

•GUIDE•FOR• •ERASMUS• •STUDENTS•

Dear Student, welcome to the Academy of fine Arts in Warsaw. Because of the relatively small amount of information in English that can be found on how to study here we decided to create a short introduction to our world. In this small booklet we would like to provide you with some necessary knowledge about how the Academy works, what is the easiest way to move around the buildings and to whom to talk to in case of an artistic problem. As we all know Erasmus is not only about studying and that's why we would also like to give you some additional information on life in Warsaw in general – food, nightlife and cultural events. Let's hope it will be useful!

Academy

First of all we would like to show you the structure of our Fine Arts Academy. The Academy is divided into nine departments:

1. Conservation and Restoration of Works of Art
2. Design
3. Graphic Arts
4. Interior Design
5. Visual Culture
6. New Media Art
7. Painting
8. Sculpture
9. Stage Design

Depending on which department you are going to study during your Erasmus Programme, you will have to travel between different buildings. There are four main buildings where classes take place:

- Spokojna (New Media)
- Wybrzeże Kościuszkowskie (Sculpture, Conservation, Visual Culture, Stage Design and lectures)
- Krakowskie Przedmieście (Painting, Graphic Arts and main administrative building)
- Myśliwiecka (Design, Interior Design, Fashion)

If you are interested in some other department (not the one that you chose during your application) you are allowed to choose one other studio in any department you wish. If you wish, you can also participate in Polish language and Contemporary Art and Theory lectures that are held in English.

PLACES – where to go in the Academy?

Fine Arts Academy Museum

The museum is located in the main building of the Academy. It is a tiny, yet very interesting space, with thousands of paintings and sculptures made by the alumni of the Academy. Inside you can search through the archives, talk with extremely knowledgeable museum workers and find out some interesting things about the history of our Academy.

Salon Akademii

A gallery just outside the main entrance to the Academy's main building. In the gallery you can usually see exhibitions of works made by Academy's professors or acclaimed students, winners of prestigious art competitions and awards. The gallery is relatively new and open for any kind of international cooperations.

311

Library

The library is located in the main administrative building. It is quite small but very cosy. You can search through some books about the old masters but also find the latest art press – Frieze, Apartamento and many others.

Events – what to do in the Academy?

Coming Out

Event organised by the Academy usually in the end of November. The main aim for it is to „come out” from the

walls of the Academy and show students' works in an urban space to the wider audience. During it the most interesting degree pieces made by the graduates from each department are being exhibited. It is a chance for you not only to see what diplomas came from the Academy that current year, but also to meet some renowned people from the art world. While being on the winter semester on ERASMUS, you have to see this event!

The Long Night of Museums

During the "Night of Museums" celebrated probably in every possible cultural place in Poland, Academy also has something to offer. This special night in May keeps doors to art studios open. You will be able to see exhibitions prepared by every department, take part in some workshops organised by students, observe some performances or simply to get to know people from the whole Academy. Be prepared for a huge crowd as it's the busiest night in the year!

312

Fuksówka

Event with an extremely difficult name for all of the non-polish speakers. Regardless of the name's difficulty, the concept of the event is relatively easy and very fun to go to. It is a yearly event usually taking place in the middle of May and organised by the Design, Fashion and Interior Design departments. During one of the May's warm-night weekends the Department holds an exhibition of the faculty's latest diplomas. There is beer, concerts and fashion

shows are organised and lots of people from the whole Academy come there to meet up with friends and some of the scholars. If you attend to the spring-summer semester ERASMUS Programme this is a must-have event for you!

WARSAW

FOOD

In Warsaw you can find a whole range of different restaurants and places to grab food. This is a short list of those that are most frequently visited by Academy's students:

Vegan boom

For almost two years now (or even more) Warsaw can be referred to as the Polish (or even European?) capital of vegan food. Here you can find Vegan pizza, vegan burgers, vegan schnitzels and even vegan sushi. The places that serve vegan food are not very cheap, but they are definitely affordable for students. Although it is not that easy to buy vegan groceries in Warsaw, it is quite easy to be vegan when you go out.

- burgers: Krowarzywa, ul. Hoża 29/31 + ul. Marszałkowska 27/35
- sushi: Youmiko Vegan Sushi, ul. Hoża 62
- pizza: Vegan Pizza, ul. Poznańska 7
- everything: Lokal Vegan Bistro, ul. Krucza 23/31 or VegeMiasto, al. Solidarności 60A

Bary mleczne – the so called “milk bars”

“Milk bars” are a relict of Polish communist era. They are very cheap but very tasty. You can eat all types of traditional Polish food for less than 10 zlotys. The only thing about the bars is that the time of consumption is very fast – you get your food in 2 minutes, eat it in 4 to 10 and that’s all, another round of hungry customers comes in. If you get used to the pace, the milk bar should be one of your favorite places in Warsaw.

- Bambino, ul. Hoża 19
- Prasowy, ul. Marszałkowska 10/16
- Familijny, ul. Nowy Świat 39

NIGHTLIFE

314

Warsaw nightlife seems to be more than satisfactory for the students that come to study at the Academy of Fine Arts. In here one can find everything – from cheesy karaoke bars to techno parties and late night concerts. This is a short list of recommended parties and venues that are popular among our students:

Brutaż

Famed series of parties, that not only take place in Warsaw but also in Cracow, Poznan and even in Berlin. Although every event is different, one thing is sure – every time some renowned DJ from Poland and all over the world is playing there. DJs that are young, DJs that are old, women, men, old classics or rising stars. All of them are playing until the break of dawn, mixing different vinyls and genres. It

is important to say that their music may be considered as a bit dark, sometimes heavy. Apart from dancing up until the following morning one can find some additional highlights such as a self defence practice for women dancing in the clubs, performance, ethnic music concerts, alternative ways of speed dating and much more.

