

THE NEW SCHOOL

Certificate in TESOL

POLAND PRACTICUM

Three-Week Intensive Summer Course

The Program

- In the summer, the Certificate in Teaching English practicum is offered abroad in Wrocław, Poland. The abroad Practicum has been running since 2004.
- **Prerequisites:** Methods & Techniques of Teaching ESL/EFL, English Grammar for ESL Teachers, and Using Authentic Materials.
- The Poland Practicum can be taken for non-credit or 3 undergraduate credits. MATESOL students are welcome to enroll for non-credit for additional professional development.
- Once abroad, after a two-day orientation, students typically teach three hours a day and meet in methodology seminar twice a week for three weeks.
- Students must make their own accommodation and travel arrangements.
- **Teaching:** for general preparation and teaching tips, useful teaching materials to bring, websites for lesson planning ideas, onsite resources, please visit our website: www.iisce.org
- We have a selection of recommended grammar and vocabulary books, dictionaries,

newspapers and other teaching materials, but you are welcome to bring along other materials which would enrich your teaching.

Facilities

- **Trainees room** (teachers room) – is well equipped with laptops and Internet access, two printers and a scanner. If you bring your own laptop, you can connect it to the school network for access the Internet and to print. However, you will need to bring an adapter (Polish standard is 220V/50Hz). If your laptop has an adapter, you just need the European converter plug (cheap to buy).
- **Photocopying** – you have access to photocopying but there will be limit on the quantity that you can photocopy (3 copies per student per one day). The more you can plan without the need for handouts, the better. Try to use each copy to the maximum, practice different language items, and use it for various purposes. This will also give you an opportunity to prepare for the “real world” where many schools limit excessive copying.
- **Classrooms** – equipped with OHP projectors, LCD projectors, CD-players, whiteboards.

The School

Founded in 1997, University of Lower Silesia (ULS), located in Wrocław [Wroclaw], Poland, has established a distinct identity as a private institution of higher learning that promotes novel approaches to learning and forges research links on the national and international level. In

addition to high-quality students, the school has attracted accomplished academic researchers and professors of education and the social sciences who have helped build the first-rate academic reputation of the school. In the sixteen years of the school's existence, the student body has grown from 368 to almost 8,000 students who are served by a full-time academic staff of over 200 scholars. ULS is divided into three faculties (Faculty of Education, Faculty of Social Sciences and Media Studies, Faculty of Technical Sciences). Your host - the International Institute for the Study of Culture and Education - is an unit under the Faculty of Education which is committed to the organization of international programs and projects. The school currently offers degree programs in education, special-needs education, international relations, journalism, history, philosophy, ethnology, cultural studies, national security, navigation, geodesy and cartography. To learn more, please visit <http://www.uls.edu.pl/>.



The City of Wroclaw

The British historian Norman Davies (Author of "God's Playground", "Europe: A History", "The Isles" and a history of Wrocław titled "Microcosm: Portrait of a Central European City") has called Wrocław "A City of Many Names," a phrase that reflects the city's complex, multi-layered European identity.

Once a vibrant German metropolis almost totally annihilated during WWII, Wrocław was later nearly entirely re-populated and rebuilt by Poles in the post-war era. Today, this magical metropolis on the Odra River is Poland's fourth largest city (640,000 inhabitants).



Wrocław is situated in the heart of Europe, close to Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest and Warsaw. The city established in 10th century boasts with multicultural and multinational identity and is a capital of the historic Lower Silesia Region. Odra river crossing the city with its many canals and bridges creates Wrocław a distinctive place where historic buildings and places coexist with the modern architecture and a lot of green areas.

Wroclaw has many unique places worth seeing: gothic and baroque churches, museums, art galleries, cinemas and theatres. Over the year there are many festivals held in Wroclaw or in the area. The Old Town with a Market Square and the Town Hall, as well the Quarter of Mutual Respect (meeting place of four religions and cultures) are definitely valuable sights to visit and enjoy the free time. The city is also known for its beautiful parks, with the second largest park in Europe (Szczytnicki Park) including an extraordinary Japanese Garden and the Centennial Hall inscribed to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Despite a long history, today Wroclaw is a young and dynamic city, the largest academic and business center in the region. There is a number of public and non-public colleges and universities with a multinational community of students. In 2016 Wroclaw together with the Spanish city of San Sebastian will be the host cities of the European Capital of Culture (ECC), designed to promote greater mutual acquaintance and intercultural dialogue between European citizens.

You can reach Wroclaw by plane (a new international airport terminal has recently been opened), train or bus. When in the city you can use public transportation (train and buses). To read more about Wroclaw, please visit:
www.wroclawonyourown.pl and
www.wroclaw.pl

The Region of Lower Silesia

The South-Western part of Poland called Lower Silesia neighbors Germany in the West and the Czech Republic in the South. Wroclaw is located on the plains, but hills and mountains start a short distance from the city - approximately 30 miles. The

region, which was a part of Germany until 1945, is known for its abbeys, monasteries, castles and palaces, many of them beautifully restored and turned into hotels and pensions. Health resorts with spas and mineral springs are well known places in the Sudety Mountains, where guests can enjoy wonderful climate, nice views combined with professional health treatment. Lower Silesia is a place of many outdoor activities, such as hiking and rock climbing, skiing, biking or paragliding.

