

Polish at Oxford

Current Students
Undergraduate
Graduate
Prospective Students
Undergraduate
Graduate
Other Information
Teaching Staff
Related Web Sites
Research
Navigation
Polish Homepage
Faculty Homepage

Welcome!

Polish is a major European language, and the second largest in the Slavonic language family. Poland boasts more than a millennium of recorded history in the heart of Europe. Poles rightly pride themselves on their outstanding cultural and literary achievements. After almost twenty years of breathtaking changes and reforms following the end of Communism, Poland and Central Europe as a whole are again distinctly dynamic and diverse. The country's economic, political and cultural strength offers exciting and promising opportunities to graduates with a degree in Polish. For example, the present number of linguists falls short of the number which is needed as a result of Poland's accession to the E.U. in 2004.

Postgraduate courses

Oxford offers four graduate programmes which, depending on your choice, may include a substantial Polish component, including Polish language, literature, history and society:

The one-year M.St. and the two-year M.Phil. in Slavonic Studies give students the opportunity to specialize in Polish as their second Slavonic language, and to choose from a range of options including Polish history, literature, linguistics and philology. The M.St. and M.Phil. in Medieval and Modern Languages (Literature) allow students to specialize in literary studies, with a compulsory course in literary theory or methodology and a large variety of other options. These can include Polish literature and culture. The M.St. and M.Phil. in General Linguistics and Comparative Philology include options in Polish linguistics and philology. Finally, there is the one-year M.Sc. and the two-year M.Phil. in Russian and East European Studies. This course has a strong component of history, politics and economics, but also includes a cultural component and literary options.

Oxford also warmly welcomes applications from students who wish to pursue doctoral research in Polish.

Important: Polish language tuition is available for Master's and for doctoral students whose course or research includes elements in Polish studies.

Undergraduate course

Oxford is one of the few British universities where Polish can be studied to

degree level. Polish is available in combination with one of the following languages: French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian (post A-level and, under specific circumstances, for beginners) or Greek. Polish accounts for one third of the course. Application is open to beginners as well as existing speakers of Polish, including those with Polish A-levels. Admission does not depend on the level of proficiency, but on a keen and serious interest in the language and literature as well as in linguistics and literary studies in general.

Polish language and literature are also available as optional subjects to students of Modern Languages other than Polish, notably Russian and Czech, as well as to undergraduates in Linguistics.

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41 & 47 Wellington Square | Oxford OX1 2JF | Tel: +44 1865 270750 | Fax: +44 1865 270757
reception@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk