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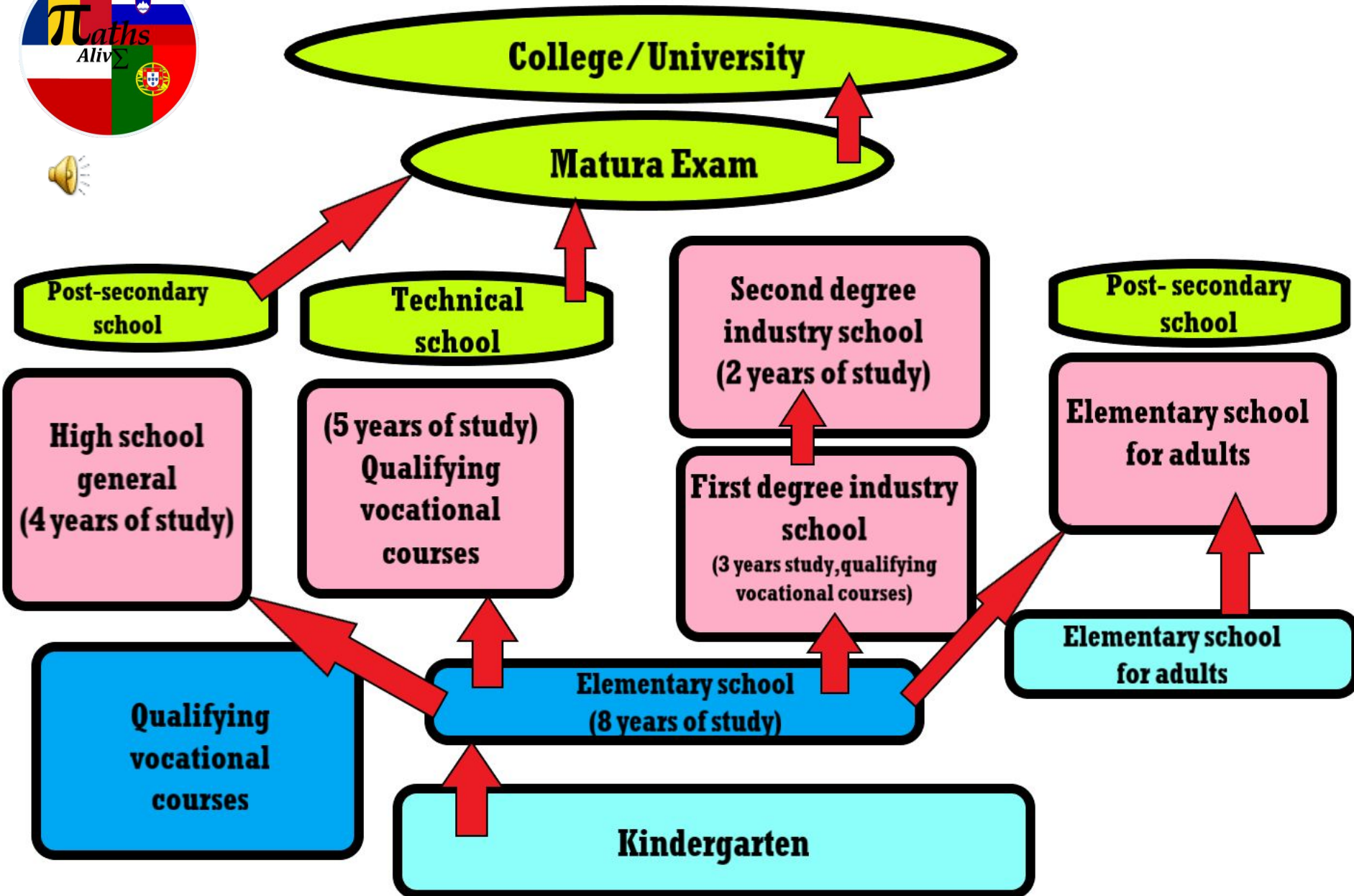
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Educational System in Poland



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Educational System in Poland



In Poland the Ministry of National Education governs the school system.



