VISA

You do not need a visa for Poland if:

* Your country is part of the EU/EEA countries or any Schengen country.
* Your country of residence has a visa-free agreement with Schengen. This includes citizens of the US, Australia, Canada, Georgia, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Thailand, and Tunisia, among others.

If you are from a country that does not have a visa-free agreement (such as India, China, Morocco, Thailand, Turkey, Egypt, etc.) you have to apply for a visa to visit Poland.

Types of VISAs:

- Poland Schengen Visa. If you plan on staying in Poland for less than 90 days, you will need to acquire a Polish tourist visa. This visa is perfect if you want to visit Poland for tourism, business, or even medical treatment. The steps for applying for a Poland Schengen visa are:

1. Locate the nearest Polish consulate or embassy. Your first step is to learn where you have to submit the application, so you can either visit, call, or check the website of the nearest Polish embassy or consulate.
2. Set up an appointment. You must set an appointment at least two weeks in advance.
3. Collect the required documents. See “Document Checklist for Poland Schengen Visa” below.
4. Submit the application in person at the Polish embassy or consulate. Once you have all the documents, submit them in person on the date of your appointment.
5. Attend the visa interview (if it is required). Sometimes, the embassy or consulate may ask you to enter a visa interview on the day of your appointment.
6. Wait for the decision. You will usually hear back within two weeks.

The required documents for a Poland Schengen visa application are:

1. Poland visa application form.
2. Two passport-sized photos of yourself.
3. Your passport.
4. Proof of travel health insurance. You need Schengen insurance that covers at least €30,000 for medical emergencies in the entire Schengen area, not just Poland.
5. Cover letter. The purpose and duration of your trip to Poland, and what you intend to do there.
6. Proof of accommodation.
7. Proof of sufficient funds to provide for your stay in Poland. Submit your bank statements from the last three months. If someone else will fund your trip, they must write you a letter of invitation or guarantee.
8. Proof of a flight reservation.
9. Paid visa fee receipt.
10. Civil status documents, as required by the embassy or consulate.

You can stay up to 90 days during a 180-day period in Poland with a Schengen visa.

You can extend a Poland Schengen visa, but you will need a strong reason, such as:

* It is not possible for you to leave Poland before the expiry of the visa, for humanitarian or professional reasons.
* You provide evidence of important personal reasons justifying the extension of your Schengen visa.

You may take a short study course of up to three months on a Schengen visa. You can not work in Poland with a Schengen tourist visa.

- Poland Work Visa. If you want to work in Poland, you must apply for a Polish work visa. You must have an employer who will submit a request for a work permit on your behalf, at the local Voivodeship office (which is the Polish equivalent of a municipal office). Everyone who is not an EU/EEA or Swiss citizen needs a visa to work in Poland. If you are an EU/EEA/Swiss citizen and want to work in Poland for longer than three months, you only have to register your stay in a local registration office.

Before applying for a work visa, you need to know about which work permit you should apply for. The types of Poland work permits are:

* Work Permit A. It is required if you have a job offer from a business registered in Poland. This work permit is given to you under the condition that you will obtain a valid residence permit.
* Work Permit B. This permit is required if you are employed as a board member and will be residing in Poland for a period exceeding six months.
* Work Permit C. If you are delegated to Poland by a foreign employer for longer than 30 days to work for their Polish branch.
* Work Permit D. If a foreign employer delegates you to Poland to work in export services. The foreign employer must not have a Polish branch.
* Work Permit S.This permit is required if a foreign employer sends you to Poland for agricultural, hunting, fishing, or accommodation activities.

The documents required for a Poland work visa application are:

* Valid passport.
* Visa application form.
* Colored photos of yourself.
* Flight itinerary.
* Proof of travel health insurance. You will be required to submit proof of travel health insurance covering at least €30,000.
* Proof of accommodation.
* Original and copied version of the work permit.
* Employment letter. You must submit the original letter of employment, signed by your employee and stating your position, salary, and other details of your employment.
* Work experience certificate or CV.
* Police clearance certificate. You must prove that you do not have a criminal background.

