

Factsheet

UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW FACULTY OF PSYCHOLOGY

Introduction:

Website of University:

<http://www.uw.edu.pl/en/>

University of Warsaw, founded in 1816, is the largest Polish classical university with a population of over 60 000 students and 2816 academics including 821 professors. It comprises 19 faculties and 25 independent research and didactic units and offers courses of studies in 34 fields of arts and sciences. The University is housed in over 100 buildings within three campuses: the Main Campus, the Ochota Campus and the Smyczkowa Campus. In 1999 the New University Library was opened, with over 2 million volumes and equipped with tools of modern information technology.

A short history:

Warsaw psychology springs from the strong intellectual movement known as the Lviv-Warsaw logical-mathematical school. Founded by the Polish philosopher, Kazimierz Twardowski, a student of the Vienna philosopher Franz von Brentano, at the University in Lviv (then Lemberg) at the end of the XIXth century, it succeed in attracting an inspired group of teachers and students in the philosophical and mathematical sciences, broadly conceived (among them mathematicians Stefan Banach, Stanislaw Ulam, and Hugo Steinhaus, and logicians Jan Łukasiewicz and Alfred Tarski). This group also included future Warsaw psychologists, like Wladyslaw Witwicki, future head of the Department of General Psychology at Warsaw University in 1919-1948; Stefan Baley, doctor and psychologist, head of the Department of Educational Psychology in 1927-1952; and Mieczyslaw Kreutz, teacher of one of the most prominent figures in the Warsaw post-war psychology, Tadeusz Tomaszewski (Chair of General Psychology in 1949-1968, later director of the Institute of Psychology in 1968-1978). Through the strivings of Maria Zebrowska (an educational psychologist), in 1950 the University opened the first independent psychology studies in Poland. The initially small group of 20 students increased its number to about 60 per year in the 1970s. The first graduates, mostly students of Tadeusz Tomaszewski, quickly became known as the main figures in Polish psychology, initiating new disciplines and educating younger generations. Among them were: Janusz Reykowski (personality and social psychology), Jan Strelau (psychology of temperament), Ida Kurcz (psycholinguistics), Jozef Kozielski (decision making), Stanislaw Mika (social psychology), Adam Fraczek (theory of aggression) and several others. In the late 50s/early 60s, when the repressive communist administration gave way to a more open and liberal state policy, this group obtained the opportunity ? then extremely rare ? to visit a number of American universities.

The results were new theoretical ideas and emphasis on sound basic research, including experimental research, which had closer affinity to mainstream global psychology than to the officially recommended Marxist-Leninist ideology. The textbooks were filled with ideology-free content and a great number of faculty members participated in international conferences, organized both in Poland and abroad. For instance, the '70s and '80s were a golden period in Warsaw for social psychology, whose adepts in the mid-80s constituted the third largest national group in the European Association of Experimental Social Psychology, and for the psychology of individual differences, well represented in the European Association of Personality Psychology. This theoretical independence -- and a general atmosphere of it being easier to breathe in Warsaw than in any other psychology department in the former soviet camp -- was probably one of the reasons that psychology students and a considerable portion of the staff were always politically insubordinate, whether this meant participation in the student demonstrations in March 1968 (with all due repressions that fell upon the Department of Psychology at that time), active protests against political changes introduced into the Student Union in 1976, strong support given to the Solidarity movement in the 1980/1981, or finally, active opposition to its dissolution and harsh repressions during the period of martial law after December 1981. The year 1989 and the fall of communism brought a number of changes into the Polish educational system. These included the appearance of private higher schools and the introduction of a parallel, paid system of education at public universities, more emphasis put on teaching applied aspects of psychological research, and a considerable increase in the number of students. All of these changes influenced our Faculty.

