Why Learn A World Language?

- In an increasingly globalized world, knowledge of a world language becomes an indispensable skill important not only for personal enrichment, but also for broadening employment opportunities.
- According to a study from the University of Chicago, knowledge of a world language helps you **boost decision-making skills**.
- Students who study world languages **score higher on standardized tests**, as a study from York University in Toronto showed.
- Students who study a world language for at least one year score an average of 38 points higher on the SATs.
- Knowledge of a world language **increases your chances of landing a good job**, as demonstrated in a recent poll of *The Economist*.
- An MIT study shows that people who know two or more languages earn an average of $128,000 more over their lifetimes.
- Learning a second language has **compelling health benefits**, as suggested by a study from York University in Toronto that connects prevention of the onset of dementia with foreign language learning.
Poland has a vibrant economy and is experiencing rapid political, social and demographic changes. Today, Poland is a key member state of the European Union and NATO. The country has a flourishing cultural and arts scene. Polish theater and film are known throughout the globe.

Polish culture has a long and proud tradition. Whether you love music or have a penchant for poetry, Polish is for you! Listen to Frédéric Chopin, lose yourself in the verses by Adam Bernard Mickiewicz. Love science fiction? Pick up a book by Stanislaw Lem. You will love it!

Who speaks Polish?
Polish is spoken by almost 40 million people in Poland and around the world, including the US. By some counts, the city of Chicago has the second largest Polish population in the world.

The language is currently the largest, in terms of speakers, of the West Slavic group. It is also the second most widely spoken Slavic language, after Russian. Polish is mainly spoken in Poland. Poland is one of the most linguistically homogeneous European countries; nearly 97% of Poland's citizens declare Polish as their mother tongue.

What have Polish people given the world?
- Vitamins
- Walkie Talkies
- Warner Bros. Entertainment

Famous Americans of Polish Descent
- Nicolas Cage - actor
- Alan Greenspan - former Chairman of the Federal Reserve of the United States
- Bonnie Hunt - Golden Globe and Emmy Award-nominated American actress
- Reuben and Rose Mattus - founders of the Häagen-Dazs company
- Czesław Miłosz - Nobel Prize–winning poet
- Gwyneth Paltrow - actress
- The Wachowskis - directors of The Matrix
- Jack Warner - president of the Warner Bros Studios

Why Study Polish?

Indiana University is home to as many as 70 world languages!

- Akan/Twi
- American Sign Language
- Arabic
- Avestan
- Azerbaijani
- Bamana
- Bengali
- Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian
- Catalan
- Chinese
- Czech
- Dari
- Dutch
- Egyptian (Demotic)
- Egyptian (Middle)
- ESL
- Estonian
- Finnish
- French
- Georgian
- German
- German (Old High)
- Greek (Classical)
- Greek (Modern)
- Haitian Creole
- Hausa
- Hebrew (Biblical)
- Hebrew (Modern)
- Hindi
- Hungarian
- Indonesian
- Italian
- Japanese
- Korean
- Kurdish
- Kyrgyz
- Lakota
- Latin
- Macedonian
- Mongolian
- Norwegian
- Old Church Slavonic
- Pashto
- Persian
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Quechua
- Russian
- Sanskrit
- Spanish
- Swahili
- Tajik
- Thai
- Tibetan
- Turkish (Ottoman)
- Turkmen
- Ukrainian
- Urdu
- Uyghur
- Uzbek
- Wolof
- Yiddish
- Yoruba
- Yucatec Maya
- Zulu

Learn these everyday phrases!
- Hello (General greeting) … Cześć
- How are you? … Jak się Pan(i) miewa?
- Reply to 'How are you?' … Bardzo dobrze, dziękuję. A Pan(i)?
- What's your name? … Jak się Pan nazywa? (when asking men)/Jak się Pani nazywa? (when asking women)
- My name is (name) … Mam na imię
- Pleased to meet you … Bardzo mi miło
- Morning greeting … Dzień dobry
- Afternoon greeting … Milego popołudnia
- Evening greeting … Dobry wieczór