

[POLAND] – [Jagiellonian university]

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¹ To update the agenda just click right on your mouse

I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

It is a very Erasmus-friendly city — relaxed and neither too large nor too small. Shops stay open late, which is very convenient, and it is also an excellent base for travelling to other Central and Eastern European countries. The university is well-known within Poland, the campus is clean, and the professors were friendly. If I could choose my destination again, I would pick the same place.

GRADE : 4.5

=> 0 (I do not recommend this semester abroad to my best friend) – 5 (I totally recommend this semester to my best friend)

II. Before the travel

A. Preparation

1. Visa

EU citizens do not need a visa. As a non-EU student (Korean), I looked into this before leaving. If you already hold a residence permit issued by another EU country and it has sufficient validity remaining, you only need to notify the university. I had a French residence permit, so I used that to inform the school.

Source: [I have a valid residence card issued by another EU country. I came to Poland under EU programme ERASMUS+. Should I apply for temporary residence permit in Poland? | Department for Foreigners' Affairs](#)

2. The flight

I purchased my ticket two months before departure (12/2025). There are no direct flights from Montpellier to Kraków, so I flew from Lyon Airport and used Wizz Air, which was very affordable. I recall paying around €200, including two checked bags.

3. My luggage

This varies a lot by personal preference, so there is not much to say, but since almost all apartments and dormitories in Kraków come fully furnished, I recommend just packing your clothes and essentials.

One thing to add: if you need checked baggage, include it when purchasing your ticket. Adding it later becomes significantly more expensive.

4. Bank account

If you already have a bank account and phone number set up in France, there is no need to open a new one. I recommend downloading and using Revolut.

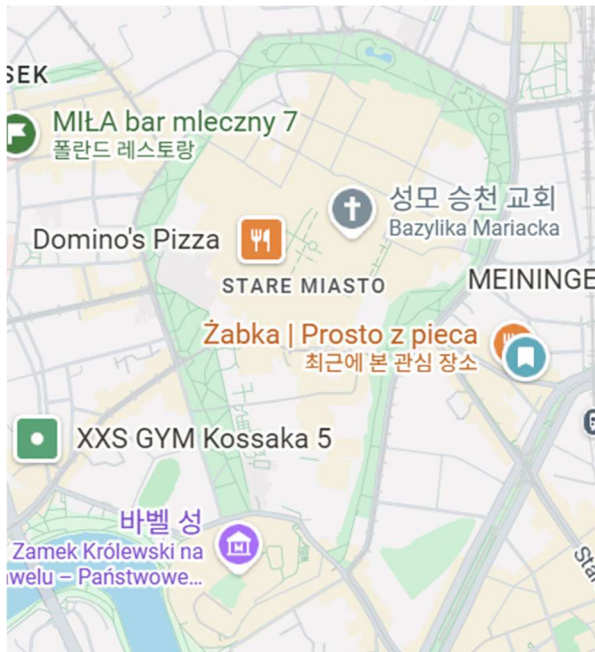
5. Insurance

Travel and short-term student insurance is not that expensive. I already had insurance from Korea, so I did not purchase a new policy, but you can find various options in the €50–200 range. The sign-up process is also fairly straightforward.

B. Housing

1. Where to live

Regardless of which campus you attend, if you enjoy going out, I recommend finding accommodation near the Old Town.



The Old Town (Stare Miasto) is the central area surrounded by the green ring on the map. If you stray too far from the area I highlighted, you may have no choice but to take a taxi when coming home late at night. Staying within that area will put you about 30–40 minutes from my campus, the Jagiellonian University Jagiellonian university – Social Communication campus.

2. Find a flat or a room

If you are going on exchange from France, there is a high chance you will be rejected from university dormitories. Private dormitories are expensive. I therefore recommend looking for flat-sharing options. The site I used was Pepe Housing, where you can find flat shares and apartments across Poland.