MINISTERSTWO
EDUKACJI
NARODOWEJ

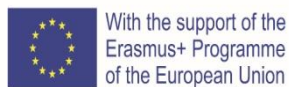


The school superintendent oversees pedagogical supervision over the institutions of the Educational System in the Voivodship. He is appointed and dismissed by the Minister of National Education, at the request of the Voivode. It is included in the structure of government. Educational system in Poland is divided into public and private sector. Parents can also choose home teaching for their children. Public education is free of charge, private needs special payment, but home teaching depends on parents requirements. They can teach children themselves or hire a tutor for teaching specific subject.

In Poland the teaching profession is regulated by separate legislation (The teacher's Charter) which defines rules of admission, duties, remuneration and dismissal of teachers and their career path. Teachers of different subjects usually work 18 hours in a week, but they are obliged to fulfill other school duties according to their headteacher needs. Teachers in kindergardens, and after-school teachers work for 25 hours, but library teacher for 30 hours.



The Educational System in Poland includes; Nursery schools, Kindergartens, Primary schools, Secondary schools, High schools: Vocational or Technical, Post secondary schools, and Higher education (colleges and universities), Post-graduated studies and PhD studies. In Poland a Higher Educational System (colleges and universities) belongs to a separate department of the government administration. In accordance with records of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland everyone has the right to learn. Education is compulsory from the age 6 to 18, but the status of compulsory institution is given only to a Primary school and the Secondary school. Learning in public schools is free of charge, private schools need payment. Activities and the organization of the School System are specified in the act from 7th September 1991 about the Educational System.



Nursery schools

Children can attend the nursery when they get 6 months, and they stay there until they have 2,5 or 3 years old. In this institution, they are given professional care and caring. You can choose between public and private ones. These run by the City Councils are usually much cheaper than the private ones. However, you will still need to pay fees for your child being there, and for the food. Children can stay in the nursery for up to 10 hours daily. Small kids in nurseries, despite of special care can also attend in such activities as; foreign languages, dance or art classes which are available for their age and interests.



Kindergarten

Children can attend the kindergarten from three to six. A „zero class" is compulsory for children at the age of 6. In kindergarten children need their personal development, promote personal independence, instill a sense of confidence and abilities. They also develop communication and social skills. Their parents may participate in arranging activities, and there are organized open days for those, who want to observe their children attendance in different classes.



Primary school

The eight-year school is divided into two years stages. The first stage includes classes from I to III. The main part is the block called „early school education”. These classes are being conducted by one teacher who is also acting as the class tutor. Each class lasts for 45 minutes and then, there is usually 10 minutes break. Lunch break is about at 11.30 or 11.50 and lasts for 20 minutes.



Students in their early education learn Polish and Maths Education, Science Education, Art, Music, Physical Education, Swimming lessons and Foreign language. In addition to separate subjects, the following "educational paths" have been introduced at this stage: health education, ecological education, reading and media education, education for society, education for family life, cultural heritage of the region, patriotic and civic education.



Classes 1 to 3 learn more general stuff and there is no split for individual subjects. In early school education, all the subjects they learn are integrated. In the primary school, class I,II and III get descriptive assesment for their school results and behaviour. During the whole school year they also get partial assessments.They are set according to the following scale: • perfect – 6 • very good – 5 • good – 4 • satisfactory- 3 • acceptable– 2 • insufficient (fail) – 1. Pupils also take part in classes of the Religious Education or Ethics. Their parents decide, whether they attend them. Children start learning a foreign language in class one. Some pupils also participate in compensatory classes or physiotherapy exercises. Extra curricular classes may be organized according to the pupils’ interests or needs.



In IV-VIII classes different teachers teach various subjects, out of those, one (class tutor) is responsible for their class, contact with parents and solution of different class problems. The subjects are all compulsory. These are: Polish language, Foreign languages (modern languages), Humanistic, Science and Art Subjects such as; Music and Art, Safety education, Career Counseling, Maths, General Biology, History and Society, Technical Skills, Information Technology, and Physical Education. Starting from class V, pupils with their parental approval can take part in classes of Sexual Education in the context of family life preparation.



