



explore, live, study

Welcome to Think Poland



INNOVATIVE ECONOMY
NATIONAL COHESION STRATEGY

UNIA EUROPEJSKA
EUROPEJSKI FUNDUSZ
ROZWOJU REGIONALNEGO



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I. Who are we?

THINK POLAND is a pioneering education project in Poland that promotes higher education in the country. It represents major public universities, medical schools, academies of economics and polytechnics, with whom exclusive representation agreements have been signed.

THINK POLAND guarantees professional service based on experience. It holds recommendations of the European Union Innovative Economy Program 8.1, and from the Polish Academy of Science. The company is also in the process of acquiring an ISO certificate.

THINK POLAND has a network of student centres in Poland, ready to help international students on their arrival. They are located in the main academic cities, including Warsaw, Krakow, Poznan, Lodz and Wroclaw.

Currently we are seeking experienced agents in the following countries: Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Libya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Taiwan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam and others, to promote Poland as an attractive and cost effective education destination in the European Union.

Our Partner Schools in Poland

We have started cooperation with major public Universities in Warsaw, Krakow, Poznan and Lublin. Some of the courses we have currently on offer include:

- Graphic Arts
- Material Chemistry
- Mathematics & Actuarial Maths
- Veterinary
- Medicine
- Dentistry Nursing
- Food Biotechnology
- Farming / Agriculture Engineering
- Horticulture
- Economy and Organisation of Enterprises
- Information Systems in Management
- Restoration and Management of Environment
- Tourism & Hospitality
- Information Technology
- Architecture and Urban Planning
- Civil Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Aerospace Engineering
- Mechatronics
- Computer Science
- International MBA
- Logistics Management
- Telecommunications
- Robotics
- Mining Engineering
- Computer Systems and Networks

Education Fairs

The founders of **THINK POLAND** have been actively following global trends in the education market by taking part in networking events, agent workshops, etc. This has resulted in striking new business partnerships and expanding the scope of our reach.

Some events included:

- English Australian Workshops Sydney, 2004;
- Passport Into the Future, Poznan University of Technology, 2005;
- WORK, STUDY & TRAVEL, Higher School of Economics, Poznan, 2006;
- Workshops Spain, Barcelona, 2005;
- Road Shows in Sydney & Brisbane, 2006;
- Workshops in Perth at Edith Cowan University, 2006;
- ICEF Workshops, Berlin, 2007;
- Organised Road Show at Higher School of Banking, Poznan, 2007;
- Organised Road Show at Wroclaw University, 2007;
- Organised Road Show at Higher School of Management and Banking, Krakow, 2007;
- Organised Fairs at the Warsaw School of Economics, Warsaw, 2007;
- Mini Fairs – Łódź Polytechnic, 2008;
- Sydney Workshops, 2008;
- ICEF Workshops, 2008;
- Organized Migration Road Show, Warszawa, Koszyce, Budapeszt, Sydney, 2009;
- Melbourne ICEF, 2010;
- Berlin ICEF, 2010.





II. The genesis of **THINK POLAND**

The following factors have led to the creation of THINK POLAND:

1. The increased mobility of international students.
2. The tightening of visa and immigration policies in the popular education destinations.
3. The low fertility rate in Poland.
4. The quality of the Polish education system – European standards.
5. The rapid growth of the Polish economy and employment opportunities.

All of these will be presented in the sections below.

1. Global Student Mobility

Undoubtedly, one of the most characteristic features of students nowadays is their increased mobility. In 2000 the number of international students was 1.9 million. In 2006 the number increased to 2.9 million, a 50 percent increase over 2000. The outlook for the future is even more optimistic. It is estimated that the number of international students will increase to 5.8 million by 2020. Five years later, the number will further increase to 8 million, which is almost 176 per cent of the 2006 number.

Having recognized the enormous potential of the mobile students, universities around the world lead a proactive policy aimed at attracting international students to their own institutions.

This is achieved through the help of various government programs and scholarships as well as individual partnerships with universities abroad and their own marketing campaigns.

For instance, the UK Internet portal, www.educationuk.org, set a target to “overtake” 25 per cent of all mobile students and accommodate them at the British institutions. Other organizations play a similar role: the French Campus France with its impressive 135 offices around the world or the German Daad operating in 17 countries.

Countries that had previously underestimated the role of international marketing in education are now following suit. The Irish Minister of Education and Science established Education Ireland in 2008. The following year, the Prime Minister of Japan announced a government program whose objective is to increase the number of international students from 119,000 to 300,000 within eleven years. For that purpose, he designated 30 institutions in the country that only have English-speaking courses. He also arranged accommodation for those students whose stay in the country would be shorter than one year.

Similarly, **THINK POLAND** has been created to adjust to the global market. Its aim is to effectively promote the Polish education system abroad, through traditional marketing tools (education fairs, publications, etc), business partnerships with education agents worldwide, and an Internet portal www.ThinkPoland.org.



2. Student Visa in Poland

The advantage for Poland is that no such restrictions currently apply to foreign students.

In order to apply for a Polish visa the following documents are needed:

- Valid passport
- A photograph
- Visa application form (to be obtained from a Polish Embassy or Consulate in the student's home country)
- An official letter of acceptance to a course / school
- Valid health insurance
- An official statement from a bank confirming the applicant has funds to cover their expenditures during their total stay in Poland (a minimum sum of 1600 PLN to cover 2 months stay), or
- An invitation from a Polish Citizen who will cover the costs of living and studying

After arrival in Poland

Poland is divided into administrative sectors called województwa – voivodeships. Every foreign student on arrival needs to go to the local Voivodeship Office in order to obtain a stay permit. It is granted for a period of one year and can be renewed. The stay permit is issued on the basis of the admission letter from the university to which the student has been accepted.



THINK POLAND has their own Overseas Student Centres in major university cities of Poland where international students can get assistance in all the administrative matters relating to studying and living in Poland. For more information please go to the section on Overseas Student Centres

3. Fertility decline in Poland

Beginning in the mid 1980s the number of births in Poland has been continuously decreasing. It is estimated that from a population of 40 million, Poland will shrink to 35.6 million inhabitants by 2030.

