

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE Poland My First Choice NAWA PROGRAMME no 19/2026 of 30th April 2026 roku

I. SCOPE OF THE PROGRAMME

Pursuant to Article 19(1) of the Act of 7 July 2017 on the National Agency for Academic Exchange, the Director of the National Agency for Academic Exchange announces a call for applications for participation in the Poland My First Choice NAWA programme (hereinafter: the “Programme”).

II. PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

2.1. Programme objective

The Programme aims to encourage young people from countries with a high level of socio-economic development to pursue education at Polish academic higher education institutions that have concluded a framework agreement with NAWA, by offering scholarships for undertaking second-cycle (Master’s) degree studies.

The scholarship offer is addressed to citizens of the following countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Chile, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Spain, the Netherlands, Ireland, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Canada, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Latvia, Malta, Germany, Norway, New Zealand, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Sweden, Uruguay, the United States of America, Hungary, the United Kingdom, Italy, as well as residents of Hong Kong, Macau, or Taiwan.

2.2. Eligible Applicants

Foreign nationals may apply for the scholarship provided that they meet **all** of the following criteria:

1. they are citizens of one of the following countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Chile, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Spain, the Netherlands, Ireland, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Canada, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Latvia, Malta, Germany, Norway, New Zealand, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Sweden, Uruguay, the United States of America, Hungary, the United Kingdom, Italy, or are residents of Hong Kong, Macau, or Taiwan;
2. they do not hold Polish citizenship and have not applied for Polish citizenship;
3. they obtained a first-cycle (Bachelor’s) degree in a Programme country no earlier than 2024, or are final-year first-cycle students in a Programme country and will obtain their degree by 15 July 2026;
4. they plan to commence full-time second-cycle (Master’s) degree studies in Poland in the 2026/27 academic year;

5. they have not previously received a scholarship from the Director of NAWA (NAWA scholarship) under NAWA second-cycle degree programmes;
6. they have documented proficiency in: a) the Polish language at a minimum level of B2, if they plan to commence second-cycle studies conducted in Polish; **or** b) the English language at a minimum level of B2, if they plan to commence second-cycle studies conducted in English.

Applicants seeking to undertake studies under scholarship conditions should register in the online systems of the higher education institutions within the deadlines set by those institutions, in accordance with the rules applicable to foreign nationals. As part of the study admission process, they will be required to submit documents confirming their proficiency in the language of instruction at a minimum level of B2.

2.3. Subject Scope of Activities Implemented under the Programme

The Programme enables the granting of a scholarship by the Director of NAWA for education in Poland in the form of full-time second-cycle (Master's) degree studies, conducted at academic higher education institutions supervised by the Minister of Science and Higher Education that have concluded a framework agreement with NAWA. In addition, at public higher education institutions, the Programme provides for tuition-free education.

The list of academic higher education institutions supervised by the Minister of Science and Higher Education that have concluded a framework agreement with NAWA constitutes an annex to this Call.

Applicants should familiarize themselves with the requirements of individual higher education institutions regarding the rules for admission to studies, including the certification of proficiency in the language of instruction at a minimum level of B2. Moreover, during the admission process, the institution may require documents that have been legalized or certified with an apostille and/or confirmation of the applicant's eligibility to apply for admission to second-cycle studies in Poland. Detailed information on the issuance of statements concerning foreign diplomas is available at the following link:

<https://www.nawa.gov.pl/uznawalnosc/kontynuacja-nauki-w-polsce/studia-ii-stopnia>

The choice of the field of study is made by the Applicant based on the educational offerings of higher education institutions supervised by the Minister of Science and Higher Education that have concluded a framework agreement with NAWA. Information on studying in Poland is available at <https://study.gov.pl/>. Information on fields of study (the educational offer of Polish higher education institutions) is available at: <https://studia.gov.pl/wyberz-studia> (in Polish) and <https://study.gov.pl/studyfinder> (in English).

NAWA does not mediate in the admission process of Applicants to studies. Applicants should independently, and regardless of the application submitted under the Programme, participate in the admission process to the selected higher education institution.