The steps for applying for a Poland work visa are:

1. Your employer applies for a work permit on your behalf.
2. You apply for a work visa at the Polish embassy.
3. Enter Poland and start working.

If you plan to start working in Poland, a Polish employer needs to apply for a work permit on your behalf at the local Voivodeship office (Governor’s Office in Poland). The employer must submit documents, such as

* The application form.
* Proof of paid application fees.
* Proof of the legal status of the employer.
* Records of the employer’s economic activity.
* Copy of the employee’s passport pages.
* Proof of the employee’s health insurance.
* Deed for the company.
* Statements that show profits or losses made by the employer.
* Copy of the work contract.

Once you receive authorization to work in Poland, you can then apply for a work visa from the Polish Embassy in your country. This visa will allow you to travel to Poland for work purposes and then apply for a temporary or permanent residence permit. To apply for a Poland work visa, you need to follow these steps:

1. Locate the nearest Polish Embassy or Consulate.
2. Make a visa appointment.
3. Collect the required documents.
4. Submit the application.

The Polish work visa is only valid for three months, during which you have to apply for a residence permit for you to stay longer.

Your employer can extend your Poland work visa by renewing your contract. If you want to extend your work visa, you must do so 30 days before your work visa expires.

If you are working in Poland with a temporary work permit of at least two years, then your family members can apply for a Polish family reunification visa. If your family members are granted a family reunification visa, they can live with you in Poland for the duration of your work permit.

- Poland Student Visa. If you are from a non-EU country and have been accepted to a university in Poland, you need to apply for a Polish student visa and student residence permit.

If you are a non-EU/EEA/Swiss citizen, you must get a student visa at your nearest Polish embassy/consulate. After you arrive in Poland, you must apply for a temporary residence permit, preferably 45 days before your visa expires to extend your stay.

If you are an EU/EEA or Swiss citizen and you would like to study in Poland for longer than three months, you only need to register your stay in the country.

Depending on where you live, you can apply for a Poland visa at one of the following:

* The Polish embassy or consulate in your country.
* The Polish embassy or consulate in a neighboring country.
* The embassy or consulate of another Schengen country, to which Poland has outsourced visa submissions.
* A private visa application center or agency that the Polish embassy has outsourced visa submission services.

The steps you must follow to apply for a Poland student visa are:

1. Find the nearest Polish consulate or embassy to set up an appointment.
2. Complete the application form.
3. Collect the required documents.
4. Submit the application in person at the Polish embassy or consulate.
5. Attend the visa interview if it is required.
6. Wait for the decision.

The required documents for a Poland visa application are:

* Two Poland visa application forms.
* Photos of yourself.
* Your passport.
* Health insurance. Prior health insurance is important to cover you for at least the initial part of your trip until you set up long-term student health insurance in Poland.
* Proof of accommodation.
* Proof of sufficient funds.
* A university acceptance letter. The letter has to be official and signed by the Polish university you applied for, and it should state your name, type of study, and the length of your studies.
* An invitation letter.
* Document proving your English or Polish language proficiency level\*. To start your studies in a Poland university, you must prove your English or Polish language proficiency level.
* Scholarship document (if applicable). Proof that you have obtained a scholarship for your studies in Poland will help you with your financial insurance. The scholarship has to cover a minimum of €631 per month for it to be considered a valid document for your visa application.
* Proof of your relationship status. If you are married, you must submit your marriage certificate.
* Proof of your flight date and time.
* Paid visa fee receipt.

You can stay in Poland for up to 3 months with a Schengen visa and one year with a national student visa.

International students that want to stay in Poland for longer than three months need to get the TRP (Temporary Residence Permit). The first time you apply for a permit, you can stay in Poland for your studies for an additional two years.

You can work in Poland with a student visa provided that you have a residence permit. You can work part-time during your studies (20 hours a week) and full-time during breaks.

