



## University of Warsaw – Education

The University of Warsaw is the largest higher education institution in Poland in terms of student numbers. In the 2024/2025 academic year, the University educated 37.1 thousand students enrolled in first- and second-cycle degree programmes as well as long-cycle Master's programmes, 1.7 thousand doctoral candidates and 2.4 thousand postgraduate students. Among students and doctoral candidates there are 3.9 thousand international students; more than half of them are enrolled in long-term degree programmes, while the remainder participate in academic exchange schemes, primarily the Erasmus+ programme. The largest groups of long-term international students come from Ukraine (859), Belarus (441), China (283), Turkey (180), India (122), Azerbaijan (113) and Uzbekistan (92).

Degree programmes are offered across 25 faculties, as well as in interdisciplinary colleges and academic and teaching centres and institutes. Doctoral education is provided through four doctoral schools. Teaching is carried out by 4.2 thousand academic staff, including 534 professors. The University's academic offer comprises 333 programmes within 260 fields of study in the humanities and social sciences, as well as the exact and natural sciences.

These include individual interdisciplinary studies, 50 programmes taught in English, 11 programmes with elements of medical sciences, seven programmes with elements of engineering and technical sciences, seven programmes leading to the award of an engineering degree, and five joint degree programmes. On 29th June 2022, following a positive opinion issued by members of the University Senate, Prof. Alojzy Z. Nowak, Rector of the University of Warsaw, signed an ordinance establishing the Faculty of Medicine. This marked the opening of a completely new chapter in the University's history, referring to its over 200-year tradition related to medical education. On 1st October 2023, for the first time in 75 years, students of medicine commenced their studies at the University of Warsaw.

The University also operates the Open University, which offers courses to the general public.

In national and international higher education rankings, the University of Warsaw ranks highest among Polish universities. According to global rankings such as Times Higher Education, QS World University Rankings and the Academic Ranking of World Universities, the University of Warsaw is among the top 3% of universities worldwide. In the Shanghai Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2025, nine academic

disciplines taught at the University of Warsaw were included, with physics ranked highest in the 151–200 band.

Graduates of the University of Warsaw are active in the labour market. Studies on graduates' economic outcomes show that over 90% of the University's graduates find employment within one year of completing their studies.

The University cooperates with institutions worldwide not only through academic exchange programmes, but also through joint educational projects. In cooperation with Columbia University in New York, the University of Warsaw developed a one-year professional development programme for future teachers. Together with the University of Cambridge, it develops a curriculum for Polish language, literature and culture at the British university. The University of Warsaw is a member of the Alliance of European Research Universities (4EU+), which was awarded the status of a European University in June 2019 under the European Commission's "European Universities" initiative financed by the Erasmus+ programme. The partner institutions cooperate in research, education and initiatives related to the social responsibility of science. Students of 4EU+ universities participate in summer schools, workshops and academic seminars. Together with other Alliance members, the University of Warsaw runs three joint degree programmes, with further programmes under development. On 27th July 2022, the 4EU+ Alliance project One Comprehensive Research European University (1CORE) received funding in a subsequent European Commission "European Universities" call. The project includes, among others, the development of a multi- and interdisciplinary educational offer, innovative research-based teaching, intensified physical and virtual mobility, and the creation of a new shared digital infrastructure. The Alliance currently brings together eight European universities: the University of Geneva (Switzerland), Charles University in Prague (Czech Republic), the University of Copenhagen (Denmark), Paris Panthéon-Assas University (France), Sorbonne University (France), the University of Warsaw (Poland), Heidelberg University (Germany) and the University of Milan (Italy).

Nearly 230 student and doctoral organisations operate at the University. The University supports students who wish to develop their skills and gain experience by competing with students from the world's leading universities. Students representing the University of Warsaw achieve notable success, among others, in the International Collegiate Programming Contest, Mars rover competitions and the International Young Physicists' Tournament.

The University of Warsaw is currently implementing a long-term development programme (2016–2027), aimed primarily at providing excellent study conditions for students in the humanities and social sciences.

In 2019, the University of Warsaw won first place in the Ministry of Science and Higher Education's "Excellence Initiative – Research University" competition, obtaining research university status for the years 2020–2026. The University implements initiatives within five priority research areas and 70 actions, including programmes supporting the development of academic staff, doctoral candidates and students.

*Prepared by: UW Press Office, December 2025*