The primary school ends with an examination, written by students of class VIII in April. Every year a director of the Central Examination Board decides about the date of the test. The examination paper consists of three written parts: Maths, Polish and Modern foreign language. The exam is obligatory for every student. It doesn't affect the final school results, but it's significant for the recruitment to secondary schools. At the end of the primary school, students will be obliged to take an exam which will test their knowledge acquired throughout the 8 years of learning.



The school year is divided into two semesters. Here we've got annual classification grades for the behaviour:

- perfect
- very good
- good
- correct
- inappropriate
- reprehensible .

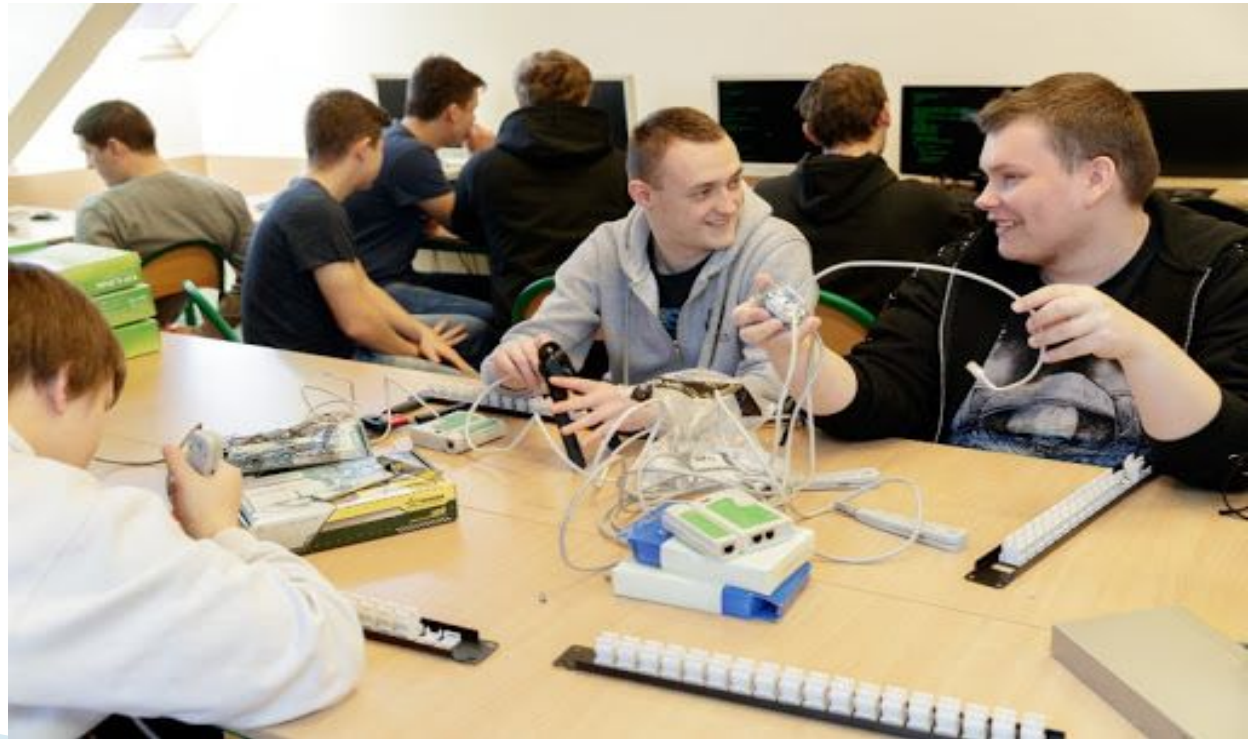


In Poland, students can choose between 3 main types of Secondary Education:

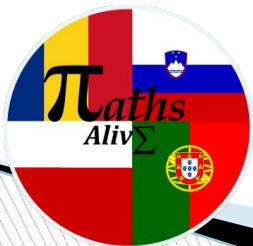
- ✓ **high school** – takes 4 years to complete. It is designed for people who would like to take the so-called Matura exam (A-levels) and want to continue studies at the university.
- ✓ **vocational school (I grade)** – takes 3 years to complete. It is not finishing with Matura exam, but students have to pass vocational qualifying exam after finishing it. It is designed for people who would like to start working immediately after finishing the school. You can work as: a cook or a hairdresser, salesmen, baker, mechanic or plumber after this school.