- entrance: 10–20zł
- place: Cafe Kulturalna, Pogłos
- [fb.com/brutaz](https://www.facebook.com/brutaz)

Światło

A „brighter” equivalent of Brutaz. Music-wise it is more energetic and less heavy, usually one can listen here to some house, disco, funk and even some actual songs (and not only DJ sets). We recommend you to attend the party during late spring or summer. Dancing to funk on one of the boats anchored to the shore of Vistula River when the sun is rising is indeed an unforgettable experience!

- entrance: 0–10zł
- place: Barka, Chmury
- [fb.com/nizaswiatel](https://www.facebook.com/nizaswiatel)

Wixapol

If you're a fan of the 90s, loud and monotone electronic music, drunk people in shining tracksuits this is a party for you. Wixapol is a series of parties initiated by artist Gregor Różański, inspired by smalltown parties that took place in the 90s and early 2000. Here one can listen to some famous hits (remixed) and trance classics. If you decide to go,

you should definitely wear some cool pants and fast-looking sunglasses in order to feel the 90s vibe.

- entrance: 10–15zł
- place: Niebo, Metronom, Barka Sen Nocy Letniej
- fb.com/WixapolSA

CULTURE

In Warsaw you can find also a wide range of cultural activities. Fans of medieval art can visit Warsaw National Museum, cinema lovers can attend to numerous festivals and theater geeks can enjoy some high quality performances. Depending on what you are interested in here is a short list of places and events that form Warsaw's cultural life:

316

MUSEUMS/GALLERIES

Depending on what you are interested in, you can find almost every type of art in the museums and galleries of Warsaw. Good art, bad art, medieval art, photography, video art, modern art and even some research institutes. Here you can find a short list of the most popular places associated with Warsaw art scene:

Zachęta National Gallery of Art

Existing for almost 60 years, Zachęta is probably the most famous of Polish galleries. The gallery does not exhibit collection of its own, as it stages temporary exhibitions of XXth and XXIst century art. Zachęta organises also many cultural events (film screenings, discussions, lectures).

MSN (Museum of Modern Art)

Currently in search for a headquarters and an exhibition hall, the Warsaw's MSN is probably the most lively cultural institution in Poland. MSN organizes the very best exhibition in the country and invites students to collaborate, participate in artistic research, educational programmes and many other artistically oriented events. Currently, you can look for it's temporary pavilion on the bank of the Vistula River. If it's not there, google up it's current location – it's definitely worth it!

Private galleries

There are more than 50 private galleries in Warsaw. Most of them are really small but very active, both in Poland and internationally. Among them the most popular and renowned are Raster, Lokal30 and Foksal Gallery Foundation. Nonetheless we encourage you to dig deep into the Warsaw's gallery world – we assure you than you can find some things that you haven't seen anywhere else.

CINEMAS

There are around 40 cinemas in Warsaw. Some are big and crowded, some of them are small and niche, but above all they are all quite cheap (comparing to other countries). Choosing between Hollywood blockbusters, french new wave cinema or newest cinematic experiments, you can attend to almost every movie you can think of. There are festivals, special screenings, movie premiers – everything a fan of cinema can wish for.

Kino Muranów, ul. Andersa 5

Here you can see new films awarded at Sundance Film Festival or in Cannes, listen to lectures about philosophy and its relation to cinematography. What's more important, here you can watch good polish movies with english subtitles.

Kino LAB, Zamek Ujazdowski

A cinema and a so called Media Arts Laboratory. Situated in the vicinity of the Centre for Contemporary Art, the cinema repertoire revolves around artistic cinema, new media practices and so on. Screenings also in english.

Kino AMONDO, ul. Żurawia 20

A small, young and vibrant cinema in the center of Warsaw. Among the movies screened you can spot some american classics such as *A Streetcar named Desire* or *Blade Runner*. Check out their facebook page to know which movie is coming next.

318

Warsaw Film Festival

An annual film festival attracting film fans from all over the world. With movies from Philipinnes, Chile, U.S.A, the festival presents a plethora of different cinematic styles. It usually takes place in October, so remember to buy tickets in advance!

THEATRES

If you are a fan of theater, performances, happenings and other plays you have found yourself in a mini

theatre-paradise. Warsaw theater scene is getting bigger and better every year. You can choose between festivals, commercial plays of theatre classics and some theatre-laboratories.

Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera

If you're a fan of classical theatre, opera or ballet this is a place for you. Students have the opportunity to buy tickets for operas like *Madame Butterfly* or ballets like *Swan Lake* for only 15 zlotys. It's worth it!

TR Warszawa

Although TR is also considered to be a classic just as Teatr Wielki is, it is definitely a contemporary one. Being the cradle of contemporary polish theatre and directors such as Krzysztof Warlikowski and Grzegorz Jarzyna, TR is the place to be if you're interested in modern theatrical practices. TR often offers performances with english subtitles.

Nowy Teatr

One of the most important theatre institutions in Europe, and definitely the most important in Poland. Run by legendary, every-award-winning director Krzysztof Warlikowski. The place offers a diverse programme with all kinds of interesting lectures, screenings, concerts, discussions, workshops and of course theatre performances by the very best polish and European directors. Many of the plays offer english subtitles (or no use of language at all).

Ciało/Umysł

An annual festival focused on art, dance, movement, performance and theatre. With its main focus being the body and the performative Ciało/Umysł attracts a lot of artists and performers from all over the world.

*Przewodnik 2.0:
od studentek dla studentek*

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