

ANNOUNCEMENT OF A CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE BANACH NAWA PROGRAMME

No. 16/2026 of April 13, 2026

Studies or preparatory course from the winter semester 2026/27

I. SCOPE OF RECRUITMENT

Pursuant to Article 19 section 1 of the Act on the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange of 7 July 2017, the Director of the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange announces the call for applications for participation in the Prof. Stefan Banach Programme (hereinafter referred to as the "Programme") – scholarships for second-cycle studies or preparatory course from the winter semester 2026/27.

II. PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

2.1. Programme Objective

The programme aims at supporting the socio-economic development of developing countries by raising the level of education and professional qualifications of citizens of countries eligible to participate in the programme by offering scholarships for undertaking second-cycle studies in Poland.

The offer is addressed to citizens of the following countries: Albania, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kosovo, Lebanon, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Tanzania, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vietnam.

The programme is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange, implemented as part of the Polish development cooperation programme.

2.2. Eligible Applicants

Foreigners who **meet all of the following criteria** at the time of recruitment may apply for a scholarship in the Programme:

- 1) being citizens of one of the following countries: Albania, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Montenegro, the Philippines, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kosovo, Lebanon, North Macedonia, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Nigeria, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Tanzania, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vietnam;
- 2) not having Polish citizenship and having not submitted an application for Polish citizenship;
- 3) planning to start second-cycle studies or a preparatory course in the winter semester of the 2026/27 academic year (from October 2026);

- 4) have obtained a first-cycle degree in a Programme country no earlier than 2024, or are students in their final semester of first-cycle studies in a Program country and will obtain their degree by July 15, 2026,
- 5) have not previously obtained a second-cycle or uniform master's degree diploma¹;
- 6) have not previously received the NAWA Director's scholarship (NAWA scholarship) under NAWA programmes for second-cycle studies,
- 7) have documented knowledge of:
 - a) Polish language at a minimum level of B1 to complete a one-year preparatory course preceding second-cycle studies;
 - b) Polish language at a minimum level of B2 to begin second-cycle studies in Polish or
 - c) English at a minimum level of B2 to begin second-cycle studies in English.

Applicants for scholarship-based studies should register in the university's online systems within the deadlines specified by the university, in accordance with the rules applicable to international candidates. During the admission process, they will be required to submit documents certifying their knowledge of the language of instruction at a level of at least B2.

2.3. Thematic scope of activities carried out under the Programme

The programme enables receiving a scholarship **for full-time** second-cycle studies in Polish or English, conducted at universities supervised by the Minister of Science and Higher Education that have concluded a framework agreement with NAWA.

In addition, in public universities, the Programme enables free education. Studies in Polish may be preceded by a one-year NAWA preparatory course carried out on scholarship terms.

At the stage of applying for financial resources in the Programme, the Applicant selects one of the scholarship paths:

- 1) Polish language path (for studies in Polish):
 - a) preparatory course and second cycle studies or
 - b) second-cycle studies in Polish (without a preparatory course).

The NAWA preparatory course preceding studies in Poland lasts one academic year and its aim is to deepen knowledge of the Polish language and knowledge of subjects related to the planned field of study. Applicants qualified to participate in the programme complete courses at a centre chosen by NAWA. Assignment to centres implementing the preparatory course is determined in particular by the field of planned studies and the availability of places in the centres. Applicants who have chosen the "preparatory course and studies" scholarship path will participate in the admissions process for the 2027/28 academic year while attending the course, on dates specified by the selected university.

- 2) English path (for studies in English) - second-cycle studies in English and a course in Polish language and culture.

¹ If the country where the Applicant studies does not have a common two-cycle study system, Applicants who hold a Master's degree or equivalent are eligible.

The Polish language and culture course for scholarship holder who will pursue their studies in English will take place in September/October 2026. The courses will be held on-site or online.

The choice of the educational path takes place at the stage of application recruitment for the Programme and is binding for the entire period of participation in the Programme. Before choosing a scholarship path under the Program, Applicants should acquaint themselves with the university's admission requirements, including proof of language proficiency at a minimum level of B2. In addition, during the admission process, the university may require legalized or apostilled documents and/or confirmation of eligibility to apply for admission to second-cycle studies in Poland. Detailed information on the issuance of information about foreign diplomas can be found at the following link: www.nawa.gov.pl/en/recognition/recognition-for-academic-purposes/applying-for-admission-to-second-cycle-studies.

The Applicant selects the field of study based on the offer of universities supervised by the Minister of Science and Higher Education which have concluded a framework agreement with NAWA. Information on studies in Poland is available at <https://study.gov.pl/>. Information on fields of study (offers of Polish universities) 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 of Applicants for studies. Applicants should take part in the admission to the selected university independently and regardless of the application submitted in the Programme.

2.4. Deadline and other conditions for submitting an application

Application deadline	The call for applications will continue until May 8, 2026, 3:00:00 p.m. local time (Warsaw) or until 300 applications are submitted in each of country groups no. 1-3 and 200 applications in the group no. 4 (the call will be closed after the above deadline or earlier for a given group of countries if the above-mentioned number of applications is submitted).
How to submit an application	Only in electronic form in the Agency's IT system, //FILL IN THE APPLICATION//
Language in which the application must be drawn up	The application must be prepared in Polish or English.
Maximum number of applications that an Applicant may submit	1
By submitting an application, the Applicant agrees to the terms and conditions set in the Announcement, the Regulations of NAWA programmes, and the attachments.	

