time study, with entry based on the completion of secondary school. It allows an individual to seek employment or to obtain a professional qualification.

Based on the above information and placement recommendations of other evaluation resources, IQAS compares the one-year Certificate/ Diploma of Completion of Post-Lyceum School from Poland to the completion of a post-secondary Certificate. IQAS compares the two-year (or more) Certificate/ Diploma of Completion of Post-Lyceum School to a post-secondary Diploma.

Grading:

The grading scale for school education is prescribed by the Ministry of National Education. From 1992, the following 6-point grading scale has been used.

Mark	Polish Descriptor	English Descriptor	IQAS Comparison (%)
6	celujący	excellent	90%
5	bardzo dobry	very good	80%
4	dobry	good	70%
3	dostateczny	satisfactory	60%
2	dopuszczający*	acceptable	52%
1	niedostateczny	fail	fail

*'mierny' until 1999

A student is promoted to a higher grade after receiving at least 'acceptable' (2) marks in all

compulsory subjects at the end of the school year. If he/she fails one subject (mark 1 – *niedostateczny*) he/she can take a ‘correction’ examination (*egzamin poprawkowy*) before the next school year begins. Those who fail this examination are not promoted.

Prior to the 1991 reform of the school system, there was one grading scale used at all levels of education, including post-secondary. It was centrally prescribed by the Ministry of National Education.

Mark	Polish Descriptor	Polish abbreviation	English Descriptor	IQAS Comparison (%)
5	bardzo dobry	bdb	very good	90%
4	dobry	db	good	75%
3	dostateczny	dst	satisfactory	60%
2	dopuszczający	ndst	fail	fail

Because the grading scale was limited, teachers often added a plus (+) or minus (-) to a mark (e.g. a 4+ was considered better than ‘good’ but not quite ‘very good’). This practice was permitted for the internal assessment of individual projects and tests. Only a full mark could be used as a final mark on official documentation (certificates of promotion or completion).

Country: Poland (Republic of Poland)
Title of Licentiate/ Title of Engineer

Category: University

Credential Actual Name:

- *Tytul - licencjat*
- *Tytul - inzynier*

Credential Alternate Actual Name(s):

- Title of Licentiate
- Title of Engineer

Time Period Credential Offered: Current (post-1990s reform)

Issuing Body: University-level institutions

Admission Requirements: Matriculation Certificate (*Swiadectwo dojrzalosci*)

Program Description:

Three- to four-year undergraduate degree program.

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

- Employment
- Further education (second-cycle (*magister* degree) programs)

IQAS Recommendations:

The Title of Licentiate/ Engineer generally compares to the completion of a Bachelor's degree.

IQAS Rationale:

The title of Licentiate was formally introduced by legislation in 1992. Before 2005, *licencjat* programs were at least six semesters long with an additional 15 weeks of professional practicum. Working students taking *licencjat* programs through distance education may have their work hours credited towards the practicum requirement. A minimum of 2,200 direct contact hours is required.

Full-time licentiate studies in humanities, social sciences, commerce and pure sciences last six to eight semesters, depending on the field, and are often informally referred to as Bachelor of Arts programs. First-cycle full-time studies in engineering and technology fields typically last seven to eight semesters and are frequently referred to as Bachelor of Science programs. The minimum instructional hours are published by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, and they vary depending on the program.

The title of Licentiate or Engineer allows its holder to practice a given profession (often after meeting additional requirements), and provides access to second-cycle (*magister* degree) programs.

The following is a sample program structure of a Title of Licentiate in Physiotherapy (*licencjat fizjoterapii*) program:

Minimum subject hours (general and specialty subjects only):

General Subjects	Hours
Anatomy	90
Medical biology	15
Biophysics	15
Biochemistry	30
Physiology	75
Biomechanics	45
Kinesiology	45
Certified first aid	15
Psychology	45
General pathology	15
Pedagogy	15

Specialty Subjects	Hours
Principles of movement and movement instruction	150
*Kinesiotherapy	150
Manual therapy	45
Physical therapy	105
Clinical massage	45
General physiotherapy	60
Basics of clinical physiotherapy	195
Clinical physiotherapy in disorders of motor organs	195
Clinical physiotherapy in disorders of internal organs	150
Orthopaedic equipment	15
Physical education	60
Foreign language	120
Information technology	30
Humanities	60

*Note: “Kinesiotherapy” refers to treatment through physical exercise, including the use of specialized equipment, but without external stimulation of heat, cold, or laser technology.

Practical placements:

General clinical practice – 80 hours (3 ECTS credits)

Physiotherapy practice in a specialized clinic – 260 hours (8 ECTS credits)

Kinesiotherapy practice in a specialized clinic – 260 hours (8 ECTS credits)

Clinical physical therapy practicum – 320 hours (11 ECTS credits)

Additional minimum requirements:
Diploma exam/project (10 ECTS credits)

The following is a sample program structure of a Title of Engineer-Architect program:

Minimum subject hours (foundation and specialty subjects only):

Foundation subjects	Hours
Mathematics	45
Descriptive geometry	45
Building physics	30
Building mechanics	30

Specialty subjects	Hours *
Basics of architectural projects	
Urban planning projects	
History of architecture and urban planning	
General construction and materials	
Building construction	
Building installations	
Fine arts and workshop techniques	
Economics of an investment-development process	
Organization of an investment-development process	
Building code and building law	
Professional ethics	
Total	690

* There are no specific minimum hours recommended for each subject

Additional subjects	Hours
Physical education	60
Foreign language	120
Information technology	30
Humanities	60

Conclusion:

The Title of Licentiate/ Title of Engineer programs involve three to four years of full-time study, with entry based on the completion of the Matriculation Certificate. The credentials allow an individual to seek employment, obtain a professional qualification or seek admission to graduate-level (second-cycle) studies.

Based on the above information and placement recommendations of other evaluation resources, IQAS compares the Title of Licentiate/ Title of Engineer from Poland to the completion of a Bachelor's degree.

Grading:

Following the 1991 reforms, the regulation imposing a ministry-prescribed grading scale on universities and university-level institutions was lifted. Higher education institutions were granted the freedom to decide on their own scales for the internal assessment of student progress and achievement, as long as it is indicated in the statute of the institution; however, most schools kept the traditional, pre-reform grading scale. Over time, many institutions have chosen to use intermediate grades on official documentation.

Mark	Polish Descriptor	English Descriptor	IQAS Comparison (%)
5	bardzo dobry	very good	90%
4+ or 4.5	dobry plus	good plus	80%
4	dobry	good	70%
3+ or 3.5	dostateczny plus	satisfactory plus	60%
3	dostateczny	satisfactory	52%
2	niedostateczny	fail	fail
	zaliczenie	credit/ pass	pass
	niezaliczenie	fail	fail

To successfully complete a semester (or a year) a student must receive at least ‘satisfactory’ (3) marks in all subjects with examinations, and obtain ‘credit’ or ‘pass’ (*zaliczenie*) in the remaining subjects. The requirements for obtaining a ‘*zaliczenie*’ may include attending lectures and seminars; and the completion of various projects.

Prior to the 1991 reform of the school system, there was one grading scale used at all levels of education, including post-secondary. It was centrally prescribed by the Ministry of National Education.

Mark	Polish Descriptor	Polish abbreviation	English Descriptor	IQAS Comparison (%)
5	bardzo dobry	bdb	very good	90%
4	dobry	db	good	75%
3	dostateczny	dst	satisfactory	60%
2	dopuszczający	ndst	fail	fail

Because the grading scale was limited, teachers often added a plus (+) or minus (-) to a mark (e.g. a 4+ was considered better than 'good' but not quite 'very good'). This practice was permitted for the internal assessment of individual projects and tests. Only a full mark could be used as a final mark on official documentation (certificates of promotion or completion).