2.4. Deadline and Other Conditions for Submitting an Application

Deadline for application submission	The call for applications will be open until 29 May 2026, 3:00:00 p.m. local time (Warsaw) .
Method of application submission	Applications must be submitted exclusively in electronic form via the Agency's ICT system, //FILL IN THE APPLICATION// .
Language of the application	The application must be prepared in Polish or English .
Maximum number of applications per Applicant	1

2.5. Time Frame for Project Implementation

Start date and duration of the Scholarship	The implementation of the scholarship under the Programme must commence in the 2026/2027 academic year and shall cover the standard duration of education in second-cycle (Master's) degree studies.
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2.6. Application procedure

The call is conducted via the Agency's ICT system. The application must include documents submitted in the form of scans of the original documents or documents signed with a qualified electronic signature.

List of required attachments to the application:

1. a passport page containing the Applicant's personal data. In the case of citizens of European Union Member States, an identity card may be submitted instead;
2. a first-cycle (Bachelor's) degree diploma obtained in a Programme country no earlier than 2024, together with the diploma supplement (a list of all completed courses along with grades);

Applicants who, at the time of submitting the application, are final-year first-cycle students, as well as Applicants who at the time of submitting the application have not yet been awarded the first-cycle degree diploma, shall submit a certificate issued by their higher education institution containing:

- a) the Applicant's full name;
- b) the name of the institution issuing the certificate;
- c) the name of the first-cycle study programme;
- d) the date of completion of first-cycle studies (or the planned date of completion);
- e) information on the grade point average and a list of all completed courses together with their final grades;
- f) information on the maximum possible grade point average according to the grading scale applied by the institution;
- g) the seal of the institution issuing the certificate (or an electronic signature);
- h) the signature of the person authorized to issue the certificate.

<p>The model certificate is an attachment to this Call;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. a document confirming proficiency in the language in which the Applicant plans to study in Poland: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) if the planned field of study is delivered in Polish: a document compliant with the list specified in Annex No. 3; b) if the planned field of study is delivered in English: a document compliant with the list specified in Annex No. 4; 4. a motivation letter in Polish or English, addressing in particular: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the Applicant’s objectives, academic interests, and a description of previous activities related to the planned field of study; b) the justification for choosing the declared field of study and the higher education institution in Poland; c) the justification of the selected topic of the Master’s thesis or planned research; d) a description of the anticipated impact of studying in Poland on the Applicant’s further academic/scientific/professional development; 5. optionally: other documents confirming the Applicant’s outstanding achievements. <p>If the attachments are issued in a language other than Polish or English, certified translations into Polish or English must be provided. Such translations must be certified with the signature and seal of a sworn translator or certified by a Polish diplomatic or consular mission. In countries where the institution of a sworn translator does not exist, translations certified by signature and seal prepared by a notary translator, a regular translator, or a teacher of the Polish language (certified with the seal of the school where the teacher is employed) are also acceptable.</p>

2.7. Procedure for Evaluation and Selection of Applications for Funding

General assumptions	Applications are subject to a formal evaluation and a substantive (merit-based) evaluation.
Formal evaluation	The purpose of the formal evaluation is to verify whether the applications meet the formal criteria specified in this Call.
Substantive evaluation	The purpose of the substantive evaluation is to verify whether the applications meet the qualitative criteria specified in this Call.
The evaluation panel carries out the substantive evaluation on the basis of the content of the submitted applications together with the attachments, as well as the results of possible interviews conducted with Applicants. The evaluation panel reserves the right to invite selected Applicants to an interview. Failure to receive an invitation to an interview does not constitute a negative substantive evaluation.	
Substantive Evaluation Criteria and Scoring	
1.	<p>Arithmetic mean grade from first-cycle studies, as indicated on the first-cycle diploma or in the certificate of grade point average. The evaluation panel awards points for the GPA with reference to the Polish grading system, in accordance with the following guidelines:</p>
	Possible score to obtain
	0-50