Climate of the region is mild, although it is the warmest and most humid part of Poland. The temperatures in summer are medium to hot (68 - 100°F). Summers are usually sunny, however sometimes it can become quite humid and rainy.

Poland

Situated in the heart of Europe, the country with its more than 1000 years of history creates a bridge between Eastern and Western part of Europe. Currently the population of Poland is 38 million inhabitants with the largest city being Warsaw, the country's capital. Poland has a varied landscape – from the Baltic sea in the North through lake areas in the center and North-East, to the hills and mountains in the South and South-West. The highest Tatra Mountains are a chain of the Karpaty Mountains located in the South-East of the country.

In 2004 Poland joined the European Union. The official currency is Polish zloty (PLN) and the language is Polish. Younger generation is more open to learning foreign languages than it used to be in the past, English being the most popular language, while the older generation can still speak Russian or German. Bigger cities are well prepared to host foreign tourists – hotel staff speaks English, promotion

materials are produced in various languages and tour-guides are carried on in the main European languages.



Worth it? Absolutely. You will find yourself fully responsible for organizing, preparing and teaching your class, with the help and guidance of Irena Shanahan, who is a master teacher in every sense. The process is a daily test -- for you, the teacher -- as you come to understand exactly how much you know about the art of teaching, and how much you don't. In exchange, you will meet highly intelligent, motivated students, with widely varying reasons for studying English. (I've taught three Ph.D. candidates there.) They have little contact with native speakers in Wrocław, so our mere presence there makes an enormous difference. At the end of the three weeks, you will feel a great sense of accomplishment. I should know -- I've done it three times and would be happy to go back again." **Diane Nottle, Poland 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011**



In Their Own Words

1. *"The Wrocław practicum is an extraordinary experience that every certificate candidate should seriously consider, no matter how much or how little classroom time you've put in. Intense? Very. Hard work? No question.*

2. *"The summer practicum is a great program and I highly recommend it to New School TESOL students. It really enabled me to hone my teaching skills. The host university is a popular and progressive local institution and is very supportive of the program. The students are a diverse group, but all were quite motivated and serious. The guidance from the teacher trainer, Irena, was incredibly insightful and was a highlight of the program for me. The other teachers were an enthusiastic and collegial group, which also enhanced the experience and contributed to the success of the program. The administrative support from the staff there made it easy to be living in a foreign city. And what a delightful city! Wrocław is historic, vibrant, charming and friendly. It's not overcrowded with tourists yet, but I expect it will be soon. I would like to participate in the practicum again next year. Perhaps that is the highest endorsement I can provide."* **Anne Beroza, Poland 2009, 2010, 2011**

3. *"Can't speak for the others but I am home and getting myself re-oriented to the day in day out of my American life. Re entry has been tough. Sleeping a lot. The practicum was more than I could have imagined or was prepared for. The support staff Agnieszka and Ula, the food, accommodations, and learning experience exceeded my expectations. Wroclaw is a lovely manageable city and the Poles are welcoming and helpful.*

I cannot say enough regarding Irena's skill as a Master teacher. Each of her classes carried me forward in the skill of actually teaching. They were full of theory and yet her approach was based in the practical matter of delivering education to our students. Her observations were clear, helpful, inspired really. Day one she corrected my position at the blackboard to allow me to write, speak and stay connected to the students. This kind of life learning for the aspiring teacher was repeated throughout the Practicum.

I would wish this caliber of Practicum for all CTE students. Being in 'a learning lab', free to concentrate on the task at hand, immersed in the teaching/learning atmosphere 24/7 is a unique opportunity. I feel lucky to have been able to manage it financially and with regards to my work. I know this is not possible for everyone and it is also not a good fit for those who do not have the stamina physically or psychologically for what amounts to a rigorous expedition.

I look forward to getting together to explore how to promote this worthy, special program.....I'm a fan as you can tell." **Maggie McManus, Poland 2011**

4. *"Participating in the New School Poland Teaching Practicum was one of the most difficult tasks I have ever taken on - and worth the effort a thousand times over. The learning curve as a teacher is intense, but the staff in Wroclaw are on hand every minute to guide and help (cheerfully, yet!) and the town is delightful- rich in history, dense with charming side streets clustered around a stunning market square and with a reputation for being open, eclectic and friendly.*

But the crown jewel of the experience had to be the students - motivated, appreciative, hard-working, incredibly well-informed and - sweet!