The previous rigid system of mainly obligatory courses was replaced in 1997 by a much more flexible one where students from their first year are encouraged to set up their own individual study program. The faculty offers a rich choice of electives in addition to a set of core courses designed to provide a firm grounding upon which students can pursue their individual interests. Without a doubt it is the most liberal and open psychology program in Poland. The system is fully compatible with the ECTS system (European Credit Transfer System). The flexibility of the system and its open character is a great help to students who choose to study abroad for a semester or two within the Erasmus program or other exchange programs. At present the number of students at the Faculty exceeds 1500, the Faculty has over 80 members of regular staff (including over 30 associate and full professors), more than 60 PhD students, and an excellent student-to-teacher ratio. The Faculty offers several modes of studies: unpaid daily and paid afternoon studies (the study curricula for these modes are the same), as well as open access to courses and to a psychological diploma for students of interdisciplinary study programs in humanities (MISH) and in natural sciences (MISMAP). In 2005, the Faculty initiated a 5-year study program in English designed for foreigners and Polish students fluent in English. All this adds to the colorful and intellectually stimulating mix of people with varied interests, passions and opinions who are part of the Faculty community.

Program Description:

Warsaw International Studies in Psychology (WISP) is a full 5-year internationally recognized masters program in psychology. In the first 3 years students complete basic coursework. Years 4 and 5 are devoted to advanced courses and masters seminars. The program includes courses that are required for all students (obligatory) as well as courses that are selected by each student in accordance with her/his interests (electives). The main goal of the WISP program is to provide a high quality psychology education in English both for foreign students and for Polish students fluent in English who see their future careers on an international scene. In order to ensure the most up-to-date education, our team of lecturers is composed of at least 30% of foreign lecturers invited from renowned universities and research institutes in Europe and North America. The program is designed to provide students with a solid background in psychology and methodology of social sciences and at the same time to let students shape an education path closest to their interests. Obligatory core courses comprise only about 50% of the course total, the rest are selected from a wide range of electives and specialization courses. We collaborate with Collegium Civitas, a private school of social sciences run under the auspices of the Polish Academy of Sciences as well as the Warsaw School of Social Psychology. Our Faculty is known for its warm, friendly, and at the same time intellectually stimulating atmosphere.

An international context:

Students In the 2006/2007 academic year, more than half of our students were from abroad, coming from Sweden, Canada, USA, Germany, Norway, Japan, Tibet, and Zimbabwe. The average age of our students was 23.5.

Foreign lecturers In the 2006/2007 academic year, 7 of our 15 instructors were from abroad. They represented the following countries: USA, UK, Israel, Canada, Austria, Germany, Holland, Italy.

Website International Students:

http://www.bwz.uw.edu.pl/eng_version/index2.htm

Website Exchange Students Psychology:

www.psychology.pl

for courses offer: <http://www.psychology.pl/?id=3>

Fields of Study:

at our Warsaw International Studies in Psychology:

3 first years – general psychology

specializations: (starting 2008/2009) clinical psychology,
environmental/community psychology, economic psychology

Possibilities:

Students can come for a semester or full academic year. They can register for all the courses offered. So far students did not take part in Research Projects, but I think such possibility exists.

Information about courses:

Courses at Warsaw International Studies in Psychology program all the courses are taught in English. About 40% of professors are from countries outside Poland (US, Austria, Germany, England, Holand). This is a 5-year masters program. Usually there are on entry requirements but students must be fluent in English.

Number of places/ exchanges:

Generally each year we have about 30 foreign Student(s) for 5 or 9 months each (the total number of our students in WISP program is 90 now, we have 1st, 2nd and 3rd year students as the program started 3 years ago.

(Language) Requirements:

Fluency in English, no certificates required

Dates academic year:

around: 1st october - 25^h January plus 2 weeks of examination session and one week of winter holidays

around 20th February - 15th June plus 2 weeks of examination session
application deadline are decided by International Realations Office of University of Warsaw

Credit system:

ECST, students must earn 300 credits during 5 years of studing (60 ECTS each year)

Housing:

There is no campus. International relation office helps students in finding a room

Budget:

I would estimate that 500 euro should be enough for accomodation, food and transportation in Warsaw (many people in Poland earn even less...)

Visum:

no

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