2.5. Project implementation time frame

Start Date and Length of the Scholarship	The implementation of education under the Programme must begin in the winter semester of the 2026/2027 academic year by taking a preparatory course preceding studies or second-cycle studies.
--	--

2.6. Applying

Recruitment is conducted in the NAWA IT system, divided into four groups of countries. To complete the application for participation in the programme in the system, select the appropriate group to which the Applicant's country belongs (based on the Applicant's citizenship):

- 1) Group 1: Albania, Argentina, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Kosovo, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Peru, Serbia, Ukraine;
- 2) Group 2: Armenia, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Uzbekistan, Vietnam;
- 3) Group 3: Angola, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Palestine, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Tunisia;
- 4) Group 4: Azerbaijan, Nigeria.

List of required attachments to the application:

- 1) **the passport² page with the Applicant's personal data,**
- 2) **the first-cycle diploma** obtained in one of the Programme countries, together with a supplement containing information on the arithmetic average of grades from the entire course of study and information on grades from completed subjects. The application must be accompanied by the above-mentioned documents, either as scanned copies of the originals or as documents bearing a qualified electronic signature.

In the absence of an average grade on the diploma, NAWA will determine the average grade on the basis of the grade presented on the diploma or in the supplement.

Applicants who, at the time of submitting the application, are students in the last semester of first-cycle studies and Applicants who, at the time of submitting the application, have not yet received a first-cycle diploma, submit a scan of a certificate issued by the university with:

- a) the Applicant's name and surname,
- b) name of the university issuing the certificate,
- c) name of the first-cycle studies programme,
- d) date of completion of first-cycle studies (or planned date of completion of studies),
- e) information on the average grade and a list of all completed subjects along with their final grades,
- f) stamp of the university issuing the certificate.

A sample certificate is attached to the Announcement;

- 3) **the document confirming participation in the admission for full-time second-cycle studies** starting in the winter semester of 2026/27 at a university in Poland selected by the Applicant and supervised by the Minister of Science and Higher Education (which has concluded a framework agreement with NAWA):
 - a) a decision to admit the Applicant to studies (or a conditional decision); or
 - b) a promise of admission to studies, a letter of acceptance from a university or a preliminary letter of acceptance from a university; or
 - c) a confirmation of participation in the admission process for the course of study chosen by the Applicant (e.g. e-mail confirmation of registration from the university, the university's admission account or confirmation that the Applicant has paid the admission fee - indicating the specific field of study); or

² A passport should be understood as a document authorizing the crossing of borders.

- d) a confirmation of establishing contact with the university where the Applicant plans to begin studies - the contact should concern admission for selected studies (indicating the specific field of study). It is also required to attach a response from the university.

The requirement to provide a document confirming participation in the admission process for studies does not apply to persons who chose the Polish-language path – preparatory course and second-cycle studies.

The document should include the Applicant’s personal information that allows for their clear identification (e.g., first and last name, email address, or passport information).

4) the document confirming knowledge of the language in which the Applicant plans to study in Poland.

If the planned course of study will be taught in Polish: a document in accordance with the list set forth in Appendix 3.

If the planned course of study will be taught in English: a document in accordance with the list set forth in Appendix 4.

If the applicant chooses the preparatory course and second-cycle studies: a document certifying proficiency in Polish at a minimum B1 level, e.g.:

- a) a language certificate or
- b) a certificate/diploma or other documents confirming completion of secondary school or first-cycle studies with Polish as the language of instruction, or
- c) a certificate of completion of a Polish language course.

5) a file with a video recording of the Applicant's self-presentation in Polish or English.

In the self-presentation, the Applicant justifies the choice of the field/area of study and the motivation to study in Poland. Minimum length of the recording – 1 minute. Maximum length of the recording – 3 minutes. The recording cannot contain any images of third parties.

6) *Optional*: a letter of recommendation from a Polish diplomatic mission, in accordance with the mission’s area of accreditation. The letter of recommendation is a document that the Applicant may, but is not required to, include with the application

If attachments are issued in a language other than Polish or English, it is required to attach a translation into Polish or English certified by a signature and stamp of a sworn translator or a translation certified by a Polish diplomatic and consular mission. In countries where there is no institution of a sworn translator, a translation of documents certified by a signature and stamp made by a notary translator, a regular translator or a Polish language teacher (certified by the stamp of the school where the teacher teaches) is acceptable.

2.7. Procedure for assessing and selecting applications for funding

General assumptions	Applications are subject to a formal and substantive assessment.
Formal assessment	The purpose of the formal assessment is to verify whether the applications meet the formal criteria specified in this Announcement.
Substantive assessment	The purpose of the substantive assessment is to verify whether the applications meet the quality criteria specified in the Announcement.

