

# THE SYSTEM OF EDUCATION IN POLAND



# Pre- primary education

This educational level is regarded as the first level of the school system.

It concerns children from 3 years of age. For children aged 3-4 pre-primary education is voluntary and is subject to parental decision. They finish it at the age of six.



# Primary education

6-year primary school is compulsory for all pupils. All 6-year old children start compulsory education in primary school. Children complete primary education at the age of 13. At the end of primary education pupils take a compulsory external exam, the results of which are used only for information and not for selection purposes.



# Lower secondary school

3-year *gimnazjum* is another stage of compulsory education. At present it is attended by pupils aged 13-16 years. At the end of lower secondary school pupils take a compulsory external exam and its results influence admission to upper secondary schools.



# Upper secondary school

The following types of upper secondary schools are open to candidates: 3-year general upper secondary school, 4-year technical upper secondary school and 3-year basic vocational school. Although this stage of education is not compulsory Graduates of general upper secondary schools and technical upper secondary schools may take the external upper secondary school leaving examination to obtain the *Matura* certificate, which gives access to higher education.



# Higher education

After completing secondary education, some young people go to universities. Universities offer two types of studies: undergraduate and postgraduate ones. After three year's study students get a Bachelor's Degree. If they decide to stay at the university two years longer they may receive a Master's Degree. The most famous un iversities in Poland are Jagiellonian University in Cracow and University of Warsaw.



# Compulsory subjects

- Stage 1 (grades 1-3, primary school): early school education
- Stage 2 (grades 4-6, primary school): Polish language, History and civics, Modern foreign languages, Mathematics, Natural science, Music/ Art, Technology, Computer classes, Physical education, lessons with class tutor.
- Stage 3 (grades 1-3 of the gimnazjum): Polish language, History, Civic education, 2 Modern foreign languages, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geography, Art/ Music, Technology, Arts class, IT, Education for safety, Physical education, lessons with class tutor.



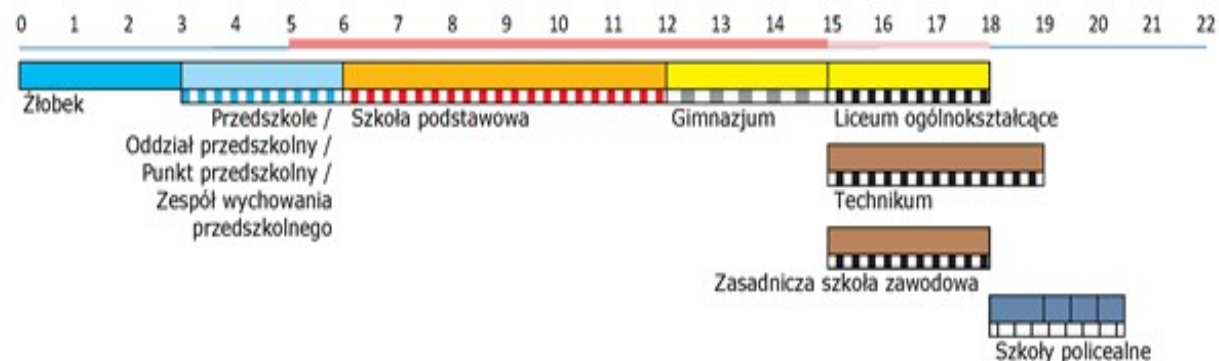
<i>Pre-primary education</i> (one year)	5 years (from 2011)
<i>Szkoła podstawowa</i> (6-year primary school)	6/7-13 years of age (from 2014 - 6 years of age for children born between January and June 2008, and from 2015 – for all 6-year olds) Stage 1 ( early school education) - 6/7-10 years of age Stage 2 – (teaching based on separate subjects) - 10-13 years of age
<i>Gimnazjum</i> (3-year lower secondary school)	13-16 years of age

<i>Liceum ogólnokształcące</i> (general upper secondary school)	16-19 years of age
<i>Technikum</i> (technical upper secondary school)	16-20 years of age
<i>Zasadnicza szkoła zawodowa</i> (basic vocational school)	16-19 years of age
<i>Szkoła policealna</i> (post-secondary non-tertiary school)	19-21 years of age (very rarely 20)

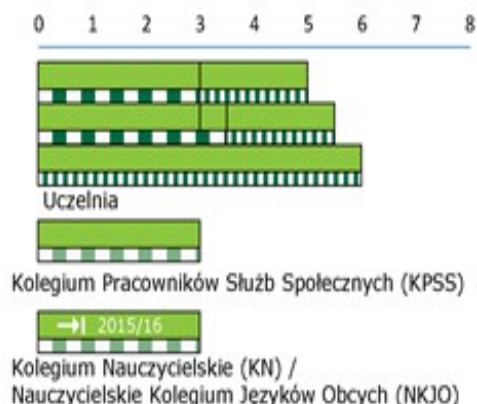


# Structure of the national education system 2014/15

## Age of students



## Programme duration (years)



Early childhood education and care (for which the Ministry of Education is not responsible)

Early childhood education and care (for which the Ministry of Education is responsible)

Primary education

Single structure

Secondary general education

Secondary vocational education

Post-secondary non-tertiary education

Tertiary education (full-time)

Allocation to the ISCED levels:



ISCED 0



ISCED 1



ISCED 2



ISCED 3



ISCED 4



ISCED 5



ISCED 6



ISCED 7

Compulsory full-time education

Additional year

Combined school and workplace courses

Compulsory part-time education

Study abroad

Compulsory work experience + its duration

→ Years

Programme being phased out during (year)

# Grading scales

## Most Common

Grade	Scale	Grade Description	US Grade
5+	5.50	Celujący (Excellent)	A+
5	5.00 - 5.49	Bardzo Dobry (Very Good)	A
4+	4.50 - 4.99	Dobry Plus (Fairly Good)	B+
4	4.00 - 4.49	Dobry (Good)	B
3+	3.50 - 3.99	Dostateczny Plus (Satisfactory Plus)	C+
3	3.00 - 3.49	Dostateczny (Satisfactory)	C
2	1.00 - 2.99	Niedostateczny (Unsatisfactory)	F

## Secondary

Grade	Grade Description	US Grade
6	Celujący (Excellent)	A+
5	Bardzo Dobry (Very Good)	A
4	Dobry (Good)	B
3	Dostateczny (Satisfactory)	C
2	Dopuszczający (Passing)	D
2	Mierny (Mediocre)	D
1	Niedostateczny (Unsatisfactory)	F

## ECTS

Grade	Grade Description	US Grade
A	Excellent	A
B	Very Good	B+
C	Good	B
D	Satisfactory	C+
E	Sufficient	C
FX	Fail	F
F	Fail	F

# Sources:

- <http://www.classbase.com>
- <http://eurydice.org.pl/>