



**VARSLITY VISA**

'We help you study abroad'.

# POLAND

## STUDY ABROAD

## STARTER PACK

The Complete Guide for Zimbabwean Students and Parents  
2026 Edition

- 
- + Cost Calculator & Budget Planner
  - + Top University Options by Programme
  - + Student Visa Document Checklist
  - + Certificate Recognition Guidance
  - + 12-Month Application Timeline
  - + FREE Study Abroad Assessment Inside

Prepared by Varsity Visa

WhatsApp: +263 775 050 990 | "We help you study abroad."

# Welcome - Plan With the Correct Requirements

This guide has been updated to reflect the key requirements Zimbabwean students must understand before applying to study in Poland.

## What Changed and Why It Matters

Poland planning is no longer just about choosing a cheap university. Students must meet academic entry rules, English proficiency requirements, visa documentation, insurance, and certificate recognition requirements before they can move forward.

| Requirement Area        | What Students Must Know                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Academic level          | O-Level only is not enough. Students should have A-Level for undergraduate entry, or a first degree when applying for a Masters. |
| English proficiency     | IELTS or another accepted English proficiency test is required. Medium of Instruction letters should not be treated as enough.   |
| Insurance               | Budget US\$150 - US\$500 per year for visa-compliant medical/travel insurance.                                                   |
| Certificate recognition | Students should plan for certificate recognition/nostrification where required before or during the admission process.           |
| Main contact            | WhatsApp remains the fastest way to get guidance: +263 775 050 990.                                                              |



## About Varsity Visa

Varsity Visa helps Zimbabwean students and parents make informed study-abroad decisions. We guide students through course matching, university applications, offer letter guidance, visa preparation, accommodation planning and pre-departure support.

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# Who Qualifies to Apply?

Before discussing fees, confirm eligibility. A student can have money and still fail the process if academic or English requirements are not in order.

| Applicant Type          | Current Planning Guidance                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Undergraduate applicant | Must have completed A-Level or equivalent senior secondary qualification. O-Level only is not enough for Poland planning.                                      |
| Masters applicant       | Must have completed a recognised first degree relevant to the intended Masters programme.                                                                      |
| English requirement     | IELTS or another accepted English proficiency test is required. Do not rely on a Medium of Instruction letter as the main proof.                               |
| Certificate recognition | Students must plan for certificate recognition/nostrification where required. This should be checked early because it can affect admission and visa readiness. |
| Best next step          | Before paying application fees, send your academic background to Varsity Visa for an eligibility check.                                                        |

## Ruthless Eligibility Warning

Do not sell a dream to a student who is not yet eligible. If a student only has O-Level, the correct advice is not to rush into Poland. The correct advice is to first complete the required academic pathway, then apply when eligible.

## Varsity Visa Screening Question

Before we recommend a university, we need to know your highest qualification, grades, intended programme, English test status, budget, and preferred intake.

# Poland at a Glance

Poland can be a strong option, but students must plan with accurate costs and requirements.

| Item                    | Planning Information                                                                              |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Typical Tuition         | EUR 3,500 - EUR 6,000 per year depending on course and university                                 |
| Accommodation           | EUR 100 - EUR 350 per month for dorms or shared apartments                                        |
| Living Expenses         | EUR 250 - EUR 500 per month for food, transport, phone and personal costs                         |
| Transport               | Around EUR 1 - EUR 3 per day or EUR 10 - EUR 30 per month depending on city and student discounts |
| Insurance               | US\$150 - US\$500 per year for visa-compliant medical/travel insurance                            |
| Visa Type               | Polish National Type D Student Visa                                                               |
| Academic Entry          | A-Level for undergraduate study or first degree for Masters applications                          |
| English Proof           | IELTS or another accepted English proficiency test; do not rely on MOI alone                      |
| Certificate Recognition | Recognition/nostrification may be required and should be planned early                            |

## WHY ZIMBABWEAN STUDENTS CHOOSE POLAND

- + **Affordable European Education**  
Lower total costs than many UK, Canadian or Australian routes.
- + **English-Taught Programmes**  
Options in Nursing, IT, Business, Social Work, Health Sciences and Management.
- + **Practical Planning Route**  
Students can compare costs, intakes and programme options before paying major fees.
- + **Parent-Friendly Budgeting**  
Costs are easier to plan when tuition, accommodation, insurance and flights are separated.
- + **European Exposure**  
Students access an international study environment and broader networks.

# Your Personal Cost Calculator

Use this page to estimate your first-year cost. The final amount depends on university, city, accommodation and lifestyle.

| Expense                 | Budget    | Mid-Range | Premium   | Your Estimate |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| Tuition / year          | US\$3,500 | US\$4,500 | US\$6,000 | _____         |
| Accommodation / year    | US\$1,200 | US\$2,000 | US\$4,200 | _____         |
| Food & living / year    | US\$2,000 | US\$3,000 | US\$5,000 | _____         |
| Insurance / year        | US\$150   | US\$300   | US\$500   | _____         |
| Airfare one-way         | US\$700   | US\$1,000 | US\$1,500 | _____         |
| Recognition / documents | US\$150   | US\$300   | US\$600   | _____         |
| Books & misc.           | US\$300   | US\$600   | US\$1,200 | _____         |

## MY FIRST-YEAR ESTIMATE

US\$ \_\_\_\_\_

## REALISTIC RANGE

**US\$7,000 - US\$12,000**

*Depends on programme, city, documents and insurance*

## Budgeting Rule

Do not budget using tuition only. Add accommodation, living expenses, flights, insurance, document recognition, visa preparation and first-month settling costs.

# Sample Student Budgets by Programme

These planning estimates now include a safer insurance range and recognition/document cost line.

| Programme             | Tuition / year    | Insurance     | Recognition / docs | Other Costs             | Year 1 Estimate           |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nursing (BSc)         | EUR 3,500 - 5,000 | US\$150 - 500 | US\$150 - 600      | Accomm., living, flight | <b>US\$8,500 - 11,500</b> |
| IT / Computer Science | EUR 4,000 - 5,500 | US\$150 - 500 | US\$150 - 600      | Accomm., living, flight | <b>US\$9,000 - 12,500</b> |
| Business / Management | EUR 3,500 - 5,500 | US\$150 - 500 | US\$150 - 600      | Accomm., living, flight | <b>US\$8,500 - 12,500</b> |
| Social Work           | EUR 3,800 - 4,500 | US\$150 - 500 | US\$150 - 600      | Accomm., living, flight | <b>US\$8,500 - 11,500</b> |
| Health & Social Care  | EUR 4,200 - 5,000 | US\$150 - 500 | US\$150 - 600      | Accomm., living, flight | <b>US\$9,000 - 12,000</b> |

## Important Reality Check

Costs are estimates, not guarantees. Exchange rates, university fees, accommodation availability, insurance policy prices and recognition/document costs can change. A serious student should request a personalised budget before paying deposits.

# University Options and Admission Requirements

The university list is useful, but eligibility and documents decide whether a student can actually proceed.

| Programme              | Possible Options                                   | Typical Tuition   | Key Requirement                    |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Nursing                | UITM, Vincent Pol and selected health institutions | EUR 3,500 - 5,000 | A-Level + English proficiency      |
| Information Technology | UITM, Vistula and similar institutions             | EUR 4,000 - 5,500 | A-Level + English proficiency      |
| Business / Management  | Vistula, UITM and similar institutions             | EUR 3,500 - 6,000 | A-Level + English proficiency      |
| Social Work            | Selected English-taught options                    | EUR 3,800 - 4,500 | A-Level + English proficiency      |
| Masters Programmes     | Programme-specific universities                    | EUR 4,000 - 6,000 | First degree + English proficiency |

## GENERAL ADMISSION DOCUMENTS

1. A-Level certificate/results for undergraduate applicants
2. First degree certificate and transcript for Masters applicants
3. Valid passport
4. IELTS or another accepted English proficiency test
5. Application form and application fee proof
6. Motivation letter / personal statement
7. Certificate recognition/nostrification documents where required

# Student Visa and Document Checklist

Use this checklist for planning. Always confirm final requirements before submitting any visa file.