Description of the substantive assessment criterion		Possible number of points to obtain
1.	The arithmetic average of grades from first-cycle studies, as indicated on the first-cycle degree certificate or on the transcript of grades (academic record to date).	0-70
2.	Justification for the planned educational path, presented in the self-presentation: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Applicant's goals, scientific interests, and previous activities related to the planned field/area of study; b. Justification for the choice of the planned field/area of study in Poland (also in the context of previous studies); c. Expected impact of studies and participation in the Programme on further academic, scientific or professional development. 	0-30
3.	Recommendation from a Polish diplomatic or consular mission	0-10
Rules for substantive assessment		
<p>The result of the substantive assessment is determined as the total of the products of the individual criteria. The maximum number of points is 110.</p> <p>Points for the arithmetic average of grades from first-cycle studies on the first-cycle diploma or on the certificate of average grade will be awarded after calculating the average based on the following formula:</p> $\text{number of points} = \text{average grade obtained} \times 70 / \text{maximum average grade on a given scale}$ <p>The number of points will be rounded to two decimal places.</p> <p>In the case of a grade point average that cannot be converted according to the above formula (e.g. reverse grade point average, alphabetical grade point average, etc.), a separate method of converting the grade point average into points will be established.</p> <p>The condition for obtaining a positive substantive assessment by the Applicant is to obtain at least 70 points, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. minimum 50 points in criterion 1; b. minimum 20 points in criterion 2. <p>Applicants whose applications do not meet the above conditions will receive a negative substantive assessment.</p> <p>If the number of points awarded under criterion 1 is lower than the specified minimum, the application will not be evaluated under criterion 2 and will automatically receive a negative substantive evaluation.</p>		

NAWA Director's scholarships are awarded based on the results of the substantive assessment of applications within **the limits of vacancies for individual programme countries**, established by the Assessment Team. Available scholarship vacancies will be distributed among programme countries, taking into account in particular the proportion of formally correct applications in the call to the number of Applicants with a given citizenship, as well as the goals of Polish foreign policy and Polish development cooperation.

Within the limits applicable to individual countries, scholarships in the programme are awarded to Applicants who obtain the highest substantive assessment result.

If the limit of vacancies is not reached, redistribution will be carried out by the Assessment Team, taking into account in particular the results of the substantive assessment of the Applicants and the division of vacancies between countries.

2.8. Project budget

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

- 1) monthly scholarship³ during the regular education period,
- 2) exemption from fees for education at NAWA preparatory courses or at public universities⁴
- 3) lump sum for international travel costs⁵ related to coming to Poland to undertake education.

The monthly scholarship amounts to PLN 2,500 per month and is paid for a maximum of 12 months in the academic year (maximum of 5 months during the winter semester and 7 months during the summer semester), starting from the first month of classes at studies and during the NAWA preparatory course. For scholarship holders participating in an on-site Polish language and culture course prior to the start of their studies, the first scholarship is payable from September 2026.

Financial conditions of education at private universities supervised by the Minister of Science and Higher Education are determined by the universities. In such cases, the issue of payment for studies should be agreed individually between the Scholarship Holder and the private university hosting them. The matter of exemption from education fees remains within the competence of the private university accepting them.

The lump sum for the cost of international travel related to coming to Poland for the purpose of undertaking studies ("second-cycle studies" path) or a NAWA preparatory course preceding studies ("preparatory course and second-cycle studies" path) is paid once together with the first monthly scholarship of PLN 2,500.

The NAWA Director's scholarship is paid through the unit conducting the preparatory course or the university where the Scholarship Holder is studying.

³ referred to in art. 18 section 2 point 1 u.n.a.w.a.

⁴ referred to in art. 324 section 1 point 2 of u.p.s.w.n.

⁵ referred to in art. 18 section 2 point 1 u.n.a.w.a.

2.9. Amount of funds available in the Call

The total allocation for the recruitment is PLN 6,48 million, but the Agency reserves the right to change the amount of allocation of funds.

2.10. Additional information

The Applicant is obliged to conclude a scholarship agreement under the Programme no later than 45 days from the date it is made available in the NAWA IT system.

The scholarship holder is obliged to submit an annual report after completing their studies in a given academic year, no later than 31 October each year.

The first report must be submitted after completing the preparatory course; in the case of Scholarship Holders not participating in the course – after completing the first year of studies under the Programme.

By accepting the scholarship, the scholarship holder agrees to have their contact information shared with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

2.11. Planned date of announcement of recruitment results

The recruitment results will be announced by **July 31, 2026**.

2.12. Source of financing for the Programme

The state budget earmarked reserve for development cooperation

III. ATTACHMENTS

1. Regulations of the Programmes of the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange. Programmes for individuals undertaking education and scientific stays in Poland
2. List of institutions supervised by the Minister of Science and Higher Education that have concluded a framework agreement with NAWA
3. List of Recognized Polish Language Certificates
4. List of Recognized English Language Certificates
5. Certificate template

IV. CONTACT THE AGENCY

For more information, please contact us (working days, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.):

Contact regarding the Programme:

e-mail: banach@nawa.gov.pl

Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange

Polna 40

00-635 Warsaw

tel. +48/22 390 35 00

www.nawa.gov.pl