	<table border="1" data-bbox="424 208 1051 483"> <thead> <tr> <th>Grade Point Average</th> <th>Points</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>do 3,54</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3,55-3,94</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3,95-4,54</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4,55-4,74</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>od 4,75</td> <td>50</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Grade point averages obtained in countries using grading systems different from the Polish one will be converted into the Polish system based on inter-country grade conversion methods. In the event of doubts related to the grading scale in a given country, interpretation of the GPA, or inability to convert it, the evaluation panel may seek opinions from external experts or Polish diplomatic missions.</p>	Grade Point Average	Points	do 3,54	0	3,55-3,94	25	3,95-4,54	30	4,55-4,74	40	od 4,75	50	
Grade Point Average	Points													
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od 4,75	50													
2.	<p>Substantive coherence of the planned educational path, documented in the motivation letter and other relevant documents confirming academic achievements (publications, awards), in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the Applicant's objectives, academic interests, and previous activities related to the planned field of study; b) justification for the choice of the planned field of study and higher education institution in Poland; c) justification of the selected topic of the Master's thesis or planned research; d) the anticipated impact of the studies and participation in the Programme on further academic, scientific, or professional development; e) special achievements confirmed by relevant documents. 	0-50												
Rules of Substantive Evaluation														
<p>Applications of Applicants who receive 0 points under criterion 1 (grade point average) will not be evaluated under criterion 2 and will receive a total score of 0 points for the entire substantive evaluation.</p> <p>A condition for receiving a positive substantive evaluation is obtaining a total of at least 60 points, including no fewer than 25 points under criterion 1 and no fewer than 25 points under criterion 2.</p> <p>Applicants who receive fewer than 60 points in total, or fewer than 25 points under criterion 1, or fewer than 25 points under criterion 2, will receive a negative substantive evaluation and may not be awarded financial resources under the Programme.</p> <p>Financial resources under the Programme are allocated based on the results of the substantive evaluation, i.e. scholarships under the Programme will be awarded to Applicants who obtain the highest substantive evaluation scores.</p>														

2.8. Project Budget

The scholarship awarded by the Director of the National Agency for Academic Exchange includes:

1. a **monthly scholarship** for the standard duration of studies;
2. **exemption from tuition fees at public higher education institutions***;
3. a **one-time lump-sum allowance** to cover the costs of international travel related to arrival in Poland for the purpose of undertaking studies under the Programme.

* The financial conditions of education at non-public higher education institutions supervised by the Minister of Science and Higher Education are determined by those institutions. In such cases, tuition fees should be agreed individually between the Scholarship Holder and the receiving non-public institution. The decision to grant exemption from tuition fees remains within the competence of the non-public institution.

The scholarship is paid for the standard duration of studies for a maximum of **12 months per academic year** (up to **5 months in the winter semester** and **7 months in the summer semester**), starting from the first month of classes. The monthly scholarship amount is **PLN 2,000**.

The lump-sum allowance for international travel related to arrival in Poland for the purpose of undertaking second-cycle (Master's) degree studies under the Programme is paid **once**, together with the first monthly scholarship, and is calculated according to the following rates:

Country/Territory	Rate (PLN)
Lithuania	1000
Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Germany, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Hungary	1500
Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Greece, the Netherlands, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Italy	2000
Cyprus, Spain, Iceland, Israel, Portugal	3000
Australia, Chile, Japan, Hong Kong, Canada, Macau, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Singapore, the United States of America, Taiwan, Uruguay	6500

The scholarship awarded by the Director of NAWA is paid through the higher education institution at which the Scholarship Holder is enrolled.

2.9. Amount of Funds Available under the Call

The total allocation for the call amounts to PLN 1,300,000, including approximately PLN 350,000 earmarked for scholarships to be paid in 2026, with the Agency reserving the right to amend the allocation of funds.

2.10. Additional Information

The Applicant is required to conclude a scholarship agreement under the Programme no later than 30 days from the date it is made available in the NAWA ICT system.

The Scholarship Holder is required to submit an annual report upon completion of education in a given academic year, no later than 31 October each year. The first report must be submitted after completion of the first year of studies under the Programme. For Scholarship Holders who commence their studies in the summer semester, the first report shall be a semester report.

2.11. Planned Date of Announcement of the Call Results

The results of the call will be announced **by 31 July 2026**.

2.12. Source of Funding for the Programme

State budget

III. ATTACHMENTS

1. Regulations of the Programmes for natural persons taking up education and research stays in Poland NAWA
2. List of Universities supervised by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education that have an agreement with NAWA in 2026/27
3. List of recognized Polish language Certificates
4. List of recognized English language Certificates
5. Model certificate template from the University for undergraduate studies

IV. CONTACT THE AGENCY

For additional information, please contact us on working days:

Programme contact:

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