## IDENTITY & TRAVEL

- ☐ Valid passport
- ☐ Passport-size photos
- ☐ Previous visas or travel history where applicable

## ACADEMIC & RECOGNITION

- ☐ University admission letter
- ☐ A-Level certificate/results for undergraduate study
- ☐ First degree certificate/transcript for Masters study
- ☐ Certificate recognition/nostrification documents where required
- ☐ Academic transcripts where applicable

## ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

- ☐ IELTS or another accepted English proficiency test
- ☐ Do not rely on a Medium of Instruction letter as the main proof

### Recognition Reminder

Certificate recognition/nostrification should not be treated as an afterthought. Check it early because it can affect admission and visa readiness.

# Visa Checklist Continued

The remaining documents help strengthen your visa file and reduce avoidable delays

## FINANCIAL

- ☐ Bank statements
- ☐ Tuition payment receipt or scholarship letter
- ☐ Sponsor letter and sponsor identification documents

## INSURANCE & ACCOMMODATION

- ☐ Accommodation confirmation
- ☐ Medical/travel insurance budgeted at US\$150 - US\$500 per year

## VISA APPLICATION

- ☐ Completed visa form
- ☐ Visa fee receipt
- ☐ Flight itinerary
- ☐ Motivation letter
- ☐ Copies of supporting documents

### Insurance Planning Rule

For Zimbabwe-facing budgeting, use US\$150 - US\$500 per year for insurance. It is safer than under-budgeting and gives families a more realistic planning range.

# Your 12-Month Application Timeline

Start early. Recognition, English testing, university admission and visa preparation all take time.

## 12 MONTHS BEFORE

- + Confirm eligibility: A-Level or first degree
- + Research course and city
- + Plan English test
- + Start funding plan

## 9 MONTHS BEFORE

- + Collect academic documents
- + Prepare for IELTS or accepted English test
- + Check recognition/nostrification requirements
- + Submit university applications

## 6 MONTHS BEFORE

- + Receive offer letter
- + Pay required deposit
- + Arrange accommodation
- + Start visa document preparation

## 3 MONTHS BEFORE

- + Submit visa file where appropriate
- + Buy visa-compliant insurance
- + Plan flights
- + Prepare first-month budget

## 1 MONTH BEFORE

- + Attend pre-departure briefing
- + Pack for Polish seasons
- + Save emergency contacts
- + Carry original documents

## DEPARTURE DAY

- + Arrive early at airport
- + Carry originals in hand luggage
- + Keep Varsity Visa WhatsApp saved

## 5 Costly Mistakes to Avoid

These are the errors that create unnecessary delays, refusals, wasted money and family frustration.

1

### **MISTAKE: APPLYING WITH O-LEVEL ONLY**

Poland planning now requires A-Level for undergraduate study or a first degree for Masters applicants.

2

### **MISTAKE: RELYING ON AN MOI LETTER**

Plan for IELTS or another accepted English proficiency test instead of depending on Medium of Instruction alone.

3

### **MISTAKE: IGNORING CERTIFICATE RECOGNITION**

Recognition/nostrification can affect admission and visa readiness. Check this early.

4

### **MISTAKE: UNDER-BUDGETING INSURANCE**

Use US\$150 - US\$500 per year for safer insurance planning.

5

### **MISTAKE: CHOOSING THE CHEAPEST OPTION ONLY**

Compare total cost, recognition, entry requirements, city, support and visa readiness.

**GET YOUR FREE POLAND STUDY ABROAD ASSESSMENT**

Send the word POLAND on WhatsApp and get personalised guidance.

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