Country: Poland (Republic of Poland)
Master's Degrees (Old System)

Category: University

Credential Actual Name:
dyplom magister

Credential English Name:
Diploma of 'Master'

Time Period Credential Offered: pre-1990s reforms

Issuing Body: University-level institutions

Admission Requirements: Matriculation Certificate (*swiadectwo dojrzalosci*) and entrance examinations

Program Description:

Four to five-year university degree program, depending on the field of specialization.

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

- Employment
- Further education - doctoral studies – *studia doktoranckie*

IQAS Recommendations:

The Master's Degree [4 years] generally compares to the completion of a four-year Bachelor's degree.

The Master's Degree [4.5 or 5 year] generally compares to the completion of a four-year Bachelor's degree plus a graduate Diploma in the same field.

For recommendations on how to handle post-Bologna *magister* studies, please see the Master's Degrees (Integrated) template - final.doc and the Master's Degree (2nd Cycle) template - final.doc.

IQAS Rationale:

Prior to the higher education reforms of the 1990s, the higher education system in Poland was divided into two cycles. The first cycle typically lasted four to five years and resulted in the award of a *magister*. The second cycle of doctoral studies resulted in the *doktor*.

The title of *magister* was considered an employment qualification as well as an academic credential. Admission to *magister* programs was open to holders of a Matriculation Certificate (*swiadectwo dojrzalosci*). Students also typically sat competitive entrance examinations in subjects dependent on the desired field of study.

Magister programs in physical education, theatre and nursing were typically four years in length; while other programs varied in length from four-and-a-half to five years (though some music and

visual arts programs could last up to six years). The first two to three years of a *magister* program typically included general education courses alongside specialized coursework. In the final years of a *magister* program, students would take less coursework in order to focus on their areas of specialization and to prepare for their final examinations and theses.

Both ten-semester and nine-and-a-half semester studies consisted of the same course work/programs for a given field, and they resulted in the same diploma. Both required the completion of a thesis/final research project in order to receive the degree (*dyplom magistra*), which in Poland gave access to doctoral studies. Many polytechnic academies and universities would structure their program within nine semesters, while some would choose ten semesters. This pattern was very popular back in seventies and eighties.

Polytechnic universities (*politechniki*) offered the only higher technical education available, with four-year courses in engineering leading to a Degree of Engineer (*inżyniera*). Holders of a Degree of Engineer could continue their studies by taking an additional one-year program leading to a Degree of Master Engineer (*magister inżynier*). The *magister inżynier* program was also offered as a four to five-year long-cycle degree.

The three-cycle system of studies was introduced in 1990, but higher education institutions were allowed to decide whether to divide their programs into two or three cycles, and the nomenclature was different from that currently in use. The Act of 2005 *Law on higher education* introduced the new nomenclature (I, II, III and long-cycle studies), and the Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 2006 defines the list of fields that are to be studied obligatorily in two-cycle systems.

Poland Degree Structure – Old and New

Pre-Bologna (1990-2005)		Post-Bologna	
degree	studies	degree	studies
licencjat inżynier	<i>wyższe zawodowe</i> higher vocational (3-4 years)	licencjat inżynier	<i>pierwszego stopnia</i> first cycle (6-8 semesters for <i>licencjat</i> ; 7-8 semesters for <i>inżynier</i>)
magister magister inżynier	<i>jednolite magisterskie</i> long cycle magister studies (5/6 years) <i>magisterskie uzupełniające</i> complementary magister studies (2 years after <i>licencjat</i> / <i>inżynier</i>)	magister magister inżynier	<i>drugiego stopnia</i> second cycle (3-4 semesters after 1st cycle) <i>jednolite magisterskie</i> long cycle (9-12 semesters)
doktor	<i>doktoranckie</i> doctoral	doktor	<i>trzeciego stopnia</i> third cycle

Conclusion:

The *magister* programs of the pre-1990s reforms typically involved 8 to 10 semesters of full-time study, with entry based on the completion of secondary school and the receipt of the Matriculation Certificate. The credentials allowed an individual to seek employment or admission to the *doktor* program.

Based on the above information and placement recommendations of other evaluation resources, IQAS compares the *magister* program [4 years] from Poland to the completion of a four-year bachelor's degree. IQAS compares the *magister* program [4.5 to 5 years] from Poland to the completion of a four-year bachelor's degree plus a graduate Diploma in the same field.

For recommendations on how to handle post-Bologna *magister* studies, please see the Master's Degrees (Integrated) template - final.doc and the Master's Degree (2nd Cycle) template - final.doc.

Grading:

Following the 1991 reforms, the regulation imposing a ministry-prescribed grading scale on universities and university-level institutions was lifted. Higher education institutions were granted the freedom to decide on their own scales for the internal assessment of student progress and achievement, as long as it is indicated in the statute of the institution; however, most schools kept the traditional, pre-reform grading scale. Over time, many institutions have chosen to use intermediate grades on official documentation.

Mark	Polish Descriptor	English Descriptor	IQAS Comparison (%)
5	bardzo dobry	very good	90%
4+ or 4.5	dobry plus	good plus	80%
4	dobry	good	70%
3+ or 3.5	dostateczny plus	satisfactory plus	60%
3	dostateczny	satisfactory	52%
2	niedostateczny	fail	fail
	zaliczenie	credit/ pass	pass
	niezaliczenie	fail	fail

To successfully complete a semester (or a year) a student must receive at least 'satisfactory' (3) marks in all subjects with examinations, and obtain 'credit' or 'pass' (*zaliczenie*) in the remaining subjects. The requirements for obtaining a '*zaliczenie*' may include attending lectures and seminars; and the completion of various projects.

Prior to the 1991 reform of the school system, there was one grading scale used at all levels of education, including post-secondary. It was centrally prescribed by the Ministry of National Education.

Mark	Polish	Polish	English	IQAS Comparison
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	Descriptor	abbreviation	Descriptor	(%)
5	bardzo dobry	bdb	very good	90%
4	dobry	db	good	75%
3	dostateczny	dst	satisfactory	60%
2	dopuszczający	ndst	fail	fail

Because the grading scale was limited, teachers often added a plus (+) or minus (-) to a mark (e.g. a 4+ was considered better than ‘good’ but not quite ‘very good’). This practice was permitted for the internal assessment of individual projects and tests. Only a full mark could be used as a final mark on official documentation (certificates of promotion or completion).

Country: Poland (Republic of Poland)
Master's Degree (2nd Cycle)

Category: University

Credential Actual Name:

Magister

Credential English Name:

Master

Credential Alternate Actual Name(s):

- *Magister*
- *Magister pielęgniarstwa*
- *Magister poloznictwa*
- *Magister inzynier*
- *Magister inzynier architekt*

Credential Alternate English Name(s):

- Master – in humanities, natural sciences, mathematics, physics, chemistry, economics, social sciences, medical areas (except medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine) and physical education
- Master in Nursing
- Master in Midwifery
- Master Engineer- – in the fields of engineering and technology, agriculture, forestry, and in some other areas.
- Master Engineer-Architect - in the field of architecture and urban planning

Time Period Credential Offered: Current (post-1990s reform)

Issuing Body: University-level institutions

Admission Requirements: Title of Licentiate (*Tytul licencjata*)/ Title of Engineer (*Tytul inzyniera*)

Program Description:

One-and-a-half to two-year graduate degree program

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

- Employment
- Further education - third-cycle degree (doctoral studies – *studia doktoranckie*)

IQAS Recommendations:

A Master's Degree generally compares to the completion of a Master's degree.

