

Information for the Polish Institute in Vilnius

Cooperation between Poland and Lithuania with regard to NAWA's tasks

NAWA offers a wide range of programmes aimed at students, scientists and higher education institutions. In addition, it provides opportunities to learn Polish.

1. Programmes for students

a. *Poland My First Choice (PMFC)*

A programme covering second-cycle studies in all fields with a **monthly scholarship of PLN 2,000**. Additionally, scholarship holders **at public universities are exempt from education fees**. Candidates make an independent choice of the university and the field of study. The student can choose the language of study – Polish or another.

In the call for proposals for the Programme in 2020, Lithuanian citizens submitted **7 applications**, and **4 applicants** were promised a scholarship. Lithuanian citizens represent 6.4% of all PMFC scholarship holders.

b. **The Gen. Anders Programme for the Polish diaspora – first-degree studies and single Master's degree studies as well as second-degree studies**

The Programme enables young people of Polish origin to study in **Polish** at the universities subordinate to the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (apart from modern languages, with the exception of Polish Philology). They receive a **monthly scholarship of PLN 1,250–1,500** (the rates are different at medical and artistic faculties, where they are determined by the competent ministers). The studies may be preceded by a yearly preparatory course (also with a scholarship).

In addition, the Programme offers the possibility to complete first-degree studies and single Master's degree studies at public universities subordinate to the Minister of Health (medical studies) and the Minister of Culture and National Heritage (studies in arts).

In the 2020 call for proposals for the Programme – first-degree studies and uniform Master's degree studies, Lithuanian citizens of Polish origin submitted **60 applications**. **Twenty-one** of them **received scholarships**.

In the call for proposals for the Programme – **second-degree studies**, Lithuanian citizens submitted **13 applications**. **Scholarships were granted to 11** of them.

Currently, 69 scholarship holders from Lithuania are studying under the Gen. Anders Programme, which accounts for 3.5% of the total number of the programme's beneficiaries.

c. **POLONISTA – Scholarship Programme for Students and Scientists**

The Programme's objective is to promote Polish in the world by enabling foreigners interested in the Polish language and culture to study or carry out research projects in Poland. The Programme is dedicated to students of Polish philology, Polish studies or Polish programmes conducted among others as part of Slavic studies (covering Polish language, Polish culture and the knowledge of Poland) and to scholars from foreign universities and research institutions.

In the case of students enrolled in first-degree studies, education can take one or two semesters. Winners and finalists of the Polish Literature and Language Contest held abroad can complete the entire course of studies. Students enrolled in second-degree studies can





complete the entire curriculum in Poland. The NAWA **scholarship** amounts to **PLN 1,250–1,500** per month.

There were no applicants from Lithuania in the 2020 call.

2. Programmes for scientists

Opportunity to complete a postdoctoral fellowship in Poland – the **Ulam Programme**.

The Ulam Programme finances visits to Polish universities and scientific and research institutes by scientists from abroad who hold the degree of PhD or higher. The Programme covers:

- carrying out research, including in collaboration with Polish scholars or research groups;
- completing a postdoctoral fellowship;
- obtaining material for a doctoral thesis or a scientific publication;
- teaching classes at the host institution.

Foreign researchers can stay in Poland from 6 to 24 months. During that period, they receive a monthly scholarship in the amount of PLN 10,000 as well as a mobility allowance, which covers the costs of organising the visit.

The number of applications submitted in the 2019 call for proposals was 355, of which three came from Lithuanian citizens. None of the three were selected for funding, however.

In the 2020 call, 348 applications were submitted, including 6 applications from Lithuanian citizens. The applications are currently subject to merit-based evaluation.

3. Institutional programmes

a. Creating partnership projects under the **International Academic Partnerships** programme.

A wide range of research and didactic support is offered by the International Academic Partnerships programme. Its objective is to develop sustainable solutions for cooperation in the areas of research, implementation and teaching in the form of international academic partnerships. The programme is addressed to Polish universities, scientific institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and research institutes. However, the requirement is to submit an application with at least three Strategic Partners – foreign universities or scientific institutions.

Project activities undertaken in partnership cooperation may concern a wide range of joint initiatives, for example development of modern teaching materials, development or preparation of new education tools and methods, or development and implementation of a model of cooperation between a Polish institution and its foreign partners in order to create long-term relations in the area of internationalisation or promotion of best practices and innovative solutions. In addition, the programme covers joint initiatives to promote science and scientific achievements as well as the organisation of exchanges/lectures/ study visits/industrial traineeships at the premises of partners or businesses.





In the first call, which was announced and decided in 2018, funding was granted to two applicants that will implement projects in partnership with entities from Lithuania: Stanisław Staszic University of Applied Sciences in Piła together with Aleksandras Stulginskis University (ASU) carry out a project titled *The role of small farms in the sustainable development of the food sector in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe*. It involves carrying out research and development work on an international scale, preparing international publications, and organising international conferences and seminars; the International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw together with the Institute of Biotechnology, Vilnius University, carry out a project titled *Molecular basis of enzyme specificity and applications*. Its main objectives are: exchange of students and staff, preparation of international publications, and research and development work on an international scale.

Two more projects were granted financing in the 2019 call: Mineral and Energy Economy Research Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences and Kaunas University of Technology will carry out a project titled *Monitoring of water and sewage management in the context of the implementation of the circular economy assumptions*, which entails: carrying out joint research and development work on an international scale, organising exchange/lectures/study visits/industrial traineeships at the premises of Partners or businesses, including access of persons involved in the implementation of scientific research and development works to R&D centres of businesses/Partners and development and implementation of a strategy for dissemination of the results of research carried out by the Applicant and its Partners; and a project of the Poznań University of Economics titled *Contemporary Work and Family Policy – Education and Research*, which is carried out, among others, in partnership with the Lithuanian Social Research Centre and covers: development and implementation of cooperation between the Applicant and foreign Partners in order to engage in long-term relations in the area of internationalisation, development or preparation of new educational tools and methods by the Applicant and Partners, and joint research and development work on an international scale.

The next call for applications will be announced in 2021.

- b. International scholarship exchange of PhD candidates and academic staff under the **PROM** Programme.

The applicant under PROM is a Polish university or scientific institution, while universities and scientific entities from Lithuania can be their project partners. The projects may include both Polish visits to Lithuania and visits of Lithuanian PhD students and academic staff to Poland. The Programme covers exchange involving short forms of education, which in this case include: teaching classes, participation in conferences, summer/winter schools, courses and workshops, as well fellowships and study visits. The scholarships may be used also for stays that entail obtaining teaching or research materials, acquiring skills to operate unique research equipment or increasing skills related to writing international grant applications. So far, seven programme participants from Poland have visited Lithuania. Poland was likewise visited by seven participants from Lithuania.

The announcement of the third call in the PROM Programme is planned for spring 2021.

