Link: <https://www.gov.pl/web/diplomacy/poles-card--recipients-and-benefits-information-for-interested-poles-from-ukraine>

The Pole’s card

The Pole's Card is a document confirming the foreigner's belonging to the Polish nation. **It does not mean granting Polish citizenship to a foreigner, granting the right of temporary or permanent residence in Poland, or the right to cross Poland's borders without a visa.**

Having a Pole's Card is associated with certain rights; its holder may:

- obtain a national visa entitling to multiple crossings of the Polish border free of charge;

- submit an application for granting citizenship by the President of the Republic of Poland at a Polish consulate free of charge;

- use the help of the Consul, within the scope of the Consul's competence, in a life-threatening or safety situation;

- undertake legal work in Poland without the need for a work permit;

- conduct business activity in Poland on the same terms as Polish citizens;

- in Poland, use the free primary, secondary and tertiary education system on the same terms as Polish citizens, and at the same time apply for scholarships and study aid intended for foreigners learning and studying in Poland;

- in emergencies, use free healthcare in Poland on the same terms as Polish citizens;

- use a 37% discount on rail travel in Poland;

- visit state museums in Poland for free;

- be first to apply for funds from the Polish state budget or from the budget of municipalities in Poland, intended to support Poles abroad;

- submit an application for a permanent residence permit free of charge;

- after submitting the application for a permanent residence permit, have it granted, for a period not longer than 9 months, for themselves and their immediate family members staying with them in Poland.

The Pole's Card may be issued to a person who does not have Polish citizenship, declares belonging to the Polish Nation and meets the following conditions:

1. The person demonstrates their connection with Polishness through at least basic knowledge of the Polish language, considered their mother tongue, as well as knowledge and cultivation of Polish traditions and customs;
2. In the presence of the consul or voivode (who will be indicated under a separate regulation), or an employee appointed by them, the person will submit a written declaration of belonging to the Polish nation;
3. They will prove that they are of Polish nationality or at least one of their parents or grandparents or two great-grandparents were of Polish nationality, or they will present a certificate of an authorized Polish or Polish diasphora community organizationconfirming active involvement in activities for the benefit of the Polish language and culture or the Polish national minority for the period of at least the past 3 years;
4. The person submits a declaration that their ascendants have not repatriated or have not been repatriated from the territory of the Republic of Poland or the Polish People's Republic, on the basis of repatriation agreements concluded in the years 1944- 1957 by the Republic of Poland or the Polish People's Republic with the Belarusian Soviet Socialist Republic, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to one of the states being party to the agreements.

The application for granting or extending the validity of the Pole's Card is submitted at the Consulate of the Republic of Poland competent for the applicant's place of residence or at the Voivodship Office, provided that the Council of Ministers indicates the voivode competent to examine such applications.

The basic set of documents necessary to submit a complete application for a the Pole’s Card:

1. An application to be completed in accordance with the explanations to the application
2. 1 photo
3. Completed and copied documents confirming the applicant's Polishness and knowledge of the Polish language. If the applicant is unable to present the described documents, the knowledge of the Polish language is assessed during the interview by the consul or voivode.
4. A photocopy of a document confirming identity. The original should also be presented for inspection.

Then an appointment with the consul of the Republic of Poland or the voivode should be made.

The consul or voivode talks to the applicant in Polish about Poland, its history, culture, as well as customs and traditions. Estimated talk time is 15– 20 minutes.

If the interview is successful for the applicant, the consul or the voivode shall present the applicant with a declaration of belonging to the Polish nation and a declaration that their ascendants have not repatriated or have not been repatriated from the territory of the Republic of Poland.

The Pole's Card is valid for 10 years from the date it was granted.