IQAS Rationale:

Entry to a second-cycle Master's degree requires the completion of a Title of Licentiate or a Title of Engineer program. Second-cycle, full-time degree programs last three to four semesters,

depending on the field of study. Master's degrees following six semester first cycle programs require a minimum of four semesters of study; while master's degrees following seven (or more) semester first cycle programs require a minimum of three semesters of study. Most programs include a research project or a set of comprehensive examinations (e.g. health sciences programs). The General Council for Higher Education sets the minimum hours required for the core subjects of Master's degree programs.

Second-cycle Master's degrees (*magister*) give access to doctoral studies. They also allow access to employment requiring in depth knowledge of a respective field, plus research and management skills.

The following is a sample program structure of a Master's Degree in Physiotherapy (*magister fizjoterapii*) program:

The second-cycle degree program is at least 4 semesters. A minimum of 1,700 organized/contact hours is required (120 ECTS credits).

Minimum subject hours ([general and specialty subjects only](#)):

General Subjects	Hours
Genetics	30
Pharmacology	30
Research methodology	45
History of physical rehabilitation	15
Philosophy	15
Bioethics	15
Clinical psychology and psychotherapy	30
Special education	30
Sociology of handicap and rehabilitation	30
Didactics of physiotherapy	45
Demographics and epidemiology	15
Public health	30
Law	30
Economy and health care systems	15
Management and marketing	30

Specialty subjects	Hours
Special methods in physical therapy	90
Physical medicine and balneoclimatology	15
Functional diagnostics and planning of rehabilitation	15
Prosthetics and orthotics	30

Adaptive motor activities	75
Sports and handicapped persons	45

Additional minimum requirements:

Practical placements 600 hours (20 ECTS credits)

Master thesis (*praca magisterska*) – 20 ECTS credits

Conclusion:

Second-cycle Master’s degree programs involve three to four semesters of full-time study, with entry based on the completion of a first-cycle degree program (i.e. Title of Licentiate/ Title of Engineer). The credentials allow an individual to seek employment, or to seek admission to doctoral-level studies.

Based on the above information and placement recommendations of other evaluation resources, IQAS compares the second-cycle Master’s degree from Poland to the completion of a Master’s degree.

Grading:

Following the 1991 reforms, the regulation imposing a ministry-prescribed grading scale on universities and university-level institutions was lifted. Higher education institutions were granted the freedom to decide on their own scales for the internal assessment of student progress and achievement, as long as it is indicated in the statute of the institution; however, most schools kept the traditional, pre-reform grading scale. Over time, many institutions have chosen to use intermediate grades on official documentation.

Mark	Polish Descriptor	English Descriptor	IQAS Comparison (%)
5	bardzo dobry	very good	90%
4+ or 4.5	dobry plus	good plus	80%
4	dobry	good	70%
3+ or 3.5	dostateczny plus	satisfactory plus	60%
3	dostateczny	satisfactory	52%
2	niedostateczny	fail	fail
	zaliczenie	credit/ pass	pass
	niezaliczenie	fail	fail

To successfully complete a semester (or a year) a student must receive at least ‘satisfactory’ (3) marks in all subjects with examinations, and obtain ‘credit’ or ‘pass’ (*zaliczenie*) in the remaining subjects. The requirements for obtaining a ‘*zaliczenie*’ may include attending lectures and seminars; and the completion of various projects.

Prior to the 1991 reform of the school system, there was one grading scale used at all levels of education, including post-secondary. It was centrally prescribed by the Ministry of National Education.

Mark	Polish Descriptor	Polish abbreviation	English Descriptor	IQAS Comparison (%)
5	bardzo dobry	bdb	very good	90%
4	dobry	db	good	75%
3	dostateczny	dst	satisfactory	60%
2	dopuszczający	ndst	fail	fail

Because the grading scale was limited, teachers often added a plus (+) or minus (-) to a mark (e.g. a 4+ was considered better than ‘good’ but not quite ‘very good’). This practice was permitted for the internal assessment of individual projects and tests. Only a full mark could be used as a final mark on official documentation (certificates of promotion or completion).

Country: Poland (Republic of Poland)
Master's Degree (Integrated 1st and 2nd Cycle)

Category: University

Credential Actual Name:

Magister

Credential English Name:

Master

Credential Alternate Actual Name(s):

- *Magister psychologii*
- *Magister farmacji*
- *Magister aktorstwo*
- *Magister analityka medyczna*
- *Magister konserwacja i restauracja dzieł sztuki*
- *Magister realizacja obrazu filmowego, telewizyjnego i fotografia*
- *Magister reżyseria*

Credential Alternate English Name(s):

- Master in Psychology
- Master in Pharmacy
- Master in Acting
- Master in Medical Analysis
- Master in Art Conservation/ Restoration
- Master in Film, Television, Photography Direction
- Master in Direction

Time Period Credential Offered: Current (post-1990s reform)

Issuing Body: University-level institutions

Admission Requirements: Matriculation Certificate (*Swiadectwo dojrzalosci*)

Program Description:

Four-and-a-half to six-year university degree program, depending on the field of specialization

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

- Employment
- Further education - third-cycle degree (doctoral studies – *studia doktoranckie*)

IQAS Recommendations:

The Master's Degree (Integrated) generally compares to the completion of a Bachelor's degree plus a Master's degree.

IQAS Rationale:

Integrated degree programs are a combination of first-cycle and second-cycle degree programs (licentiate and master's). There are eleven fields offered only as long cycle programs, including: medical analysis, psychology, pharmacy, film production, cinematography, acting, and art conservation/restoration. Studies last between nine and twelve semesters, depending on the field.

Admission to long-cycle degree programs is open to holders of a Matriculation Certificate (*Swiadectwo dojrzalosci*). Education institutions may specify which subject results from the

Matriculation Certificate will be required for a specific program. Secondary school students have the option to be examined in these subjects during their matriculation exams. Additional entrance examinations may be set up to assess knowledge not tested through the matriculation exams. Upon completion of a long-cycle degree program in non-professional fields, an academic title will be awarded.

The following is a sample program structure of a Master in Psychology program:

Minimum subject hours (foundation and specialty subjects only):

Foundation subjects	Hours
Philosophy of Logic Elements	45
Biological Basis of Behaviour	45
Introduction to Psychology and the History of Psychological Thinking	60
Psychological research methodology and statistics	90
Professional Ethics of Psychology	30
Specialty subjects	Hours *
Cognitive Processes	
Emotion and motivation	
Personalities	
Psychology of individual differences	
Social Psychology	
Psychology of human development in the life cycle	
Psychometrics	
Psychological diagnosis	
Psychological assistance	
Psychopathology	
Total:	600

* There are no specific minimum hours recommended for each subject

Additional subjects	Hours
Physical education	60
Foreign language	120
Information technology	30
Humanities	60

Preparation of final examination and Master’s Thesis = 20 credits

Conclusion:

Integrated master’s degree programs involve 9 to 12 semesters of full-time study, with entry based on the completion of secondary school and the receipt of the Matriculation Certificate. The credentials allow an individual to seek employment or admission to doctoral-level studies.

Based on the above information and placement recommendations of other evaluation resources, IQAS compares the integrated master’s degree program from Poland to the completion of a bachelor’s degree plus a master’s degree.

Grading:

Following the 1991 reforms, the regulation imposing a ministry-prescribed grading scale on universities and university-level institutions was lifted. Higher education institutions were granted the freedom to decide on their own scales for the internal assessment of student progress and achievement, as long as it is indicated in the statute of the institution; however, most schools kept the traditional, pre-reform grading scale. Over time, many institutions have chosen to use intermediate grades on official documentation.

