**Practical information for mobile students**

**POLAND**

The Republic of Poland with its parliamentary democracy is a member state of the European Union.This is the 9th biggest country in Europe and the 69rd in the world (over 312000 km2). The capital of the Republic of Poland is Warsaw. The country is inhabited mostly by Poles (ca. 38 million citizens), the official language is Polish.

**Climate**

In the north and west Poland the climate is predominantly maritime, with gentle, humid winters and cool, rainy summers. The average annual temperature in Poland ranges from 5-7ºC in hilly Pomerania and in uplands to 8-10ºC. The hottest month is July with the average temperature standing at 16-19ºC. Hot days, when the temperature exceeds 25ºC, occur from May to September. The coldest month in Poland is January. The summer, with temperatures above 20ºC, begins in June and is about four months long. In autumn, the average temperature drops to between 5ºC and 15ºC. Winter length ranges from two months at the seaside and in the west to 3-4 months in the north east.

**Churches and Religion**

There are over a hundred registered churches and religious associations in Poland. The biggest numbers belong to the Roman Catholic Church, approximately 95% of the religious segment of the Polish society. There are four branches of Catholicism in Poland (all four in communion with Rome): the Byzantine-Ukrainian, neo-Unite, Armenian and Roman Catholics. The Catholic Church in Poland is an institution, which has always been associated with the concept of Polish statehood. Religion in Poland gained a new dimension in 1978 following the election of Cardinal Karol Wojtyła (John Paul II) to the papacy. His activities are regarded as linked to the enormous socio-political changes of the 1980’s;
he remains an unquestionable moral authority, not only for the religious part of society.

**Postal services**

Post offices are open weekdays usually from 8 a.m. to 18 p.m. In Koszalin there is a post office directly by the railway station.

**Public holidays**

1 January - New Year’s Day

6 January - Epiphany

First Day of Easter

Second Day of Easter

1 May – Labour Day (national holiday)

3 May – the anniversary of the proclamation of Constitution of 3rd May (national holiday)

Feast of Corpus Christi (Thursday by the end of May or early June)

15 August - The Virgin Mary Assumption

1 November - All Saints’ Day

11 November – Independence Day (national holiday)

25 December - Christmas Day

**TRANSPORTATION**

Warsaw is Poland’s main international airport. Szczecin is the nearest to Koszalin domestic airport (120km). There are regular flights from Warsaw to Szczecin, the best way to travel from Szczecin to Koszalin is train. Some international and domestic flights also fly in and out of Szczecin airport.

**Buses**

Koszalin has a local bus network, the buses run all day. Bus timetable: <http://mzk.koszalin.pl/>
The tickets are available at the ticket machines in the bus, newsagent's, via app. Students under 26 have a half fare, though they are obliged to show their student ID in case of ticket inspection.

**Trains**

<https://www.pkp.pl/en/>

In Poland students under 26 have a 51 per cent discount for the train rides. One can travel by slow, fast, express or inter-city trains. Prices depend on the kind of the train and the duration of the journey. First class is always more expensive.

**Cars**

In Poland all drivers keep to the right side of the road. If the car is brought to Poland it must be insured. The insurance cost depends on the size of the car. Petrol prices are approx. 1 EUR (unleaded or Diesel). You can also refuel LPG (liquid petrol gas), which cost approx. 0,50 EUR, but you need a special installation in your car. While driving a vehicle the driver is obliged to have a driving licence and a civil liability insurance. The legal alcohol limit is 0,2 promille. Using a mobile phone is only permitted with a loud-speaking system. Driving licenses issued by other EU member states are recognized by Poland and remain valid until the expiry date indicated in the document. Seat belts must be used in both front and back seats, with children up to the age of 12 and up to 150 cm tall using special certified seats.
Speed limits:

* town (5 a.m.-11 p.m.) - 50 km/h , (11 p.m. - 5 a.m.) - 60km/h
* open road - 90 km/h
* dual-carriageway with 2 lanes in each direction - 100km/h
* single-carriageway express road- 100 km/h, dual-carriageway express road - 120 km/h
* motorway - 140 km/h

Drivers have to use day lights during the day. Front fog lights may be used only during fog or heavy rain. Rear fog lights may be used only when visibility is under 50 meters.The vehicle must be equipped with a reflector triangle. The vehicle has to be marked with a sign indicating the country of its registration. Radar-warning systems are banned.

**Taxi**

When taking a taxi you should call a taxi corporation, because the prices are usually lower than on the taxi rank. All cabs must be equipped with taximeter. At nights the scale of charges is higher.

**COMING TO POLAND - FORMAL ISSUES**

Temporary residence permit/visa requirements

* **EU CITIZENS:**The EU citizens whose stay in Poland would last longer than 3 months,

have to register their stay(please do it not later than the next business day after the expiration of 3 months period from the date of entry to Poland). EU students should submit the Application For Registering the Residence at:

Department of Civil Affairs and Foreigners

Delegatura Zachodniopomorskiego Urzędu Wojewódzkiego w Koszalinie

Władysława Andersa 34 Street

Koszalin

Registering is free of charge.

Required documents:

1/ Application for Registering the Residence, filled in in Polish (3copies). It is crucial to fill in the Application in full and truthfully.

2/ A photocopy and original travel document or other document confirming the identity and citizenship (4copies).

3/ Original certificate of admission to a state or non-state university(issued by Koszalin University of Technology).

4/ Original document confirming having the medical insurance (EHIC or private).

5/ written declaration (available in the Department of Civil Affairs and Foreigners) about having sufficient financial means to support yourself **or** a proof confirming the possession of sufficient financial means to support yourself for example a credit card or a document confirming that you have founds/resources in a bank or other financial institution, confirmed by a stamp and a signature of an authorised bank/institution employee, issued no later than a month before the submission of the application for registration of residence.

All the documents should be submitted together in person. However, it is possible to go the Office with a Polish friend.

More information and forms:

<https://www.szczecin.uw.gov.pl/?type=article&action=view&id=4189>

<https://udsc.gov.pl/en/cudzoziemcy/obywatele-ue-oraz-eogszwajcarii-i-czlonkowie-ich-rodzin/>

* **NON-EU CITIZENS:**

It is required for the non-EU citizens coming to study in Poland to obtain visa in their home country before their arrival (it should be done in Polish consulate or embassy). The visa should be valid for the whole study period at Koszalin University of Technology.

If the visa validity is coming to an end, non-EU students should submit the Application for the Temporary Residence Permit. It is not possible to extend the visa validity in Poland.

For the Temporary Residence Permit card one can apply at:

Department of Civil Affairs and Foreigners

Delegatura Zachodniopomorskiego Urzędu Wojewódzkiego w Koszalinie

Władysława Andersa 34 Street

Koszalin

More information:

<https://udsc.gov.pl/en/cudzoziemcy/obywatele-panstw-trzecich/>

<https://www.szczecin.uw.gov.pl/?type=article&action=view&id=4189>