3. Cost

I lived in a 4-person shared apartment with a private room and paid around 1,600 PLN (€390) per month. It was a clean apartment located about 10 minutes on foot from the Old Town.

III. When I arrive at the university

A. Inscription at the university

Unlike French universities, Jagiellonian University uses Outlook email rather than the university's own domain. Once you have completed the initial registration, I recommend checking your Outlook inbox regularly. Course registration usually opens about 2–3 weeks before the semester begins. If you miss the window, popular courses fill up quickly, so keep an eye on the university's USOS web portal.

B. Information on the university

1. Class

The quality of classes was generally high, and the professors speak English well. However, due to the nature of the Erasmus programme, my classes were exclusively made up of exchange students, which created a noisy atmosphere that was not always ideal.

2. Organization of the Class

It depends on the course, but the professors are very kind and do their best to accommodate students. Assignments and presentations are not overwhelming, and if you stay on top of things in advance, you will have plenty of leisure time.

3. List of courses and recommendation

All courses were good, but I would personally recommend Lean Management and Risk, Money and Decision Making. Neither is particularly difficult, and they offer perspectives on management and decision-making not available at MOMA. The content was genuinely interesting, and the professors are enthusiastic and approachable. Highly recommended.

4. Exam

Most courses replace exams with presentations and assignments, but a few do hold final exams. Even those are multiple-choice, which makes them less stressful, and with a bit of effort you can achieve a good grade. Grades are out of 5, and 2.5 is the passing mark.

IV. When I live there

A. Safety

Poland is an overall very safe country. That said, you should always stay aware of your surroundings, but I had no dangerous experiences throughout my exchange. Still, always be cautious around drunk people.

B. Phone and Internet

Internet was included as a standard option in the apartment. For my phone, I kept using the same plan I had in France. However, be aware that data limits are slightly lower in EU countries outside France, so check your plan carefully.

C. Events

Cities with a large exchange student population typically have ESN offices and group chats where events are announced. If you do not have the link to the group chat, I suggest attending the Tandem event held every Monday at Bracka Bar and asking other exchange students to add you.

D. Sports

I did not participate myself, but each campus has sports clubs, and messages occasionally appear in the group chat inviting people to join football or basketball sessions. Gyms in Kraków run about €40–50 per month, which is slightly more expensive than in France.

E. Eating

To start, I recommend trying any restaurant in the Old Town area. Prices are a bit higher, but the quality is guaranteed. For a cheaper local option, there is a restaurant called MILA bar. It can get crowded, but the food and prices are definitely worthwhile. If you cook frequently, use a supermarket called Biedronka. It is affordable and has a wide variety of ingredients.

F. Go to the university : bus, car, bike

I mostly used the tram. With a Polish student ID, you can get a 50% discount on public transport. The application fee is around 22 PLN (€5), and the discount also applies to

trains within Poland — so I recommend applying as soon as possible. For booking trains or purchasing public transport tickets, the Jakdojade app is very convenient.

G. Travels

I recommend travelling to nearby Eastern European countries such as the Czech Republic, Slovenia, and Hungary. Trains are cheap, so exploring other Polish cities is also a great option, and if you have the time and budget, the Baltic states are also worth a visit.

H. Any other information you would have liked to know about

Make sure to check your campus location in advance. Jagiellonian University has multiple campuses, which can be confusing at first. If you are going on exchange to Kraków from MOMA, you will most likely be at the Wydział Zarządzania i Komunikacji Społecznej faculty.

V. After your semester abroad

A. What are you planning to do?

I have been given the opportunity to work at a logistics company and will be starting as an import/export freight forwarder in Paris from July 13th.

B. Did you apply for master?

I was not particularly interested in a master's degree, so I only applied to Pantheon-Sorbonne university. And I did not get in.

[remember to fill in the excel : <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11-vB4ABdkzIJR1AQ82drWyAVXfnCpRYr8COkeKihnlS/edit?usp=sharing>]