Mark	Polish Descriptor	English Descriptor	IQAS Comparison (%)
5	bardzo dobry	very good	90%
4+ or 4.5	dobry plus	good plus	80%
4	dobry	good	70%
3+ or 3.5	dostateczny plus	satisfactory plus	60%
3	dostateczny	satisfactory	52%
2	niedostateczny	fail	fail
	zaliczenie	credit/ pass	pass
	niezaliczenie	fail	fail

To successfully complete a semester (or a year) a student must receive at least ‘satisfactory’ (3) marks in all subjects with examinations, and obtain ‘credit’ or ‘pass’ (*zaliczenie*) in the remaining subjects. The requirements for obtaining a ‘*zaliczenie*’ may include attending lectures and seminars; and the completion of various projects.

Prior to the 1991 reform of the school system, there was one grading scale used at all levels of education, including post-secondary. It was centrally prescribed by the Ministry of National Education.

Mark	Polish Descriptor	Polish abbreviation	English Descriptor	IQAS Comparison (%)
5	bardzo dobry	bdb	very good	90%
4	dobry	db	good	75%
3	dostateczny	dst	satisfactory	60%

2	dopuszczający	ndst	fail	fail
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Because the grading scale was limited, teachers often added a plus (+) or minus (-) to a mark (e.g. a 4+ was considered better than ‘good’ but not quite ‘very good’). This practice was permitted for the internal assessment of individual projects and tests. Only a full mark could be used as a final mark on official documentation (certificates of promotion or completion).

Country: Poland (Republic of Poland)
University-level Credentials in Medicine/ Dentistry/ Veterinary Medicine
(Integrated 1st and 2nd Cycle)

Category: University

Credential Actual Name:

Dyplom – lekarza xxx

Credential English Name:

Diploma – Doctor of xxx

Credential Alternate Actual Name(s):

- *Dyplom - lekarza medycyny*
- *Dyplom - lekarza dentysta*
- *Dyplom - lekarza weterynarii*

Credential Alternate English Name(s):

- Diploma – Doctor of Medicine
- Diploma – Doctor of Dentistry
- Diploma – Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Time Period Credential Offered: Current (post-1990s reform)

Issuing Body: University-level institutions

Admission Requirements: Matriculation Certificate (*Swiadectwo dojrzalosci*)

Program Description:

Five to six-year professional university degree program, depending on the field of specialization

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

- Employment in a professional field
- Further education - third-cycle degree (doctoral studies – *studia doktoranckie*)

IQAS Recommendations:

The Diploma – Doctor of Medicine generally compares to the completion of a first professional degree in medicine.

The Diploma – Doctor of Dentistry generally compares to the completion of a first professional university degree in dentistry.

The Diploma – Doctor of Veterinary Medicine generally compares to the completion of a first professional university degree in veterinary medicine.

IQAS Rationale:

Integrated degree programs are a combination of first-cycle and second-cycle degree programs (licentiate and master's). There are eleven fields offered only as long cycle programs, including: medicine, veterinary medicine, and dentistry. Studies in these three professional fields last between ten and twelve semesters, depending on the field; general medicine programs being the longest.

Admission to long-cycle degree programs is open to holders of a Matriculation Certificate (*Swiadectwo dojrzalosci*). Education institutions may specify which subject results from the Matriculation Certificate will be required for a specific program. Secondary school students have the option to be examined in these subjects during their matriculation exams. Additional entrance examinations may be set up to assess knowledge not tested through the matriculation exams. Upon completion of a long-cycle degree program in medicine, dentistry or veterinary medicine, a professional title will be awarded.

Medicine

Upon successful completion of the six-year medical program (passing all subjects) and a positive review of the practical placements, a student graduates with the title of Doctor of Medicine (*Lekarz medycyny*). Graduates are prepared to provide professional medical care based on scientific principles and ethical conduct. After completion of a 13-month residency and passing a State Medical Examination (*Lekarski Egzamin Panstwowy*), they can be employed in hospitals, public and non-public medical clinics and health care centres, and other institutions offering medical care and consultation. The title of Doctor of Medicine is the academic equivalent of a *magister* degree. Therefore, graduates of general medicine can continue their studies in doctoral (third-cycle degree) programs. Another option for graduates from general medicine is to apply for a specialization residency in one of the medical fields listed by the Ministry of Health. Specialization training lasts five to six years.

Core curriculum (as recommended by the General Council for Higher Education)

General medicine programs are structured as integrated, long-cycle programs lasting at least 12 semesters, with a minimum of 5,700 hours. The number of ECTS credits earned should be no less than 360.

Minimum subject hours (foundation and specialty subjects only):

Foundation subjects	Hours
Anatomy	210
Histology and embryology	120
Medical biology	60
Biophysics	60
Chemistry	45
Biochemistry	150
Physiology	165
Pathomorphology	165
Pathophysiology	75
Microbiology	60
Immunology	60
Clinical genetics	60
Pharmacology and toxicology	165
Hygiene and epidemiology	45
Laboratory diagnostics	45
Public Health	30

Psychology for physicians	30
Social aspects of health care	30
Medical ethics	30
History of medicine	30
Specialty subjects	Hours
Internal diseases	480
Paediatrics	330
Surgery	330
Gynaecology and midwifery	210
Neurology and neurosurgery	120
Otolaryngology	60
Ophthalmology	60
Dermatology and venereal diseases	60
Psychiatry	120
Communicable diseases	75
Orthopaedics and trauma	45
Radiology	75
Anaesthesiology and intensive therapy	60
Introductory dentistry	15
Oncology	60
Law and forensic medicine	45
Family medicine	105
Physical rehabilitation	30
Nuclear medicine	15
Emergency medicine	60
Physical education	60
Foreign language (English recommended)	120
Information technology	30
Clinical studies	780
Practical placements	700

Dental Medicine:

Upon successful completion of the five-year dental medicine program (passing all subjects) and a positive review of the practical placements, students graduate with the title of Doctor of Dentistry (*Lekarz dentysta*). Graduates are prepared to provide professional dental care based on scientific principles and ethical conduct. After completion of a 13-month residency and passing a State Medical-Dental Examination (*Lekarsko-Dentystyczny Egzamin Państwowy*), they can be employed in public and non-public dental-care centres or start their own practice. The title of

Doctor of Dentistry is the academic equivalent of a *magister* degree. Therefore, graduates can continue their studies in doctoral (third-cycle degree) programs.

Core curriculum (as recommended by the General Council for Higher Education)

Dental medicine studies are structured as integrated, long-cycle programs lasting at least 10 semesters, with a minimum of 5,000 hours. The number of ECTS credits earned should be no less than 300.

Minimum subject hours (foundation and specialty subjects only):

Foundation Subjects	Hours
Chemistry and biochemistry	150
Biophysics	45
Biology	45
Human anatomy	135
Histology, cytology and embryology	90
Human physiology	90
Microbiology and immunology	45
Pathomorphology	60
Pathophysiology	60
Pharmacology	90
Stomatology (public health)	60
Radiology	15
Surgery and oncology	75
Internal diseases	135
Paediatrics	60
Communicable diseases	30
Otorhinolaryngology	45
Dermatology and venereal diseases	30
Neurology	15
Ophthalmology	15
Clinical psychology	30
Anaesthesiology and reanimation	30
First medical aid	30
Disaster and emergency medicine	45
Physiology of pregnancy	15
Rehabilitation medicine	15
Forensic medicine	15
Public health	30
Specialty subjects	Hours
Endodontics and preventive dentistry	480
Periodontics and oral mucosa diseases	165
Prosthetics	495
Orthodontics	195

Dental surgery	285
Jaw-face surgery and oncology	110
Pathology of oral cavity	45
Microbiology of oral cavity	45
Paediatric and preventive dentistry	255
Pre-clinical study of preventive dentistry, endodontics, and periodontics	120
Geriatric dentistry	30
Physiology of chewing organs	45
Dental radiology	90
Clinical pharmacology	30
Occupational health, safety and ergonomics in dentistry	30
Dental materials, clinical and laboratory equipment	60
Practical studies	Hours
Nursing	80
General surgery or jaw/face surgery	80
Dental assistant	160
Dental manual procedures	160
Dental clinical procedures	160
Clinical studies	110
Additional subjects	Hours
Physical education	60
Foreign language	120
Information technology	30

Veterinary Medicine

Veterinary medicine studies are structured as integrated, long-cycle programs lasting at least 11 semesters, with a minimum of 5,100 hours. The number of ECTS credits earned should be no less than 330.