I only wish I had started on the ESL path years ago... In short- I am energized for the next 20 years!" **Barbara Riddle-Dvorak, Poland 2010**

5. *"First, I would like to thank Agnieszka and Ula for their help and ensuring we had what we needed before we arrived and during our stay. This was my third trip to the city, and even so, I truly appreciate their assistance. I taught the True Beginners; they were a small group of wonderful students who came everyday for three hours after work. This showed true dedication on their part. I was lucky to have one of the large lecture halls that came equipped with audio visual components. The DVD player, in the room, was able to show American movies, which is not always the case in Europe. Because the room was so large, I was able to create multiple areas for the students to sit or stand. This created a great flow in the room. A final thought- it's always amazes me when I notice changes in cities I've visited before. I expect them to remain as they were when I last saw them. Little things that barely catch the eye if you aren't looking or don't remember: a new*

building, where there was once a construction site, a building newly painted with a warm cream color in contrast to the cold stone underneath, a growing mix of people from various parts of the world. Wrocław is changing from a small sleepy town into a thriving cosmopolitan center. Come and be apart of this town.” **Regina Brown, Poland 2006, 2008, 2009**

6. “The Polish Practicum was an incredibly valuable teaching experience. It provided an opportunity to practice different teaching techniques in an EFL setting and to receive practical, personalized feedback from our master teacher, Irena Shanahan. Irena shared her successful techniques for teaching grammar and using effective presentation techniques in the classroom. The Practicum was challenging and sometimes exhausting, but above all, it was fun to meet many students from a different culture and to exchange information about what it is like living in our respective countries. The students were really eager to learn and to practice speaking English. Each student had an opportunity to give a short presentation and the students enjoyed talking about topics such as their hobbies, hometowns, local tourist attractions and professions. The administrative staff were very organized and provided excellent support. I would strongly recommend the Polish Practicum to any New School student interested in experiencing what it is like to teach an EFL class at the university level.” **Pete Versage, Poland 2009**

7. “I can't say enough good things about this summer's practicum. Although it was sometimes stressful, the stress was put to good use: by the end of the three weeks I felt much more comfortable and in control of the classroom. I finally understood how to design both an individual lesson plan and a course trajectory based on the needs

of a particular group of students. It can be overwhelming to work as you try to figure this out, but with Irena's help things began to get clearer as the days went on. She put her years of experience to work teaching us how to teach – and it worked! The students were a joy – really wonderful people who'd decided that a good way to spend most of August was sitting in a classroom for three hours a day. Their motivation made the experience even better. Agnieszka and Ula were also great; you couldn't ask for a better support team.” **Anne Dorfman, Poland 2009**

8. “The Practicum provides a unique opportunity to teach in a foreign country within a structured and supportive environment. You don't have to hassle over all the logistics as you would if you opted to work abroad on your own. This frees you to focus on your preparation and your students. We were given excellent instruction, and personal, constructive feedback. My students were bright, enthusiastic and eager to learn about New York. We had a wonderful time together and I feel it was an invaluable experience, not to mention that it's a great addition to my ELT resume. My current colleagues often say, ‘Wow, I'd love to teach in Poland. How do I get to do that?’”. **Robin Poley, Poland 2007**



Dates & Orientation in 2014

31 July arrival of the trainees
1 – 2 August orientation run by IISCE staff and Irena Shanahan
3 August free day
4 – 22 August English Language Course
22 August farewell party for trainees and students
23 August departure

Contact Persons

Before the Wrocław Practicum starts, your main contact in New York is:

Caitlin MORGAN, Director of English Language Studies department, Director of Certificate in Teaching English program, The New School. Caitlin oversees the Certificate program in general. She works with Hana Cervinkova and Irena Shannahan (Master Teacher) to determine the set up and any changes in the practicum program as it evolves each year. Caitlin can advise on pre-departure teaching questions. Serious issues or concerns should be directed to her.
E-mail: morganc@newschool.edu, phone (212) 229-5372.

While you are in Wrocław, please contact:

Ula KLOBUSZEWSKA, Program Coordinator at the International Institute for the Study of Culture and Education (IISCE) at the University of Lower Silesia. Ula is responsible for organization of the Practicum in Wrocław and for your well-being while you are in Poland. Please write and call her before and during the Practicum with any concerns or questions you might have. She will be on site all the time while you are in Wrocław.
E-mail: iisce@dsw.edu.pl, phone +48 71 356 1572 , +48 504 073 004

Important Addresses

University of Lower Silesia
(Dolnośląska Szkoła Wyższa)
Faculty of Education
Strzegomska St. 55
53-611 Wrocław

Websites

www.iisce.org

International Institute for the Study of Culture and Education (IISCE)

<http://www.uls.edu.pl>

University of Lower Silesia

www.convention.wroclaw.pl

Information about Wrocław and Lower Silesia

www.staypoland.com

Information on accommodation, transport, tours, maps of Poland

www.wroclawonyourown.pl

Unique self-guided tours of Wrocław prepared by American students at IISCE's programs

www.wroclaw.pl

Official city website