

Polish in Trinity



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

Welcome to our community

Polish in Trinity is first and foremost a community

We are a group of 40+ students, two staff members, and dozens of alumni. Polish in Trinity has been experiencing an unprecedented growth in the recent years, reflecting the growing number of Irish students of Polish descent and those interested in the language and culture of Ireland's biggest minority. We are now preparing the launch of a New Minor Subject in Polish Studies and expanding our module offerings to include more focus on Polish culture, Polish translation, and the Polish diaspora.

As a small but dynamic program, we recognise the value of community: our students not only learn Polish but also work together on projects, forging bonds that last beyond university years.

Read on to learn more about the Polish community in Trinity and how you can become part of it!



Krzysztof Rowiński
Assistant Professor
in Polish Studies



Tekla Karwat-Seko
Polish Language
Instructor



Adam Nowakowski
Polish Language
Instructor

Why study Polish?

Learn about, understand, and communicate directly with one of the largest countries in the EU

Polish is the language of the largest minority community in Ireland, as well as about 50 million people worldwide. It is the language of long-standing and rich literary, film, and artistic traditions. Knowledge of Polish opens up the possibility of collaborating with people, institutions, and companies from one of the largest EU countries.

Gain valuable linguistic and regional expertise

By learning Polish, you will also learn to read critically and become better prepared for the challenges of the job market in an era of ‘glocalization’. Because of the quickly developing Polish economy, graduates with culturally-specific knowledge and regional expertise, combined with strong language skills, are sought after by employers both in Poland and all over the EU. Our graduates have gained employment in the EU, in diplomacy, and in the corporate world.

Open up to new markets

Poland is the largest country in Central Europe and Polish is the biggest Slavic language in the EU. The Polish economy has been growing steadily since the early 1990s, reaching record highs in the EU. Poland is ranked 6th in the EU and 23rd worldwide in terms of GDP, and classified as a high-income economy by the World Bank.

What can you study?

Currently, there are three undergraduate courses with Polish:

European Studies

CAO: TR024

- Study the nature of Europe and the forces that have shaped it through the disciplines of history, history of ideas, political science, and sociology
- Learn two European languages, including Polish
- Find employment in the EU, the diplomatic corps, or marketing



Middle Eastern and European Languages and Cultures

CAO: TR040

- Gain a deep understanding of both European and Middle Eastern culture and society as well as their long, complex and at times fraught interaction
- Learn Polish alongside Arabic, Hebrew, or Turkish
- Prepare for a career in trade, media, or intercultural communication



Business Studies and Polish

CAO: TR089

- Learn about business concepts, theories and models and gain expertise in Polish language, culture, and business environment
- Develop a solid knowledge of international business and management and a strong competence in Polish language, culture and business environment



Minor in Polish Studies

Our newest offering

Add Polish Studies to your existing degree

This program allows you to study Polish in addition to your primary course. First-year students in Single Honours programmes in Trinity can choose to add Polish as a New Minor Subject, taking 20 ECTS points worth of classes per year in years 2, 3, and 4. When you finish, you will graduate with a Major with Polish Minor degree.

Hone your language skills — no matter your level

Students taking Polish as a New Minor Subject attend the same language classes as our other students. Whether you are a beginner who needs a foundation in Polish or a heritage speaker who wants to improve their academic writing skills, our experienced instructors will help you reach your goals. If your major allows, you can also go to Poland on an Erasmus exchange and gain further knowledge of the Polish language and culture.

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| Year 2 | Polish Beginners 1 or Polish Advanced 1 One of our optional modules* |
| Year 3 | Polish Beginners 2 or Polish Advanced 2 Polish Area Studies |
| Year 4 | Contemporary Polish Society Modern and Contemporary Polish Culture |

***Optional modules:** Introduction to Central and East European Area Studies, Polish Diaspora, Translation Tools for Polish, and Literary Translators' Workshop: Polish

Travel to Poland

Guaranteed Erasmus year

In all three of our major courses, students go on Erasmus exchange in year three to top-ranked Polish universities and experience life in a big Polish city. Students not only take classes in Polish and continue to learn the language, but also make connections that last a lifetime. Many of our students decide to spend the summer on an Erasmus traineeship (see below) or a different form of employment.