Minimum subject hours (foundation and specialty subjects only):

Foundation subjects	Hours
Biology	30
Cell Biology	30
Biochemistry	120
Biophysics	30
Chemistry	30
Histology and Embryology	90
Anatomy of Animals	150
Topographic Anatomy	45

Animal Physiology	120
Microbiology	105
Immunology	45
General and Veterinary Genetics	30
Veterinary Epidemiology	30
Pathophysiology	90
Veterinary Pharmacology	105
Pharmacy	15
Toxicology	45
Environmental Protection	30
Biostatistics and Documentation Methods	30
Veterinary Jurisprudence	15
Total	1185

Specialty subjects	Hours
Agronomy	15
Animal Husbandry	45
Technology of Animal Products	30
Animal Nutrition and Feeding	60
Dietetics	15
Well-being and Protection of Animals	30
Preventative Veterinary Medicine	75
Veterinary Economics	15
Diagnostic Imagery	45
Clinical and Laboratory Diagnostics	75
Pathomorphology	150
General Surgery and Anaesthesiology	45
Parasitology	90
Illness of Dogs and Cats	201
Equine Illness	165
Illness of Farm Animals	225
Andrology and Artificial Insemination	30
Illness of Birds	90
Illness of Fur Animals	15
Illness of Fish	15
Illness of Insects	15
Hygiene of Slaughter Animals and Meat	90
Hygiene of Animal Products	90
Hygiene of Milk	30
Public Health	15
Hygiene of Animal Feeding	30
Public Health Protection in Emergencies	30
Veterinary Administration and Legal Regulations	30

History of Veterinary Science and Ethics	15
Total:	1785

Additional subjects	Hours
General Humanities	60
Specialized Latin Language	30

Practicum	Hours (Weeks)
Animal Husbandry (after 4th semester)	80 (2)
Clinical Practicum (after 8th semester)	160 (4)
Veterinary Inspection (after 8th semester)	80 (2)
Clinical Practicum (after 10th semester)	160 (4)
Veterinary Inspection (after 10th semester)	80 (2)
Clinical Placement (last 2 semesters)	300 hours

Conclusion:

Integrated professional degree programs in medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine involve 10 to 12 semesters of full-time study, with entry based on the completion of secondary school and the receipt of the Matriculation Certificate. The credentials allow an individual to seek professional employment or admission to doctoral-level studies.

Based on the above information and placement recommendations of other evaluation resources, IQAS compares the integrated professional degree program from Poland to the completion of a first professional university degree.

Grading:

Following the 1991 reforms, the regulation imposing a ministry-prescribed grading scale on universities and university-level institutions was lifted. Higher education institutions were granted the freedom to decide on their own scales for the internal assessment of student progress and achievement, as long as it is indicated in the statute of the institution; however, most schools kept the traditional, pre-reform grading scale. Over time, many institutions have chosen to use intermediate grades on official documentation.

Mark	Polish Descriptor	English Descriptor	IQAS Comparison (%)
5	bardzo dobry	very good	90%
4+ or 4.5	dobry plus	good plus	80%
4	dobry	good	70%
3+ or 3.5	dostateczny plus	satisfactory plus	60%
3	dostateczny	satisfactory	52%
2	niedostateczny	fail	fail

zaliczenie	credit/ pass	pass
niezaliczenie	fail	fail

To successfully complete a semester (or a year) a student must receive at least ‘satisfactory’ (3) marks in all subjects with examinations, and obtain ‘credit’ or ‘pass’ (*zaliczenie*) in the remaining subjects. The requirements for obtaining a ‘*zaliczenie*’ may include attending lectures and seminars; and the completion of various projects.

Prior to the 1991 reform of the school system, there was one grading scale used at all levels of education, including post-secondary. It was centrally prescribed by the Ministry of National Education.

Mark	Polish Descriptor	Polish abbreviation	English Descriptor	IQAS Comparison (%)
5	bardzo dobry	bdb	very good	90%
4	dobry	db	good	75%
3	dostateczny	dst	satisfactory	60%
2	dopuszczający	ndst	fail	fail

Because the grading scale was limited, teachers often added a plus (+) or minus (-) to a mark (e.g. a 4+ was considered better than ‘good’ but not quite ‘very good’). This practice was permitted for the internal assessment of individual projects and tests. Only a full mark could be used as a final mark on official documentation (certificates of promotion or completion).

Country: Poland (Republic of Poland)
Master in Law (Integrated 1st and 2nd Cycle)

Category: University

Credential Actual Name:
Magister Prawa

Credential English Name:
Master in Law

Time Period Credential Offered: Current (post-1990s reform)

Issuing Body: University-level institutions

Admission Requirements: Matriculation Certificate (*swiadectwo dojrzalosci*)

Program Description:
Five-year professional university degree program

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

- Employment in a professional field
- Further education - third-cycle degree (doctoral studies – *studia doktoranckie*)

IQAS Recommendations:

Generally compares to the completion of a first professional university degree in law.

IQAS Rationale:

Admission to long-cycle degree programs is open to holders of a Matriculation Certificate (*swiadectwo dojrzalosci*). Education institutions may specify which subject results from the Matriculation Certificate will be required for a specific program. Secondary school students have the option to be examined in these subjects during their matriculation exams. Additional entrance examinations may be set up to assess knowledge not tested through the matriculation exams. Upon completion of a long-cycle degree program in law, a professional title will be awarded.

Full time law programs are offered as long-cycle studies lasting five years (10 semesters). Besides passing required modules, students must take a number of electives. Elective courses can be chosen according to personal interests, and should support the subject area of the final research project.

The first year is preparatory and familiarizes students with legal terminology and the history of law from ancient to modern times. It also includes methodology of jurisprudence and logic.

The following areas are studied during the remaining years:

- civil law
- criminal law
- constitutional law
- administrative law and proceedings
- labour law
- financial and trade law

- interpretation of law (case analysis)

During the third year of study, students make the final decision about their specialization. In addition to law subjects, two foreign language courses must be taken as a part of the required curriculum. At the end of the fifth year, students present their research project, called *praca magisterska* (master thesis), which can earn 20 ECTS credits.

Upon successful completion of the program, a positive review of the research project and a final examination (*egzamin magisterski*), a student graduates with the title of *magister prawa* (Master in Law).

All graduates of law can work in any public or private law firms or state administration offices. They can hold a variety of positions e.g. income tax advisors or patent attorneys. Graduates of law can continue their studies by specializing in one of the ‘applications’ (*aplikacja*) available – notary (*notariusz*), prosecutor (*oskarzyciel*), judge (*sedzia*), defence lawyer (*adwokat*) or legal counsellor (*radca prawny*). The length of study, depending on the specialty, can vary between two-and-a-half and three-and-a-half years. Studies are a combination of university lectures and a practicum taken at a law firm or regional court. The completion of the ‘application’ study gives access to independent practice within the chosen specialty.

Core curriculum (as recommended by the General Council for Higher Education)

Law studies are structured as integrated, long-cycle programs lasting at least 10 semesters, with a minimum of 2,400 instructional hours. The number of ECTS credits earned should be no less than 300.

Minimum subject hours (foundation and specialty subjects only):

Foundation subjects	Hours
Jurisprudence	45
Logic	45
Constitutional law	45
Criminal law	45
Administrative law	45
Civil law	90
Administrative and court proceedings	45
Criminal proceedings	45
Civil proceedings	45

Specialty subjects	Hours *
Theory and philosophy of law	
Political and legal doctrines	
Labour laws and social insurance systems	
Financial law and public finances	
International public law	
European Union law	
Economic law	
History of Polish law	

History of international laws	
Ancient Rome law	
Commerce law	
Total	330

* There are no specific minimum hours recommended for each subject

Additional subjects	Hours
Physical education	60
Foreign language (English recommended)	120
Information technology	30

Conclusion:

Integrated professional degree programs in law involve 10 semesters of full-time study, with entry based on the completion of secondary school and the receipt of the Matriculation Certificate. The credentials allow an individual to seek professional employment or admission to doctoral-level studies.

Based on the above information and placement recommendations of other evaluation resources, IQAS compares the Diploma of Master in Law from Poland to the completion of a first professional university degree in law.

Grading:

Following the 1991 reforms, the regulation imposing a ministry-prescribed grading scale on universities and university-level institutions was lifted. Higher education institutions were granted the freedom to decide on their own scales for the internal assessment of student progress and achievement, as long as it is indicated in the statute of the institution; however, most schools kept the traditional, pre-reform grading scale. Over time, many institutions have chosen to use intermediate grades on official documentation.

Mark	Polish Descriptor	English Descriptor	IQAS Comparison (%)
5	bardzo dobry	very good	90%
4+ or 4.5	dobry plus	good plus	80%
4	dobry	good	70%
3+ or 3.5	dostateczny plus	satisfactory plus	60%
3	dostateczny	satisfactory	52%
2	niedostateczny	fail	fail
	zaliczenie	credit/ pass	pass
	niezaliczenie	fail	fail

To successfully complete a semester (or a year) a student must receive at least 'satisfactory' (3) marks in all subjects with examinations, and obtain 'credit' or 'pass' (*zaliczenie*) in the remaining subjects. The requirements for obtaining a '*zaliczenie*' may include attending lectures and seminars; and the completion of various projects.

Prior to the 1991 reform of the school system, there was one grading scale used at all levels of education, including post-secondary. It was centrally prescribed by the Ministry of National Education.

Mark	Polish Descriptor	Polish abbreviation	English Descriptor	IQAS Comparison (%)
5	bardzo dobry	bdb	very good	90%
4	dobry	db	good	75%
3	dostateczny	dst	satisfactory	60%
2	dopuszczający	ndst	fail	fail

Because the grading scale was limited, teachers often added a plus (+) or minus (-) to a mark (e.g. a 4+ was considered better than ‘good’ but not quite ‘very good’). This practice was permitted for the internal assessment of individual projects and tests. Only a full mark could be used as a final mark on official documentation (certificates of promotion or completion).

Country: Poland (Republic of Poland)
Doctoral Degree

Category: University

Credential Actual Name:

Doktor xxx

Credential English Name:

Doctor of xxx

Credential Alternate Actual Name(s):

- *Doktor sztuki*
- *Doktor nauk*
- Doctor of xxx (in artistic disciplines)
- Doctor of xxx (in scientific disciplines)

Time Period Credential Offered: Current (post-1990s reform)

Issuing Body: University-level institutions

Admission Requirements: Master's degree (or equivalent)

Program Description:

Advanced research-based graduate degree program

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

- Employment
- Further education – post-doctoral degree studies (*doktor habilitowany*)

IQAS Recommendations:

Generally compares to the completion of a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree. [As part of the degree requirements, a dissertation entitled "...” was completed.]

IQAS Rationale:

Access to doctoral programs, is open to applicants who hold a Master's degree (*magister* or an equivalent degree). Doctoral studies are offered by higher education institutions that have authorization to grant a *doktor* degree in a given field. Based on a 2007 Regulation of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, doctoral studies cannot last longer than four years, except under certain circumstances allowing an extension of no more than one year. Doctoral studies lead to an advanced, in-depth knowledge in a very specific discipline. They also prepare individuals to conduct independent research in the discipline studied.

Doctoral programs require students to attend courses and take examinations; to conduct research and write relevant reports; and to prepare a doctoral dissertation. Doctoral students are also required to teach classes under the supervision of an academic teacher.

Upon completion of a doctoral program, students receive a *Swiadcetwo ukonczenia studiow doktoranckich* (Certificate of Completion of Doctoral Studies). The completion of a doctoral

program is the typical route to receiving the degree of *doktor*. However, it is not mandatory. The academic degree of *doktor* is awarded to a person who meets all the following conditions:

1. Holds a *magister* degree (or equivalent)
2. Has passed doctoral examinations, as determined by the institution granting the degree.
3. Has submitted and publicly defended a doctoral dissertation

Conclusion:

Doctoral degree programs involve three to four years of full-time study, with entry based on the completion of a Master’s degree. The credentials allow an individual to seek employment, or to seek admission to post-doctoral-level studies (*doktor habilitowany*).

Based on the above information and placement recommendations of other evaluation resources, IQAS compares the Doctoral Degree from Poland to the completion of a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree.

Grading:

Following the 1991 reforms, the regulation imposing a ministry-prescribed grading scale on universities and university-level institutions was lifted. Higher education institutions were granted the freedom to decide on their own scales for the internal assessment of student progress and achievement, as long as it is indicated in the statute of the institution; however, most schools kept the traditional, pre-reform grading scale. Over time, many institutions have chosen to use intermediate grades on official documentation.

Mark	Polish Descriptor	English Descriptor	IQAS Comparison (%)
5	bardzo dobry	very good	90%
4+ or 4.5	dobry plus	good plus	80%
4	dobry	good	70%
3+ or 3.5	dostateczny plus	satisfactory plus	60%
3	dostateczny	satisfactory	52%
2	niedostateczny	fail	fail
	zaliczenie	credit/ pass	pass
	niezaliczenie	fail	fail

To successfully complete a semester (or a year) a student must receive at least ‘satisfactory’ (3) marks in all subjects with examinations, and obtain ‘credit’ or ‘pass’ (*zaliczenie*) in the remaining subjects. The requirements for obtaining a ‘*zaliczenie*’ may include attending lectures and seminars; and the completion of various projects.

Prior to the 1991 reform of the school system, there was one grading scale used at all levels of education, including post-secondary. It was centrally prescribed by the Ministry of National Education.

Mark	Polish Descriptor	Polish abbreviation	English Descriptor	IQAS Comparison (%)
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5	bardzo dobry	bdb	very good	90%
4	dobry	db	good	75%
3	dostateczny	dst	satisfactory	60%
2	dopuszczający	ndst	fail	fail

Because the grading scale was limited, teachers often added a plus (+) or minus (-) to a mark (e.g. a 4+ was considered better than ‘good’ but not quite ‘very good’). This practice was permitted for the internal assessment of individual projects and tests. Only a full mark could be used as a final mark on official documentation (certificates of promotion or completion).

Country: Poland (Republic of Poland)
Doctor of Habilitation

Category: University

Credential Actual Name:
Doktor habilitowany

Credential English Name:
Doctor of Habilitation

Time Period Credential Offered: Current (post-1990s reform)

Issuing Body: University-level institutions

Admission Requirements: Doctoral degree

Program Description:
Post-doctoral, advanced research based study

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

- Employment
- Academic post of professor at higher education institutions and can be awarded the academic title of professor

IQAS Recommendations:
Represents the completion of post-doctoral research.

IQAS Rationale:
Access to the *Doktor Habilitowany* (*dr. habil.*), the highest academic degree in Poland, is open to applicants who hold a Doctoral degree. The *dr.habil.* degree is a prerequisite for appointment to senior posts in the academic profession, and ultimately leads to a title of Professor. It involves years of innovative research, recognized scientific or artistic achievements, several publications, and a further *habilitation* thesis.