This constitutes a huge risk for the Polish education system and the number of students. Most education institutions focus largely on the home market for student enrollment, overlooking the potential enrollment of mobile students.

Poland should follow the example of countries like the UK, France or Germany which early on discovered the business value of education and have since been actively promoting their institutions abroad, attracting large numbers of mobile students to their home countries.

It is not that Poland is unaware of the risks the low fertility rate. On the contrary, there have been efforts to minimize its effect. Unfortunately, the pressure has been applied to the quality of education, while the ready-made solution, the availability of mobile students, seems to have gone unnoticed. This may come as a surprise, given the impressive 650 years of quality education in Poland, over 400 schools and the wide availability of courses in English, waiting to welcome foreign students. Obviously, anyone wishing to study in Polish can participate in special preparation language courses, which count towards the total study time.

Polish schools lack experience working with education agents, and their own internal Departments of Foreign Academic Exchange focus on attracting students for EU scholarship programs like Erasmus or the exchange of the academic staff. They may notice the enormous potential of the Asian market, however they frequently do not know how to approach it.

Therefore, **THINK POLAND** has been created. It's the first platform on such a scale to help Polish education institutions with the enrolment of foreign students. It does this through its network of experienced education agents and an interactive, well-positioned portal www.ThinkPoland.org.



4. The European quality standards of Polish education

The Bologna Process

Poland joined the European Union in 2004. The first change in the Polish education system came with the implementation of the Bologna Declaration in the academic year of 2007/08. Poland adopted the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) points and three academic degrees. This means that Polish education is recognized in the EU and in the world.

Academic degrees in Poland

- Bachelor (BA, licencjat, inżynier, inż.) is obtained after the completion of 3-4 years of vocational/technical college studies. The bachelor level allows students to continue their education at master-level courses.
- A Master's degree (MA, MSc, magister, mgr.) is earned after having completed 5-6 years of university studies, a successful dissertation of the master thesis and passing the final exam. Master degree may also be obtained after 2-2,5 years of supplementary master's degree studies undertaken by students with Bachelor degree.



- A Doctor's degree (PhD, doctor, dr.) is a post-graduate degree. To qualify for PhD Studies (3-4 years) a candidate must hold a Master's or equivalent degree. The degree may also be awarded to those who have worked at a university for several years and have not been enrolled in PhD studies. In both cases the doctor's degree /PhD is granted on the basis of a successfully defended dissertation. Degrees are awarded by the authorised faculty councils.

This three-level education system applies to almost all academic fields in Poland with the exception of Law, Pharmacy, Psychology, Veterinary Medicine, Medicine and Dentistry, which are based on two-stage system (Master and Doctor). In the above cases, there is no Bachelor equivalent and the first stage of studies lasts 5-6 years.

THINK POLAND cooperates with the Institutes of Polish Academy of Science and offers a wide variety of PhD programs, with a possibility to obtain sponsorships.

European Qualification Framework

The European Union Parliament introduced European Qualification Framework (EQF) in April 2008 to further unite the education system across the member states. The objectives of EQF apply to all types of education institutions and are as follows:

- To create an education system across all member states based on 'learning outcomes' that will enable a much easier understanding and comparison of different countries' qualifications.
- To encourage lifelong learning
- To promote citizens' and students' mobility.

What does EQF mean for Europe?

- Cross border recognition of education degrees and diplomas
- Increased mobility of workers and students within the EU
- A smooth transition from work to training and vice versa, on a lifelong basis
- Ability to understand and compare the content and qualifications levels of courses and training systems across borders for individuals and educational institutions
- Increased transparency of qualifications to give students and schools the ability to judge the relative value of qualifications and prompt the latter to ensure the high quality of their own programs
- Ability for employers to better judge the profile, content and relevance of the qualifications in the labour market
- A more robust European employment market as a result of a larger skilled and mobile work force



What does EQF mean for Poland?

- The stamp of European quality on the Polish education system
- Higher trust in qualifications gained in Poland
- Increased interest in Poland as a cost effective country in the EU
- A boost in the Polish economy and creation of new employment opportunities as the implementation date of EQF coincides with Poland's participation in Euro 2012

Education in Poland - facts and figures

- A million students
- 461 institutions of higher education including:
 - 366 private schools
 - 59 public schools including 18 Universities, 17 Polytechnics, 11 Academies of Economy, 6 Schools of Pedagogy, 6 Schools of Agriculture, 6 Schools of Physical Education and 1 School of Theology).
 - 36 public Vocational Schools
- Over 300 academic courses in English