Free summer courses

Improve your Polish by spending 2-4 weeks in Poland at free summer course run by top university centers for language instruction in the country. Many of our students take advantage of this fantastic program, which offers tuition, room and board (students only cover the cost of flights). We have a number of guaranteed spots available for our students.

Optional Erasmus internships

Following your year in Poland, you can decide to spend the summer months in the country at an internship or work placement. You will receive a stipend for the duration of your stay and will gain invaluable experience and connections in the industry, giving you an advantage on the job market upon graduation.

Module spotlight:

Contemporary Polish Society

Designed to give students a deep understanding of the most salient issues facing the Polish society in the last thirty years, this upper-level module covers the necessary historical, sociological, and cultural topics we want our graduates to understand. From the legacy of communism to Poland's participation in international organizations and the new Polish cinema, students discuss the key developments in the country of the last three decades.

Students also continue to practice their language and academic skills, engaging with Polish texts and preparing presentations for their classmates. At the end of each term, they research one topic in depth and write a referenced research essay on that topic. The module prepares our students to become regional experts, giving them foundation for future study of the country.



"Plaza nr 9" - Kacper Kowalski, Powidoki series

Contemporary Polish Society (PLU4402Y)

AY 2023/2024 | 2h/week, 10 ECTS

(44 contact hours + 150-200 private study hours)

Lecturer: Dr Krzysztof Rowiński (he/him/on), k.rowinski@tcd.ie

Office hours: Wed 12:30-13:30 ([book here](#)), 4114 Arts Building

Module description

The module is designed to provide an overview of different aspects of contemporary Polish society, such as twentieth-century history and politics, culture, art, literature and film, and the most important socio-political debates of the present day. We will examine issues facing Polish society in the last couple decades, such as migration, women's and minority rights, the socio-economic transformation of the 1990s, and the relationship between the Church and the state. Based on a broad introduction to the above issues, you will, in consultation with me, select a topic for an oral presentation (in Polish) and a term paper, delving deeper into an aspect of the contemporary Polish society discussed in class.

Our modules

Covering all aspects of Polish language, culture, and society

Polish in Trinity is available for beginners and non-beginners. You will learn the language and gain detailed expertise about the country, its society, and culture. Depending on your course, you will have the opportunity to learn more about Polish companies, literature, or *Polonia*, the Polish diaspora living all over the world.

Polish Language for Beginners (4 semesters)

Polish Language Advanced (4 semesters)

Intermediate Polish

Business Polish

Introduction to Central and East European Area Studies

Polish Area Studies

Contemporary Polish Society

Modern and Contemporary Polish Culture

Polish Diaspora

Translation Tools for Polish

Literary Translators' Workshop: Polish

Polish Language and Culture (Trinity Elective)

Our community

Community is a point of pride for us

Student mentorships

Within each course, students are assigned mentors from among their classmates from senior years. These mentorships are designed to supplement the support from the program coordinators as students navigate the selection of modules, their Erasmus exchange, or writing their final-year capstone thesis. For some, these mentorships become the beginning of lifelong friendships and professional networks.

Social and cultural events

The Polish Studies Program in Trinity College Dublin organizes a series of cultural events each year, offering additional opportunities for our students to learn about Poland and its culture. We run a Multilingual Polish Book Club (open to the general public), we screen Polish films as part of Trinity's European Film Night, and we host talks by visiting scholars. Finally, our students and staff gather at the end of every term at our 'Polish Table' event, where we chat over food from a local Polish shop.

Projects

From year one, our students learn by doing project-based work. Our heritage speaker students in the Polish Advanced module publish a podcast called [Polska.ie](#) (in Polish, available wherever you listen to podcasts), in preparation for which they learn how to write for a Polish audience. In the final year of the Business and Polish course, students research a Polish company and prepare a case study based on a strategic moment in the company's history.

Questions?

Contact Dr Krzysztof Rowiński

→ k.rowinski@tcd.ie



visit our website →

See you in Trinity!