Doctoral programs may be provided either by Higher Education Institutions or by other units of research institutions (i.e. Polish Academy of Sciences and research and development institutions) which are authorized to award the academic degree of *Doktor habilitowany*.

Conclusion:
Doctor of Habilitation degrees are available to holders of a doctoral degree who have completed years of post-doctoral research, publications and a further thesis. The *dr.habil.* degree is a prerequisite for appointment to senior posts in the academic profession, and ultimately leads to a title of Professor.

Based on the above information and placement recommendations of other evaluation resources, IQAS indicates that the Doctor of Habilitation represents the completion of post-doctoral

research.

Grading:

Following the 1991 reforms, the regulation imposing a ministry-prescribed grading scale on universities and university-level institutions was lifted. Higher education institutions were granted the freedom to decide on their own scales for the internal assessment of student progress and achievement, as long as it is indicated in the statute of the institution; however, most schools kept the traditional, pre-reform grading scale. Over time, many institutions have chosen to use intermediate grades on official documentation.

Mark	Polish Descriptor	English Descriptor	IQAS Comparison (%)
5	bardzo dobry	very good	90%
4+ or 4.5	dobry plus	good plus	80%
4	dobry	good	70%
3+ or 3.5	dostateczny plus	satisfactory plus	60%
3	dostateczny	satisfactory	52%
2	niedostateczny	fail	fail
	zaliczenie	credit/ pass	pass
	niezaliczenie	fail	fail

To successfully complete a semester (or a year) a student must receive at least ‘satisfactory’ (3) marks in all subjects with examinations, and obtain ‘credit’ or ‘pass’ (*zaliczenie*) in the remaining subjects. The requirements for obtaining a ‘*zaliczenie*’ may include attending lectures and seminars; and the completion of various projects.

Prior to the 1991 reform of the school system, there was one grading scale used at all levels of education, including post-secondary. It was centrally prescribed by the Ministry of National Education.

Mark	Polish Descriptor	Polish abbreviation	English Descriptor	IQAS Comparison (%)
5	bardzo dobry	bdb	very good	90%
4	dobry	db	good	75%
3	dostateczny	dst	satisfactory	60%
2	dopuszczający	ndst	fail	fail

Because the grading scale was limited, teachers often added a plus (+) or minus (-) to a mark (e.g. a 4+ was considered better than 'good' but not quite 'very good'). This practice was permitted for the internal assessment of individual projects and tests. Only a full mark could be used as a final mark on official documentation (certificates of promotion or completion).

Country: Poland (Republic of Poland)

Diploma of Completion of Teachers' College/ Foreign Language Teachers' College

Category: Post-Secondary

Credential Actual Name:

- *Dyplom ukończenia kolegium nauczycielskiego*
- *Dyplom ukończenia nauczycielskiego kolegium języków obcych*

Credential English Name:

- Diploma of Completion of Teachers' College
- Diploma of Completion of Foreign Language Teachers' College

Time Period Credential Offered: Current (post-1990s reform)

Issuing Body: Colleges:

- Teachers' Colleges - *Kolegium nauczycielskie*
- Foreign Language Teachers' Colleges - *Nauczycielskie kolegium języków obcych*

Admission Requirements: Matriculation Certificate (*Swiadcetwo dojrzalosci*)

Program Description:

Three-year post-secondary program

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

- Employment as a teacher
- Further education – may challenge *licencjat* examinations

IQAS Recommendations:

Generally compares to the completion of a three-year post-secondary Diploma.

IQAS Rationale:

Teacher's College –*Kolegium nauczycielskie (KN)*

Public teachers' colleges are established under provincial administration, as represented by the chief educational officer called the *kurator*. Non-public colleges can be established by individuals or organizations. Teachers' colleges are not independent institutions – they operate under the scientific patronage of the respective higher schools/universities with which they enter into an agreement. The institution or individual establishing the *kolegium* is responsible for the school's general, personnel and financial management. The Ministry of National Education is the highest administrative authority for all teachers' colleges.

Admission to a Teachers' College program is open to Matriculation Certificate holders and is based on the percentages (converted into points) achieved in required subjects. A medical certificate confirming suitability for a career in teaching must also be submitted.

Teachers' Colleges offer three-year programs in the following fields:

1. Kindergarten teacher
2. Primary school teacher
3. Teacher-educator in special centers (e.g. youth emergency shelters)

Programs can be taken as day, evening or extramural study. Many colleges provide the option for students to customize their studies according to individual interests and future career plans. However, individualized programs still must meet core educational requirements as set by the respective school regulations.

Those who complete a Teachers' College program and pass the diploma examination, receive a Diploma of Completion of Teachers' College (*Dyplom ukonczenia kolegium nauczycielskiego*). This credential gives access to employment as a kindergarten or primary school teacher. Graduates of the *kolegium* can also challenge the licentiate examination conducted by the higher education institution supervising the college. The title of licentiate gives access to further education at the master's level (*magister*).

Teachers' College sample program – primary school language arts teacher and librarian
(*Kolegium Nauczycielskie, Bielsko-Biala*)

Subjects	Total number of contact hours in a three-year program
Teacher training:	
Psychology	75
Pedagogy	75
Methodology of teaching	133
Communication arts	15
Voice emission	30
Grading and evaluation	26
History of philosophy	60
Didactics of scientific information and its storage	30
Work methodology in school and pedagogical library	15
General subjects:	
Information technology	56
Foreign language	120
Physical education	60
Basic and specialty subjects (language arts – Polish):	
Old Polish literature	120
Literature of Enlightenment and	150

Romanticism	
Literature of Positivism and Young Poland	112
Modern literature	210
Poetics and literary theory	90
Introduction to linguistics	15
Descriptive grammar	120
Old Church Slavonic language	30
Supplementary sciences	15
Latin	120
History of Poland	30
Foreign literature	30
Language of theatre, radio and television	90
Historical grammar	120
Sociolinguistics and dialectology	26
Lexicology and lexicography	30
History of language	26
Children and young adult literature	39
Licentiate seminar	60
Specialty subjects in information management (library):	
Types of communication	15
Reading and society	30
Books – libraries – information	30
Analysis and editing of documents	60
History of written communication and media	15
Basics of librarianship and information	45
Information services	45
Internet	30
Information networks	30
Modern publishing houses	15
Information resources and selection	45
Practica :	
Major specialty	135
Secondary specialty (library)	45
Total:	2,668

Foreign Language Teacher's College – *Nauczycielskie kolegium jezykow obcych (NKJO)*

The first foreign language teachers' colleges were established at the same time as teachers'

colleges. Their foundation is based on the same principles as teachers' colleges and they are administered the same way, with the Ministry of National Education acting as the highest authority. A Foreign Language Teachers' College must first have a written agreement with a university or an academy, regarding educational and scientific patronage and supervision. The body establishing the *kolegium* is responsible for the school's general, personnel and financial management.

Admission to Foreign Language Teachers' College programs is open to Matriculation Certificate holders, and is based on the percentages (converted into points) achieved in required subjects. A medical certificate confirming suitability for a career in teaching must also be submitted

Foreign Language Teachers' Colleges offer three-year programs in several modern foreign languages; with English, French and German being the most popular. Programs can be taken through day or evening study. Instruction is provided in the specialty language and in Polish.

Those who complete a Foreign Language Teachers' College program and pass the diploma examination, receive a Diploma of Completion of Foreign Language Teachers' College (*Dyplom ukonczenia nauczycielskiego kolegium jezykow obcych*). This credential gives access to employment as a foreign language teacher (of the language studied at the college) at all levels of school education. Graduates of the *kolegium* can also take a licentiate examination conducted by the higher education institution supervising the college. The title of licentiate gives access to further education at the master's level (*magister*).