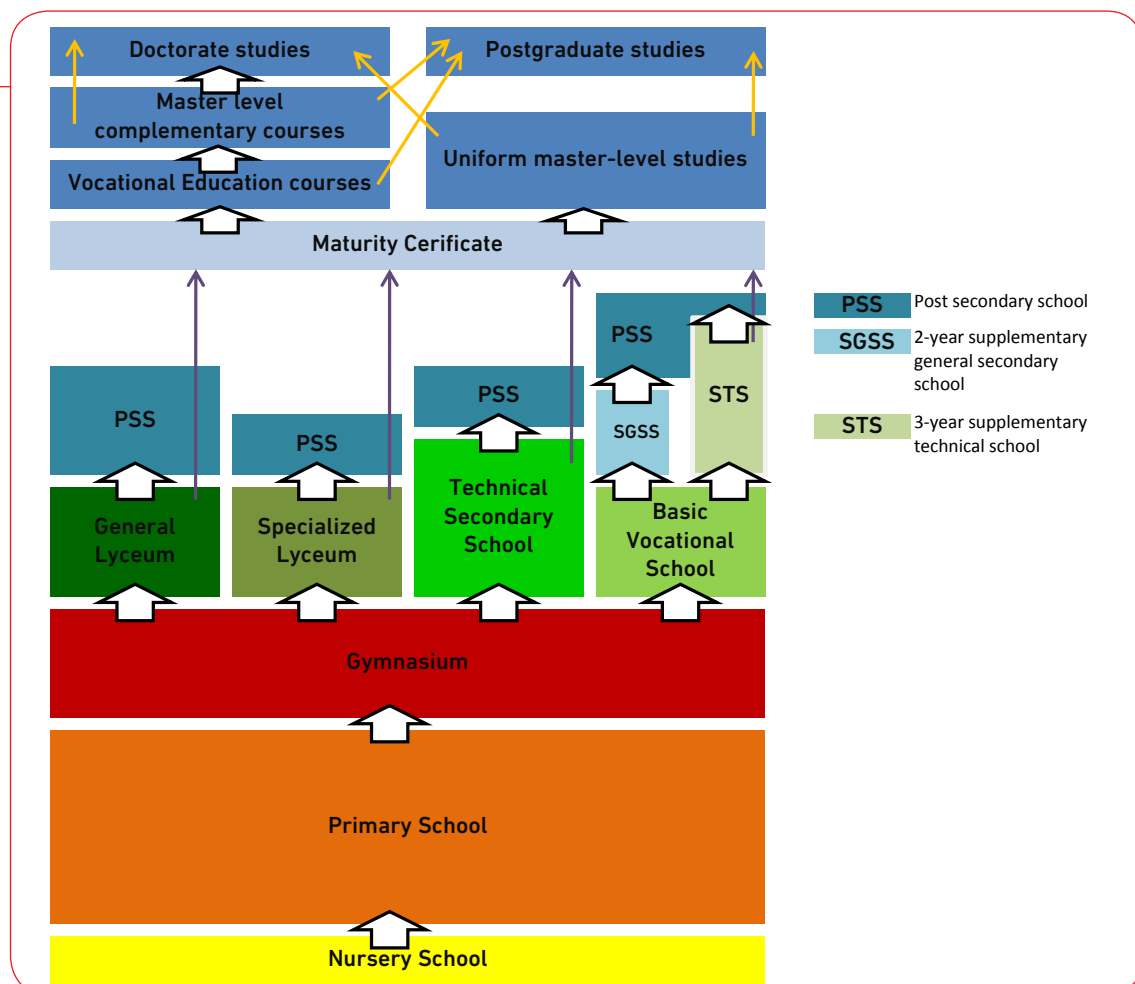
THINK POLAND has signed a number of exclusive, long-term cooperation agreements with major public universities in Poland.

The structure of the academic year in Poland

The academic year, covering 30 course weeks and ca. 30 hours of instruction per week, is divided into two semesters:

- The winter semester, lasting from 1 October to mid February, includes 15 weeks of study, Christmas holidays, a winter examination session and winter holidays
- The summer semester (from mid February to 30 September), includes 15 weeks of study, Easter holidays, a summer examination session and summer holidays;

Polish education system scheme



Learning is implemented via lectures, classes, seminars, tutorials and laboratory work. In addition to obligatory courses, students may choose to participate in extra-curricular academic activities as well as join classes in other fields of study. Students are also obliged to participate in foreign classes as part of their study curriculum. Higher education courses are provided in various modes of study - students may choose the most popular daily studies or opt for evening / extramural studies, or distance-learning system.

Exam sessions

Each semester ends with an examination period. The students are examined in each subject separately.

Exams are both written and oral. They are held to assess acquired knowledge and understanding. Practical skills tests may consist of exercises, individual and team project work, and job placement experience.

To complete a semester a student needs to achieve the minimum passing grades in all courses specified in the curriculum and also to receive satisfactory grades in all exams. Two semesters must be completed in order to gain admission the following academic year. However, there is a possibility to follow individual study programmes, which are defined and approved by the faculty council.

Candidates who fail in the first examination session have a chance to resit the exam in the additional exam session. Should a student fail on both occasions, he or she must repeat the year in whole or in part (certain subjects) depending on given faculty boards.

The grading system

Each school of higher education establishes its own grading system, however the most common one is as presented below.

- bardzo dobry (very good) 5 / UK equivalent A
- dobry (good) 4 / UK equivalent B
- dostateczny (satisfactory) / UK equivalent C
- niedostateczny (unsatisfactory) 2 (fail) / UK equivalent fail

Additionally, some schools recognize "half grades", i.e. 4+ or 3+.

Under the European Credit Transfer System a certain number of credits is allocated to a given subject independently of marks received on exams.

Admission procedures

The admission procedures to schools have been structuralized and made easy by **THINK POLAND**. Agents receive a list of required documents and send them to our representative, who then passes them on to the relevant person at a university.

The minimum requirement for students wishing to pursue undergraduate studies is the apostilled leaving certificate from the second level education in their home countries, legalized at one of the Polish diplomatic outposts.

Students coming from the EU and the following countries do not require to nostrify their diplomas in Poland: Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia i Hercegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, South Korea, Cuba, Libya, Lithuania, Latvia, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Russia, Romania, Serbia, Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Syria, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vietnam

For post-graduate studies, the transcripts of their academic records from home universities are required.

Each school may have slightly different admission procedures and at times hold entry exams for foreign students to verify their knowledge of Polish or English, depending on which language they wish to study in. **THINK POLAND** provides detailed information on the application procedures of each of our participating schools.

Diploma thesis and a final exam

Students enrolled in all types of schools, be it a university or a vocational school, need to write and submit a diploma thesis or project and present it during a final diploma examination. The examination board consists of faculty teachers.

To be admitted to a diploma examination, the students must usually have:

- Completed successfully all subjects and practical placements, etc. as prescribed for a given field of study
- Submitted by the specified deadline their diploma thesis/project approved by their supervisor and
- A passing grade for the thesis/project.

In most higher education institutions, a final examination consists of two parts. The first one is held to examine the knowledge prescribed in the curriculum for a given field of study. The second one is devoted to the dissertation of a diploma thesis or project.

The final grade usually covers the following elements:

- The average of all grades obtained in the course of studies,
- The grade for a diploma thesis/project,
- The grade for a final exam.

This grade is usually calculated as an arithmetical average of the above-mentioned grades. Final grades that appear on a diploma are normally rounded up to full marks.



5. Polish Economy

After the downfall of the Communists in 1989 Poland began its rapid change of economic liberalization through the privatization of state-owned enterprises and the dismantling of price and currency controls.

