



Why Poland?

Poland has a rich culture and its capital, Warsaw, is a vibrant and modern city. Krakow, the old capital in the south, is one of the great historical treasures of Europe. The country boasts a spectacular contrast of scenery, from the Baltic Sea in the north to the Tatra Mountains, with its excellent skiing, in the south. The Polish are warm, friendly, hard working, and recognise that the acquisition of the English language is going to be of great importance to their future.

Where are the placements?

Lattitude has placements in Warsaw, Krakow, Poznan, Lublin and other rural areas.

Is it for me?

Placements in Poland enable volunteers to assist with the teaching of spoken English. Some placements have the added challenge of being schools for the blind and partially sighted, and for those with special needs. Most schools have a link staff member who looks after the volunteer in and out of class. Students may range in age from six to 21, and private lessons may be with adults.



Overview

MINIMUM AGE: 17 (limited places available for 17 year olds)

DEPARTS: Feb / Sep

LENGTH: 5 to 6 months

ROLE AVAILABLE: English Teacher

Placement Locations



In all the schools there is an expectation that volunteers will become involved with activities outside the classroom; musical ability, drama skills, sporting prowess and artistic flair are particularly valued.

Volunteers should be versatile, adaptable, and very self-sufficient. Knowledge of the Polish language is not required for these placements, but most volunteers manage to learn and understand enough Polish to travel and shop successfully.

Working hours vary between placements, though will often correspond with full school days. A small amount of pocket money is paid and there is often the opportunity to give private language lessons for extra cash.

Accommodation and Food

Accommodation will be arranged either with a host family or in residential quarters attached to the host institution. Food will be provided accordingly, however occasionally you have to budget and cook your own meals.

Travel

There are plenty of opportunities for travel (some with the schools) both within and outside of the country, at weekends, and during the holidays. As travel within Poland is reasonably easy and cheap, volunteers usually manage to visit each other's placements. Returned volunteers suggest the Lonely Planet guide is a good introduction to travel within the country.

Need to know

- Pre departure briefing: All volunteers will be invited to a group briefing prior to departure.
- Language requirements: No previous knowledge of Polish is required
- On arrival: Volunteers will attend a teaching skills course/combined orientation before placements commence.

What's included

- Interview (face to face or by phone)
- Pre-departure briefing
- Airport pickup (group flights only)
- Accom, food & pocket money
- In-country orientation & support
- Teaching skills course
- 24/7 emergency support

Costs

The costs shown are for Lattitude placements departing in 2011. (Please note that these prices may change for placements departing in 2012.)

Lattitude Fees (these are exact costs)

Lattitude application fee	\$125
Lattitude contribution fee	\$2900
Lattitude teaching skills course	\$300
Lattitude in-country Orientation	\$316

You will also need to budget for the following (these are approx costs)

Travel Insurance (6 months)	\$475
Return airfares (approx cost of group flight)	\$2500
VISA	N/A
Police check	\$43
Total Cost (approx)	\$6659



"Polish life is 'bardzo cudowny' (just wonderful!) I've had a few lovely weekend trips - last week to see some fellow Lattitude teachers in Krakow. Krakow is a beautiful city, it's lovely just to explore the old streets and try to fathom some of its history.

Yesterday I set off (on my bike!) to Slovakia. A Sunday beer is tradition in Poland, so we enjoyed a Slovakian beer, before hopping on our bikes and taking in the amazing mountains round us as we made our journey back to Poland.... Its just so incredible. The people, the villages, the roads and the hills. I'm loving teaching, and am learning how to tackle some of the more unpronounceable names!"

Sophie Ellis, English Teacher