Your family can come with you to Poland if they apply for a residence permit as an accompanying family member. You must prove your stable and regular income to show that you can provide for the family member during their stay. Your family is also allowed to work and study in Poland with your student visa as long as you also have a temporary residence permit.

You can extend a student visa to the full extent of your educational program. If your student visa is about to expire, you must apply for a temporary residence permit to study in Poland for longer. Another way would be to return to your home country and reapply for the visa.

If you are an international student with a stable and regular income and have resided in Poland for four years continuously with a temporary residence permit, you can apply for a permanent residence permit.

You will be issued a residence card that is valid for ten years. This means that you need to replace the residence card every ten years. However, you do not need to re-apply for the residence card; this is just an update of your residence.

The permanent residence permit will allow you to work in Poland without applying for additional work permits.

As an international student in Poland, you can sign an insurance agreement with the Polish Health National Fund (NFZ – Narodowy Fundusz Zdrowia) or with a private health insurance company. To obtain health insurance with the NFZ, you have to present the following documents

* Your passport, which shows your current visa or residence permit
* Your registration of residence
* Confirmation of student status (issued by your university)

If you opt for private insurance, you can sign an agreement with a local company in Poland or with an international health insurance provider.

- Poland Family Visa. If you want to join either your spouse or parents who live in Poland, you have to apply for a Polish family visa. The family visa is valid for 2 years, and you are allowed to work in Poland during this time. You have to provide proof of your family status, such as a marriage certificate (for spouses) or birth/adoption certificate (for minor children).

Everyone who is not an EU/EEA or Swiss citizen needs a family visa to accompany or be reunited with a family member in Poland.

If you are an EU/EEA/Swiss citizen and want to join a family member in Poland for longer than three months, you simply have to register with the local registration office.

Your family member has to start the process of applying for family reunification at the nearest Voivodeship office in Poland. The process is as follows:

Step 1: Prepare the Required Documents

You and your family member must collect the set of documents that will support your visa application. This includes proof of family relationship (e.g. marriage certificate, birth or adoption certificate, etc.)

Step 2: Apply for Family Reunification at the Voivodeship

Your family member (who is in Poland) has to make a request for family reunification at the nearest Voivodeship Office. They have to complete application forms for each family member that is applying.

Once the application for family reunification is approved, you can apply for a national visa D at the Polish embassy in your home country. This visa allows you to enter Poland to join your spouse/family member.

Step 3: Translate all Documents to Polish

Before submitting all required documents for a Poland family reunification visa, you must translate them into Polish and legalize them. You are required to submit both the original and copies of the documents.

Step 4: Apply for a National D Visa at the Polish Embassy

After finishing the steps above, submit all of the required documents to your nearest Polish embassy or consulate to get a national D visa for family reunification. This means that your family member may have to mail you certain documents from Poland.

The required documents for a Poland family visa are:

* Valid passport. Both you (the applicant) and your family member have to submit valid passports, in original and a copy.
* Polish passport or residence permit.
* Proof of relationship. You have to prove that you are related to the Polish citizen/resident you want to join. This can be a birth certificate (for minor children), a marriage certificate (for spouses), etc. For spouses/partners: Proof that you have lived together with your partner/spouse before the application date (e.g. pictures, joint rental agreement, joint mail, etc..
* Proof that the family member you want to reunite lives in Poland.
* Proof of financial stability.
* Proof of health insurance.

A Polish temporary residence permit for family reunification is valid for three years. You are allowed to apply for an extension of the family reunification visa as long as you are issued a residence card. The residence card is a document that verifies your identity during your stay in Poland.

After spending four consecutive years in Poland, you can apply for a permanent residence permit, which will let you stay in Poland for ten years.

Whether temporary or permanent, the resident permit granted for family reunification allows you to work in any establishment in Poland. You can work until your residence permit expires.

With a family reunification visa, you can reside, study and even work in Poland until the expiration date. However, you will also need a residence permit to do so.