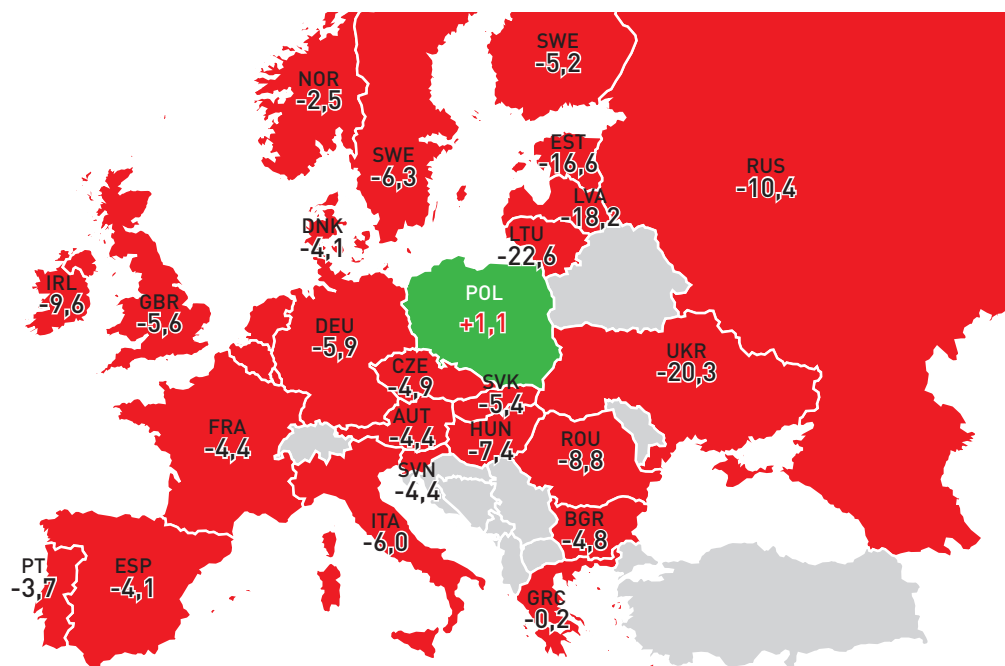
In 2004 Poland joined the EU. The access to the EU structural funds has provided a major boost to the economy. Unemployment fell rapidly to 9.8% in 2008 and remains below the EU average. Also its public debt, at roughly 55% of GDP, compares favorably with its neighbors - and with the United States.

Poland is the 6th largest economy in the EU and is currently considered to have one of the fastest growing economies in Central Europe, with an annual growth rate of over 6.0% before the late 2000s recession. In 2009, Poland was the only EU member state that showed positive GDP growth at 1.9%.

The economy is largely fueled by foreign investment. To encourage it even further, Poland plans to adopt the euro as the country's currency by 2015.

Despite some systematic problems, Poland has made a tremendous overall economic progress over the last decade, and now is ranked 21st worldwide in terms of the GDP and is likely to continue to move up in the world ranking. Poland is also a safe country, with a low crime rate as compared to other European countries.

Gross Domestic Product in Europe - 2nd quarter 2009



A table below compares the cost of studying and opportunities of legitimate work between Poland and other popular education destinations.

Country	Average yearly cost of studies	Visa cost	Work permit / cost	Number of hours per week
AUSTRALIA	Megt College Sydney – Business AU\$ 5100 / 14 739 PLN Monash University Melbourne – Technology AU\$ 28,800 / 83 232 PLN	AU\$ 550 / 1690 PLN	Yes / included	20
USA	University of San Francisco – Physics US\$ 36 000 – 119 160 PLN University of Denver – cost per course US\$ 35 604 / 117 849 PLN	US\$ 200 / 660 PLN	Only on campus / included	20
IRELAND	University of Cork – Arts €13600 / 52 768 PLN University of Galway Law – €13000 / 50 440 PLN	60 / 232.80 PLN	Yes / included	20
UK	Oxford – Mathematic £12 200 / 58 438 PLN University of London - £9000 / 43 110 PLN	£145 / 694.55 PLN	Yes / included	20
POLAND	Jagiellonian University - medicine - €8000 / 31 040 PLN Materials Chemistry UMCS 3000 / 11640 PLN	€50 / 194 PLN	Residence Card 390 PLN	Unlimited

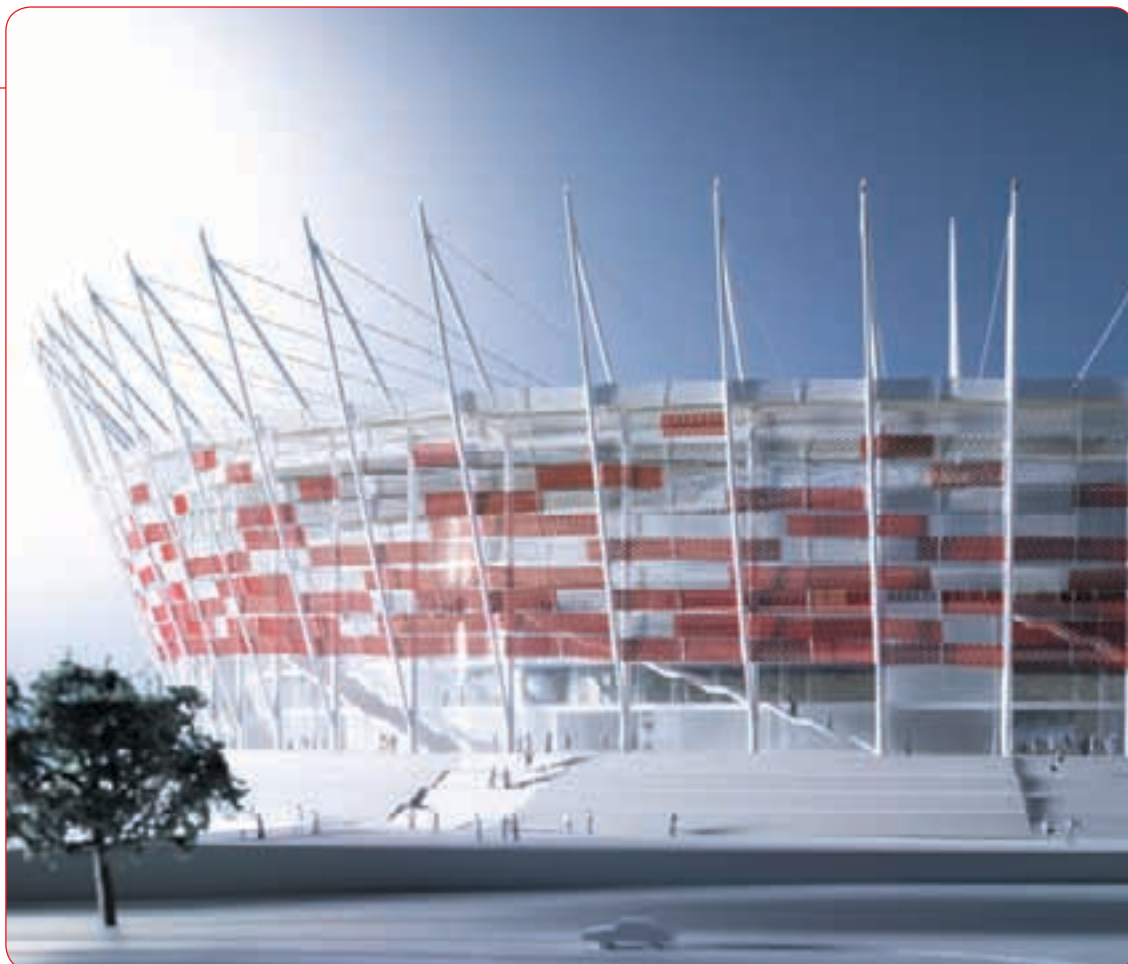
Poland is a stable and safe country in Central Europe. The cost of living and education in Poland are one of the lowest in the EU. The total of €200-400 per month suffices to cover the cost of accommodation, food, transport and cultural life. Additional course-related costs are among the lowest (€2 000) when compared to those in Europe, USA or Australia.

Euro 2012 - employment opportunities

The 2012 UEFA European Football Championship, commonly referred to as Euro 2012, will be hosted by Poland and the Ukraine between 8 June and 1 July 2012. In preparation for Euro 2012, the modernization of Poland's infrastructure is taking place. 900 km of new highways are planned to be built. There will be improvements undertaken on the main railway routes and at eight local airports. Three new stadiums will be constructed and three other renovated. New hotels and restaurants are being built to accommodate the wide masses of tourists. Cities will modernize their public transport system. All of these changes will have a long-term effect and improve daily living conditions of people living in Poland.

III. The objectives of THINK POLAND

Visualisation of Polish National Stadium in Warsaw



The Ministry of Economics predicts the investments for Euro 2012 will create 100 000 new work places, mostly in the sectors of construction and hospitality. Part-time workers will be required to assist 21,4 million tourists and football fans visiting the country during Euro 2012. These will be ideal jobs for international students. Job centres can assist those students in finding appropriate jobs.

It is estimated the visitors will spend approx. 40 billion PLN during the European Football Championships, which will give an extra boost to the Polish economy.

6. The objectives of THINK POLAND and its operational tools

Poland lacks a unified government policy that could promote Polish Education in a structured, complex way abroad and assist foreign students with the enrolment processes to universities and colleges. The founders of **THINK POLAND** have been actively working on the international education market for



ten years. Keeping a close eye on the global trends, we have managed to become the market leaders in Poland and hold our position.

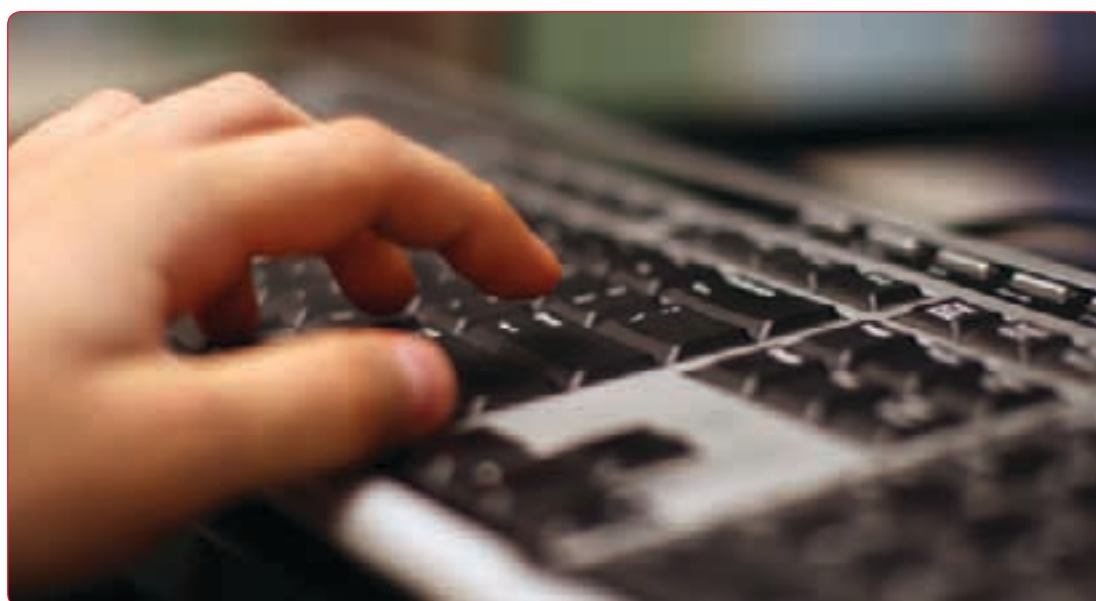
The objective of **THINK POLAND** is a broad promotion of Polish higher education by means of:

1. Structured and targeted marketing abroad (education fairs, road shows, information meetings, publications)
2. Presentation of Poland as an EU education destination to foreign students through:
 - c) An interactive portal www.ThinkPoland.org
 - d) Close cooperation with the education agents in their home countries
 - e) The assistance of the Overseas Student Centres in Poland

Interactive portal www.ThinkPoland.org

Our home page is the starting point both for the client and the agent. www.ThinkPoland.org is a one-stop shop for young people considering studying and living in Poland. Here, they can find accurate and up to date information on various sectors of life in Poland, including:

- Polish history and culture
- Regions and Cities of Poland
- The Polish education system and its compliance to the EU requirements
- Life and work in Poland
- Polish education institutions and available courses
- Student Visa Admission policy to schools
- Polish economy and working opportunities
- Accommodation assistance
- Local Overseas Student Centres etc.



