



# INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN **POLAND**

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# National Policy



## ...until recently

- ✘ lack of comprehensive and coherent policy,
- ✘ institutions of higher education - key players in implementing policy towards foreign students (more frequently: income generation strategies),
- ✘ government scholarships and other measures for students of Polish origin;

## ...but in 2011/2012

- ✘ first time in the last 14 years, a high level visit to China,
- ✘ promotion campaign was launched by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education:
  - grants for universities to finance promotion activity;
  - trainings on communication and marketing;
  - interactive toolbox with good practices;
  - multilingual website [www.go-poland.pl](http://www.go-poland.pl);
  - recruitment fairs with national stand.
- ✘ strategic document in the area of migration - „Migration policy of Poland” - was adopted:
  - students, graduates of Polish universities – „(...) *the priority in terms of admission to Poland*”,
  - stronger incentives to settle in Poland after graduation.

# Statistical Overview



- ✧ Low number of international tertiary students enrolled in Poland
- ✧ Four-fold increase in the course of the last three decades

**PERCENTAGE OF TCN STUDENTS IN TOTAL ENROLLMENT:** approx. 0,6%

**NUMBER OF TCN STUDENTS IN 2010/2011:** approx. 11 000 international students out of which  $\frac{1}{3}$  - students of Polish origin (mainly from Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakhstan)

**MAIN NATIONALITIES:** Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, USA, Russia, China, Canada, Vietnam (in recent years – increase in number of students coming from South-Eastern Asian countries (India and Tajwan) and Saudi Arabia

**TYPE OF TERTIARY SCHOOL:** universities, medical schools and technical universities;

**SEX:** European countries - majority of women; other continents – majority of men.

# Planned Changes



In terms of:

- ✧ more active recruitment,
- ✧ studying conditions,
- ✧ migration procedures and
- ✧ stay after completion of studies

## ...actions implemented in short term

- ✧ state agency for the academic exchange and international cooperation to be established in 2013;
- ✧ further simplification of migration procedures (adopting new *Act on foreigners* in 2013):
  - extending validity period of residence permits issued to students – 1 year and 3 month (now: issued for maximum 1 year),
  - simplified renewal residence permit application process,
  - new type of residence permit for graduates of Polish universities to seek employment.

# Planned Changes



## ...actions implemented in longer term

- ✳ wider range of study programmes offered in foreign languages,
- ✳ developing scholarship programmes,
- ✳ recruiting candidates for studies in Poland from the regions or countries, which constitute priorities in Poland's foreign policy (mainly Eastern Partnership countries),
- ✳ actions aimed at making it easier for students to find the right job after graduation – adapting the curricula to actual needs of the market (ongoing reform of the higher education system).

# Concluding Remarks (1)

- ✳️ Poland – country in transition in terms of developing policy towards foreign students (larger role of central government).
- ✳️ Few chances of turning migration for study reasons into massive phenomenon.
- ✳️ Inflow of foreign students will not compensate big outflow of Polish graduates.
- ✳️ Whilst students from Ukraine and Belarus predominate, there are signs of increased diversity.
- ✳️ Foreigners willing to stay in Poland after completing studies tend to be of Polish origin and citizens of post-Soviet countries.

## Concluding Remarks (2)

- ✳️ Almost all formal barriers to legalising stay and restrictions on access to labour market have been lifted.
- ✳️ Still to be developed – active promotion of Poland as a place to study, targeted campaigns, improving conditions of studying and for settling after graduation, monitoring.
- ✳️ „student status” misuse occurs on a rather small scale.
- ✳️ Things Poland has to offer:
  - cheaper alternative to studies in countries of Western Europe,
  - relatively well-developed higher education system,
  - good social climate towards immigration.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**