Foreign Language Teacher College sample program – English language
(*Nauczycielskie Kolegium Jezykow Obcych, Torun*)

Subjects	Total number of contact hours in a three-year program
Applied language skills:	
Integrated skills	240
Applied phonetics	120
Applied grammar	300
Conversations	120
Reading and writing comprehension	120
Stylistics	60
Lexicology	30
Expressiveness	30
Translation	60
Philological education:	
General knowledge about Great Britain	30
General knowledge about American culture	30
History of Great Britain	60
History of the United States	60
Introduction to literary criticism	30

British literature	60
American literature	60
Philosophy of language	30
General knowledge of language	60
Descriptive grammar	90
Teacher education:	
Psychological and educational skills (field studies)	60
Psychology	60
Pedagogy	60
General methodology	180
Methodology of teaching foreign language	60
Voice emission	30
Educational law	30
Other:	
Practicum	150
Information technology	60
Diploma seminar	60
Second foreign language	240
Latin	30
Total	2,610 hours

Conclusion:

Teachers' College and Foreign Language Teachers' College programs involve three years of full-time study, with entry based on the completion of a Matriculation Certificate. The credentials allow an individual to seek employment as a teacher in the area of specialization, or to challenge the licentiate examinations of the affiliated university.

Based on the above information and placement recommendations of other evaluation resources, IQAS compares the Certificate of Completion of Teachers' College/ Foreign Language Teachers' College from Poland to the completion of a three-year post-secondary Diploma.

Grading:

College programs have their own grading scale, prescribed by the Ministry of National Education, which is similar to the school education scale, except that the minimum 'pass' mark is '3' (*dostateczny*). The grading scale is as follows:

Mark *	Polish Descriptor	English Descriptor	IQAS Comparison (%)
6	celujący	excellent	90%
5+ or 5.5	bardzo dobry plus	very good plus	85%

5	bardzo dobry	very good	80%
4+ or 4.5	dobry plus	good plus	74%
4	dobry	good	66%
3+ or 3.5	dostateczny plus	satisfactory plus	60%
3	dostateczny	satisfactory	52%
2	niedostateczny	fail	Fail
	zaliczenie	credit/ pass	pass
	niezaliczenie	Fail	fail

**All passing marks, except the highest mark (6 – excellent), may be upgraded by 0.5 (“+”).*

Some courses are evaluated based on a student’s work within a prescribed time-frame (e.g. semester), rather than a final examination. In this case, essays and projects are marked individually, with successful students being awarded a ‘credit’ or ‘pass’ (*zaliczenie*) as a final course mark.

Prior to the 1991 reform of the school system, there was one grading scale used at all levels of education, including post-secondary. It was centrally prescribed by the Ministry of National Education.

Mark	Polish Descriptor	Polish abbreviation	English Descriptor	IQAS Comparison (%)
5	bardzo dobry	bdb	very good	90%
4	dobry	db	good	75%
3	dostateczny	dst	satisfactory	60%
2	dopuszczający	ndst	fail	fail

Because the grading scale was limited, teachers often added a plus (+) or minus (-) to a mark (e.g. a 4+ was considered better than ‘good’ but not quite ‘very good’). This practice was permitted for the internal assessment of individual projects and tests. Only a full mark could be used as a final mark on official documentation (certificates of promotion or completion).

Country: Poland (Republic of Poland)
Certificate of Completion of Post-Diploma Studies

Category: Professional

Credential Actual Name:
*Swiadectwo Ukonczenia Studiow
Podyplomowych*

Credential English Name:
Certificate of Completion of Post-Diploma
Studies

Credential Alternate Actual Name(s):
Dyplom Ukonczenia Studiow Podyplomowych

Credential Alternate English Name(s):
Diploma of Completion of Post-Diploma
Studies

Time Period Credential Offered: Current (post-1990s reform)

Issuing Body: Higher Education Institutions

Admission Requirements: Title of Licentiate, Title of Engineer, or Master's Degree

Program Description:
One to one-and-a-half year professionally-oriented program

Provides Access to in the Home Country:

- Employment

IQAS Recommendations:
Generally compares to the completion of a university Diploma.

IQAS Rationale:
Studia podyplomowe are professionally-oriented qualifications for holders of a *licencjat* or *magister*. They are offered within the system of higher education at higher education institutions. Whether the minimum admission requirement to post-diploma programs are a *licencjat* or a *magister* degree, they are not considered to be second-cycle studies. These studies neither give access to PhD studies nor give any sort of advance standing in second-cycle studies. Post-diploma programs give an advantage in the labor market only. In the 1990s, ECTS credits were not awarded towards a *Dyplom/Swiadectwo ukonczenia studiow podyplomowych*. Currently, institutions require from 45 to 60 ECTS or at least 450 contact hours towards these programs. The length of these programs is from a half to one and a half years.

Minimum admission requirements to *studia podyplomowe* are set by the Higher Education Institutions themselves. If an applicant was admitted to post-diploma studies on the basis of his *licencjat* degree, his qualifications are still – after the completion of *studia podyplomowe* - at the *licencjat* level. The same is true when the minimum admission requirement is a *magister* degree.

Upon completion of *studia podyplomowe* a certificate of completion of post diploma studies

(*Dyplom/Swiadectwo ukonczenia studiow podyplomowych*) is issued.

Conclusion:

Dyplom/Swiadectwo ukonczenia studiow podyplomowych programs are purely professional and are considered an asset in the labour market. They involve one to three semesters of full-time study, with entry based on the completion of either a *licencjat* or *magister*. These non-degree programs are not considered graduate in Poland.

In Alberta, university-level diploma programs prepare students for employment in a particular field generally involve one year of academic study or equivalent beyond a bachelor's degree and may be applicable to related master's degree programs.

Based on the above information, IQAS compares the Certificate of Completion of Post-Diploma Studies from Poland to the completion of a university Diploma.

Grading:

Following the 1991 reforms, the regulation imposing a ministry-prescribed grading scale on universities and university-level institutions was lifted. Higher education institutions were granted the freedom to decide on their own scales for the internal assessment of student progress and achievement, as long as it is indicated in the statute of the institution; however, most schools kept the traditional, pre-reform grading scale. Over time, many institutions have chosen to use intermediate grades on official documentation.

Mark	Polish Descriptor	English Descriptor	IQAS Comparison (%)
5	bardzo dobry	very good	90%
4+ or 4.5	dobry plus	good plus	80%
4	dobry	good	70%
3+ or 3.5	dostateczny plus	satisfactory plus	60%
3	dostateczny	satisfactory	52%
2	niedostateczny	fail	fail
	zaliczenie	credit/ pass	pass
	niezaliczenie	fail	fail

To successfully complete a semester (or a year) a student must receive at least ‘satisfactory’ (3) marks in all subjects with examinations, and obtain ‘credit’ or ‘pass’ (*zaliczenie*) in the remaining subjects. The requirements for obtaining a ‘*zaliczenie*’ may include attending lectures and seminars; and the completion of various projects.

Prior to the 1991 reform of the school system, there was one grading scale used at all levels of education, including post-secondary. It was centrally prescribed by the Ministry of National Education.

Mark	Polish Descriptor	Polish abbreviation	English Descriptor	IQAS Comparison (%)
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5	bardzo dobry	bdb	very good	90%
4	dobry	db	good	75%
3	dostateczny	dst	satisfactory	60%
2	dopuszczający	ndst	fail	fail

Because the grading scale was limited, teachers often added a plus (+) or minus (-) to a mark (e.g. a 4+ was considered better than ‘good’ but not quite ‘very good’). This practice was permitted for the internal assessment of individual projects and tests. Only a full mark could be used as a final mark on official documentation (certificates of promotion or completion).