Each of the presented academic cities will contain a detailed pictorial description of the following sections:

- Localization & history
- Culture (theatres, museums, galleries)
- Social life (cinemas, pubs, clubs, music)
- Festivals
- Civic and police offices
- Embassies
- Alarm phone numbers
- Public transport
- Day / weekend trips, nearby places of interest
- The course browser

The core of the portal is the possibility to browse Polish academic institutions and available courses. Potential students will be able to look for schools and courses fitting their needs / search criteria. Each of the participating schools will be described in detail by the following factors:

- Overview
- Fees & entry requirements
- Localization
- Facilities & Campus
- Research Centres
- Courses in English
- Scholarships / EU programs / International Cooperation
- Comments / Students opinion

The educational course browser has been specifically designed for the **THINK POLAND** server. It was designed to provide information about the school's offer in the shortest possible time.

The browser takes into consideration user's individual preferences, for example choice of city or educational subject. The results are shown together with the prices and links to a complete description of selected courses.

If the student's specific search criteria cannot be met, the browser will provide a range of alternative options based on the subject of study and the school's location.

Should a user still be unsatisfied with the presented options, they will be brought to a page where they can ask a question to a **THINK POLAND** representative.



Price calculators

The price calculator is a unique tool that allows one to plan a student's expenditures relating to their trip to Poland. It takes into consideration all factors, starting from the city, prestige of the school, type of a course, its duration, visa fees, flight costs, accommodation and all other operational charges.

The calculator gives the price in two currencies – Polish zloty (PLN) and euros (EUR), which are obviously based on current exchange rates. It is also interactive, which means that while choosing various trip options, the prices are being updated and summed up at the same time. Once the school and the course are selected, the user can store the figures in their own THINK POLAND account for future use.

Application forms

Once all queries have been answered, the user will be able to forward his or her entry application to the school via the portal. The application will then be assessed by our employees to ensure it has been filled out correctly and contains all the necessary documents. This will limit the mundane chain of correspondence with the school and ensure the top quality services THINK POLAND provides.

What do we offer to our Agents?

- A wide range of offers and immediate sales in an 'undiscovered' market with a huge potential.
- A top quality and unique in Poland online search engine of courses and schools with their descriptions.
- A number of courses to be exclusively managed for Premium Agents –no other Agent in your country receives your share of institutions
- Additional streams of revenue through the sale of air tickets, health and travel insurance, charging administrative fees or the sale of the discount student cards like ISIC or Euro <26
- A proven model of co-operation
- The annual edition of **"THINK POLAND"** catalogue. Regional versions are in preparation and issued in relation to the size of the market.
- An interactive on-line server with a course browser, price calculators, on-line enrolment on www.ThinkPoland.org which allows potential clients and agents fast and easy access to specific educational offers
- Permanent access to information about the client – anytime, anywhere – as well as to correspondence, documents, records of meetings, orders and offers.
- Data security. A centralised system limits the chances of a system failure and lost data.
- The support of our offices for reputable professional, legal, and logistical assistance. Centralizing all of the administrative matters of registering for a course or service in Poland dramatically reduces an agent's work and time.

Login levels of our clients:

There will be three login levels available to the users of ThinkPoland.org:

1. A Visitor has general access to the descriptive parts and sections like promotion and news. Visitors will be encouraged to set up an account in order to gain access to some hidden added-value information, available only to the logged in users.
2. A Logged in User has access to all sections on the website. Logged-in Users can benefit from the Step by Step model, i.e. the automated form of college entry and additional search engine options like:
 - Choose a course
 - School presentation
 - Check fees
 - Application form
 - The Step-by-Step module allows a user to know at a glance where they are at with their application process. The module lists all the actions, which have been already taken, and shows what is still left to be done.
3. A Present User - Finalized applications which are ready to be sent to schools have a unique code which later enable **THINK POLAND** to calculate the commission for the student's recruitment. As soon as the school has accepted the student's application and he becomes officially enrolled, his status changes to Present User (see below). Users at this level are of particular interest both to the site administrators and Agents. Creation of the account in the portal means adding personal information and education preferences to an existing and growing database. The IP address enables administrators to locate the country of origin and stay of Present Users. They are automatically assigned to the Agent operating in the relevant market. Present User - is the final status of a portal user. It grants the ability to download the PowerPoint presentations and the pre-travel e-learning manuals on studying in Poland. The user is notified via email or text message of all actions, for example those relating to one's change of status.

Overseas Student Center (OSC) THINK POLAND



Overseas Student Centres

THINK POLAND knows how important it is to assist an overseas student upon arrival in a foreign country. Currently we have a number of Overseas Student Centres (OSC) in the academic cities in Poland: Warsaw, Cracow, Poznań, Wrocław, Łódź. We are planning to open them also Gdańsk and Lublin. In Australia, we have our own support offices in Sydney and Perth.

22 Our OSCs offer our clients a complete range of services covering several areas:

First Days in Poland:

- Airport pickup (on request);
- Help in getting a stay permit;
- Help in getting a tax identification number (NIP);
- Help in opening a bank account;
- Help in buying a mobile phone;
- Help in buying a phone card;
- Help in organizing a stay permit at the Voivodeship Office + state
- Help in booking accommodations
- Additionally, we organize informational meetings for international students upon their arrival, where they can learn about basic issues like the locales of the university or college, public transport, libraries, places of interest and culture.

The offices are open from 10.00 a.m. till 6.00 p.m. In emergencies, Think Poland staff is also available outside working hours. Our offices are equipped with computers with free Internet access, photocopiers, printers and landline telephones - freely available for making local calls and sending faxes. We also have an emergency phone line in place for international students.