In vocational school students learn their subjects for three days, and two days in a week they use for apprenticeships. After finishing 1st grade vocational school students have a possibility to attend to vocational school of 2nd grade. When they finish it, they can pass Matura exam and go for studies.



- *professional technical school*– takes 5 years to complete. Similarly to high school, it can end with Matura exam and vocational qualifying exam. In addition, the students who complete this type of school, receive qualifications to start working on completion, or to study at the university. Some examples of Technical Schools include Technical School for Construction, For Electrical Science, For Hairdressing, for Hotel Administration etc. In this kind of school students also attend apprenticeships for two days in a week. The rest of the week they spend at school on learning.





Matura Exam



High schools finish with „Matura” exam, that enables the students to attend a higher education institution and obtain the degree of Bachelor or Engineer (3- 3,5 years course) or Master (5-years course) Matura is an exam that qualifies you later on for university. On Matura exam some of the subjects you need to take both in a written and oral form. There are normally two levels you can take this exam: the basic and the extended one. Before you apply, you need to check with your university, what subjects they require.

There are subjects that are 100% obligatory.

The list is the following:

- Polish – written, oral
- Maths – written, oral
- Foreign language – written, oral
- An additional subject of choice – written (extended level).



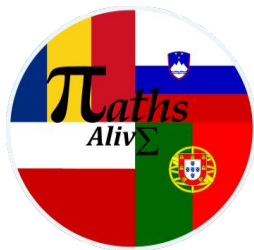
Post-secondary non-tertiary education

After passing Matura Exam students can choose Post-secondary education.

Post-secondary schools are intended for those, who graduate of general upper secondary schools and wish to obtain a diploma confirming vocational qualifications. The schools offer courses lasting about 2 or 2,5 years. The students of Post-secondary schools and students of sectoral vocational schools and technical upper secondary schools take vocational exams at the end of their education.



Adult Education is opened to adults who wish to complete school education on secondary level, or acquire new vocational qualifications and skills for professional or personal reasons. It's organized by continuing educational institutions, practical training institutions or training centers. Such education is a good chance for adults to fulfill their school ambitions at a little later age. They usually last for two years. Training is also offered to the unemployed and certain categories of people searching for a job.



Universities

In Poland, we have two categories of Universities: public and private ones. In general, public universities have better reputation than the private ones. However, it is also more difficult to get in, as they are normally very competitive. Studies are organized in the form of full-time, part-time or evening classes. A school of higher education can offer; Master degree studies, higher vocational studies as well as supplementary Master degree studies. It can also offer postgraduate courses, PhD studies, as well as special studies and courses.



We also have three levels of University Education as in many countries nowadays: Bachelor, Engineer and Master. In these types of schools, the Bachelor Degree takes 3 years to complete, Engineer 3,5 and Master Degree 5 years. Things work slightly different with Medical Schools, that normally take around a year longer. Studies end with the defense of diploma work. After 3 or 5 years of study students pass diploma exam in front of the University Committee. After that, they get Bachelor, Engineer or Master degree.



Other aspects – PhD/postgraduate studies

If the students would like to study more, the best option could be the PhD diploma that is offered by the majority of the universities. If student wants to get such degree he needs to find an attractive topic and a professor who will be his mentor, in order to start the studies. Of course, there is a formal application process too, so student will need to check directly with your university about the deadlines and requirements. The PhD studies normally takes around 3-4 years.



Post graduated studies

In addition to that, the universities and other institutions usually offer more specialized postgraduate courses for people who would like to extend their knowledge in the given field. The offer is huge, so it's better to ask directly at the institution of your interest. Such courses happen normally in the evenings or during the weekends. Post graduated studies are not free of charge. Many teachers in Polish schools finish post graduated courses and studies, to develop their personal and professional skills.

Thank you for your attention

