

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Rules of admitting children from Ukraine to Polish schools

I. Admitting children and youth from Ukraine to schools in Poland

Children and youth from Ukraine at the age of compulsory education (7-18 years old) are admitted to public schools and are provided with care and education on the terms that apply to Polish citizens.

Admission to schools takes place throughout the school year, and the determination of the grade in which a child is to continue education is based on the sum of completed school years abroad.

In order to enrol a child in a school, an application should be submitted to the school principal – the public primary school in the area of which a child arriving from abroad lives, accepts ex officio, other public primary schools and secondary schools, as long as there are vacancies.

Parents of a child from abroad, who cannot find a school with vacancies in a given grade, may apply to the body in charge of governing schools (e.g., education department of a commune or a district) with a request to indicate a school with vacancies.

The grade (year of study) is determined based on the documents issued by the school abroad, and in the case of their absence, the parents' declaration of the total number of years of study abroad. Documents do not have to be translated into Polish by a sworn translator.

Moreover, the child's parents may ask the principal to admit their child to a lower grade than it results from the sum of completed school years, e.g., due to the child's age.

The admission of students coming from abroad is governed at the statutory level. The legal basis for a student's stay in Poland (e.g., a temporary residence permit, a permanent residence permit, a residence permit for a long-term EU resident, a humanitarian residence permit or a refugee status or subsidiary protection status) is irrelevant to the possibility of being admitted to a public school and receiving possible forms of supporting education.

II. Educational support for students coming from abroad

Foreigners who do not speak Polish to the extent that they can benefit from education at school may:

- 1) participate in additional Polish language classes. The classes can be conducted individually or in groups to a minimum extent of 2 hours a week for an indefinite period;
- 2) carry out education in the form of a preparatory department, where the teaching process is adapted to the needs and educational possibilities of students
 - the process of education lasts one year, which may be extended to two years. The classes are carried out in groups of up to 15 students with a minimum extent of 20 to 26 hours a week (depending on the grade of study and type of school). As part of the above-mentioned hours, students learn Polish and the content of individual subjects to the extent adapted to their needs and capabilities;
- 3) use the help of a person who speaks the language of the student's country of origin and who is employed as a teacher's assistant – a person employed as a teacher's assistant does not need to have pedagogical qualifications;
- 4) take advantage of additional remedial classes in the scope of subjects organised by the body running the school, but not longer than for a period of 12 months.

Decisions on granting a given form of support are made by the school principal in consultation with the body running the school.

In addition, a diplomatic or consular mission of the student's country of origin or cultural and educational associations of a given nationality may organise at school, in consultation with the principal of the primary school and with the consent of the body running the school, teaching the language and culture of the student's country of origin. The school provides free rooms and teaching aids.

III. Psychological and pedagogical help

International students may receive psychological and pedagogical assistance in connection with their migration experience. The help consists in recognizing and meeting individual development

and educational needs as well as recognizing individual psychophysical abilities and environmental factors influencing their functioning.

Psychological and pedagogical assistance at school is organised by the school principal, and the help is provided by teachers, supervising teachers of educational groups and specialists who perform tasks in the field of psychological and pedagogical support at school, in particular psychologists, educators, speech therapists, career counsellors and pedagogical therapists.

Psychological and pedagogical help is organized and provided in cooperation with the students' parents and may be conducted in cooperation with other entities, including: psychological and pedagogical counselling centres, teacher training centres, other schools, non-governmental organisations and other institutions and entities operating for the benefit of the family, children and youth. The terms of cooperation between the school and the above-mentioned entities are agreed upon by the school principal.

Psychological and pedagogical help can also be provided to the students' parents.

IV. Financing of extra-curricular activities for people coming from abroad

Due to the fact that schools provide additional Polish language classes and organise education in the form of preparatory departments, additional funds from the educational subsidy are provided to the authorities running such schools. The amount of funding depends on the number of students of the schools covered by the aid and indicated in the Educational Information System.

V. Support for schools in conducting classes for people coming from abroad

- 1) The Centre for Education Development (CED) and regional teacher training institutions conduct training for teachers in teaching Polish as a foreign language and working with students with migration experience (<https://www.ore.edu.pl/materialy-do-pobrania/>)
- 2) On the website of the Integrated Educational Platform (<https://zpe.gov.pl/>) and the Centre for the Development of Polish Education Abroad (ORPEG) (<https://www.orpeg.pl/bezplatne-materialy-dydaktyczne/>), free educational materials for work with the students arriving from abroad are posted.

In addition, preparation of further materials is planned as part of the European Funds for Social Development.