Overseas Student Center (OSC) THINK POLAND

Having the support of OSC at hand will increase the foreign student's feeling of comfort in Poland and will eventually lead to an increased number of mobile students in Poland.

THINK POLAND is planning to have an OSC in each of the academic cities. We would also like to cooperate with mobile students from the countries we have connections with, including: India, Nepal, China, Turkey, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, etc so that they can help their compatriots in their native language. Additionally, we would also like to publish a magazine for foreign students in Poland, with sections in different languages.

Our headquarters in Warsaw is located in the University of Warsaw Library, situated in Powisle district on Dobra Street. It is located between the Vistula River and the main campus of the University. It has one of the largest and most beautiful roof gardens in Europe with an area of more than 10,000 meters² open to the public.

Its convenient and picturesque location, friendly atmosphere, and modern facilities attract many students from all over the world who seek help or advice on matters such as accommodation, visas, course applications, travel and much more.

Students in Warsaw as well as in other academic cities, can take advantage of our comprehensive services including orientation meetings, job placement, accommodation arrangement, stay permit assistance, airport pick-up and on-shore school applications.

We are known to create a friendly atmosphere in our OSCs, encouraging students to pop in during their school breaks or whenever they have a free moment. They should feel free to visit our office to catch up, extend their stay, find a new course or school, look for accommodation or use the freely available Internet.

Our OSC also regularly organizes student integration events in some of the trendiest clubs in Warsaw where international DJs make sure that everybody is having a great time!

The network of OSCs and our continuous interaction with foreign students in Poland is the answer to how they should be looked after away from home. It points the way to Poland as a growing international student destination country.

Accommodations

We have a selection of accommodation options available to overseas students in Poland.

Shared accommodation - is one of the most known styles of living among students. It is most suitable for those who have already made friends while in Poland. Usually they must provide a month's rent deposit when they move in. Prices vary from 600 – 900 PLN per room per month depending on the location and standard of the residence. A booking fee is required.

Flat – Students who prefer to live on their own can opt for a flat or a studio rental. We have a number of proven and available flats in the major cities of Poland, ready to be viewed and booked. For example, in Warsaw prices vary from 900 – 1200 PLN per room per month. A 2-bedroom apartment costs 1600 – 2000 PLN per month and a studio between 1300 – 1600 PLN per month. A deposit of approximately 1 month's rent is required. A booking fee is required.

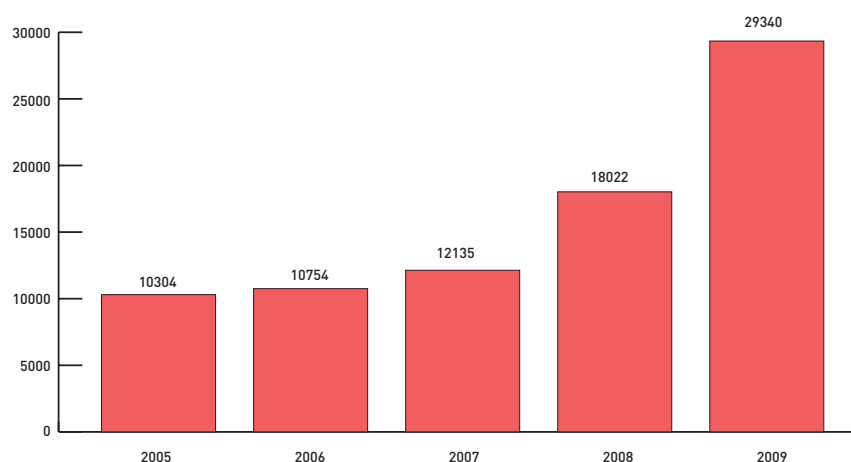
A dorm - this option is only available for university students. Student dormitories are not usually situated within the campus. It is important to note that places available in dorms are limited and usually reserved for students who cannot afford the private accommodation options. Prices are approx. 500 PLN per month.

Our help with finding work

Every student coming to Poland who obtains a Residence Card (Karta Pobytu) at the Voivodeship Office has an opportunity to work legally. In our OSCs we offer foreign students the following kinds of help:

- Information about the Polish labour market for students;
- Advice on how to go about looking for work;
- Assistance in preparing CVs to meet Polish standards;

The number of work permits issued in the years 2005-2009.





- Finding an appropriate school or firm in which to do professional work practice;
- Filing in a tax identification number (NIP) application;
- Preparation for an interview;

In co-operation with employment agencies THINK POLAND facilitates finding jobs suitable for international students. This covers various professions including gastronomy, hotel cleaning and pub and restaurant work.

Students speaking little Polish can work in the hospitality sector (hotel cleaning, kitchen porters, etc.) We also organize basic Polish courses to improve student's chances of finding work. Poland is also home to various international corporations that have established their headquarters in Poland, due to favourable economic conditions and cheaper labour force as compared with their countries of origin. Such companies look for speakers of foreign languages and welcome foreign graduates.

Foreign employees in Poland

Poland is becoming an increasingly popular destination for migrant workers. The number of work permits issued to foreign nationals increases each year. In February 2009 the application procedure for work permits was simplified, resulting in a significant increase in submitted applications and granted work permits. Almost half of all the work permits in Poland were granted in the Masovian Voivodeship last year - 13,979. The other popular regions for foreign workers included: Pomerania (2,326), Malopolska (2,000), Lower Silesia (1,674), Lubusz (1,528), Wielkopolska (1,387) and Silesia (1,345).

What sectors do foreigners work in?

Almost one quarter of all foreign nationals legally employed in Poland worked in the wholesale and retail sectors, manufacturing, finance and property, construction, hospitality and gastronomy sectors. The remaining areas included education, health service and social welfare

The number of work permits given per country of origin:

- Ukraine 9,504
- China 4,536
- Vietnam 2,577
- Belarus 1,669
- Turkey 1,422
- India 1,164
- Nepal 838
- South Korea 624
- Armenia 619
- Moldova 601
- Japan 551
- Russia 540

Small to medium enterprises with up to 9 staff members are most keen to offer jobs to foreign nationals. They constitute over 57% of all companies employing foreigners.

The citizens of Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova and Georgia can work in Poland legally without a work permit provided it is for 6 months to 12 months. In those cases, the employer just needs to register the foreign employee at the local Employment Office. Last year, 189,317 foreign employees were registered, which is over 20 % more than in 2008. These data are documented, however it is unknown how many unregistered citizens from the above countries undertook work in Poland. The most popular sectors within this group are:

- Farming (122,651 statements)
- Construction (19,242),
- Domestic help (8,815),
- Industry (6,681),
- Sales (3,827),
- transport (3,045),
- food (1,905),
- Hospitality (1,583).

Jacek Wójcik, the Director of the recruitment agency Labour Service: **„Employees from beyond our Eastern border are a great asset to the Polish labour market. They are willing to accept tasks and duties, which Polish workers are reluctant to take. There is a common opinion that employees from Asia are more productive and better motivated to do work. The situation in Poland begins to look a lot like that in Great Britain a few years back, where it was the Poles who found employment in the sectors that seemed unattractive to the British citizens. A conclusion can be drawn that the Polish society follows the path of their western, more developed partner countries. In my opinion, this tendency will continue”.**

27 In the first half of 2010 over 8,000 work-permits were issued to employees from Nepal, India and China. Various companies indicate a desire to employ a further 100 000 employees from the Far East. The cost of a work permit given to employees for periods longer than 3 months is 100 PLN. The administrative process of acquiring a work permit can be long and last up to 6 months.

Foreigners in Poland earn 4.5 USD per hour. Companies often offer accommodations as well as food on the premises (especially in the hospitality sector). The employees are able to save up to 1,800 PLN per month, which means as much as they would be able to earn for a year at home.

The experts from the labour market in Poland estimate that current companies in Poland are able to welcome around 200,000 to 300,000 employees from Asia, mainly in the construction sector. Most needed are skilled workers (around 60,000) and machine operators (23,000).





IV. Duties of both parties – THINK POLAND / Agents

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Responsibilities of both parties

THINK POLAND:

- To provide accurate information on the Polish education institutions and their offers
- To give regular updates on any changes in the enrolment procedures, courses or student life
- To provide information on up to date Polish visa requirements and assist in visa application
- To provide accurate information on the local education market, its possibilities and current trends in different regions of Poland
- To provide support to referred students upon their arrival and during their stay in Poland
- To provide an efficient commission system
- To observe to the Polish law
- To provide continuous support to foreign students on arrival

Agents:

- To effectively promote Poland as an education destination
- To recruit suitable candidates to Polish universities
- To encourage mutual cooperation so that the recruitment target is met
- To support THINK POLAND with organizing local (in Agent's country) exhibitions, fairs and promotion meetings
- To observe to the Polish law
- To pass relevant and accurate information to interested students and their families
- At the moment, there is no other organization in Poland that deals with international student recruitment on a global scale.

Partner Profile Application Form

If you wish to become an affiliate agent to Think Poland, please complete the following form. Should you have any questions about this process, please contact us.

Company Name:					
Parent Company:			Owner:		
Business License :			Issued by:		
Address:			City:		
State:		Zip Code:		Web:	
Contact Person:					
Title:			Email:		
Telephone: ()			Fax: ()		
Number of students sent abroad:		2008:		2009:	
Business established (month/day/year):					
Current number of employees:			Last year:		
International Affiliations or Memberships your company hold in the following:					
<input type="checkbox"/> FIYTO	<input type="checkbox"/> ISTD	<input type="checkbox"/> GWEA	<input type="checkbox"/> IATA	<input type="checkbox"/> IAPA	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTO
<input type="checkbox"/> Other					
Domestic Affiliations or Memberships held in your country:					
Current overseas partner(s) :					

Company Overview

International Branches:					
Name:			Director:		
Address:			City:		
Country:			Zip Code:		
Telephone: ()()			Fax: ()()		
Email:			Web:		
Current overseas partner(s):					
Name:			Director:		
Address:			City:		
Country:			Zip Code:		
Telephone: ()()			Fax: ()()		
Email:			Web:		
Current overseas partner(s):					
Name:			Director:		
Address:			City:		
Country:			Zip Code:		
Telephone: ()()			Fax: ()()		
Email:			Web:		
Current overseas partner(s):					

Program Overview

What program/s would your company be interested in? Language Schools / VET Schools / University Placement/ Student Visa Application Please underline your options
Years of recruitment experience:
Earliest arrival date of participants from your country: _____/_____/_____
Most requested arrival dates: _____/_____/_____
Most popular positions recruited for in your country:
Recruitment
Recruitment numbers: 2005 _____ 2006 _____ 2007 _____ 2008 _____ 2009 _____
Most requested location(s) (if any?): _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Recruitment Fair
Best month in the year to hold work and study fair:
Typical number of applicants interviewed for a one day fair:
Typical work and travel fair location:
Additional comments about the programs your company provide:

Contact Staff

Please list your international branches alongside with their contact details: branch name, postal address, phone and fax number, contact person, job title.

Please provide to us a listing of all relevant staff and contact information:	
President:	Email:
Phone: ()()	Fax: ()()
Finance Manager:	Email:
Phone: ()()	Fax: ()()
Advertising Manager:	Email:
Phone: ()()	Fax: ()()
Programs managers:	
Operations:	Email:
Phone: ()()	Fax: ()()
Recruitment:	Email:
Phone: ()()	Fax: ()()
Recruitment Fair details:	Email:
Phone: ()()	Fax: ()()
Please designate a main contact for your company and provide their contact information below:	
Name:	Title:
Phone: ()()	Fax: ()()
Email:	

Wrap-Up

Should you have additional contacts you feel we should know please list them here:	
Name:	Email:
Phone: ()()	Fax: ()()
Name:	Email:
Phone: ()()	Fax: ()()
Please provide any additional comments you may have:	
By providing my signature on this document I certify that all information provided in this Partner Profile Application is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge. Falsified information is grounds for dismissal of partnership and placement services	
Name:	Title:
Signature:	Date: ____/____/____

We are looking forward to working with you!

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