



## *Security information*



Polish Police forces might function a little differently than their counterparts in your home country. Their duty is to protect public safety and order, therefore also to protect your safety.

**Never hesitate to ask for their help and to put your trust in their hands.**

When in contact with a police officer, remember that:

**they are there to provide assistance and information, but also to react to any transgressions against the law or against the socially accepted rules of conduct.**

## The appearance of police officers:

Police officers on duty are dressed in various types of uniforms, with the most common being a dark navy blue one. Policemen will often wear external yellow safety vests with the word „POLICJA” imprinted on them in black letters.

You might also encounter police officers dressed in black uniforms. It is a training-type of uniform, worn by policemen directly involved in securing sport events and other mass events, as well as in restoring public order. This type of uniform is often worn together with a helmet and various types of safety gear.

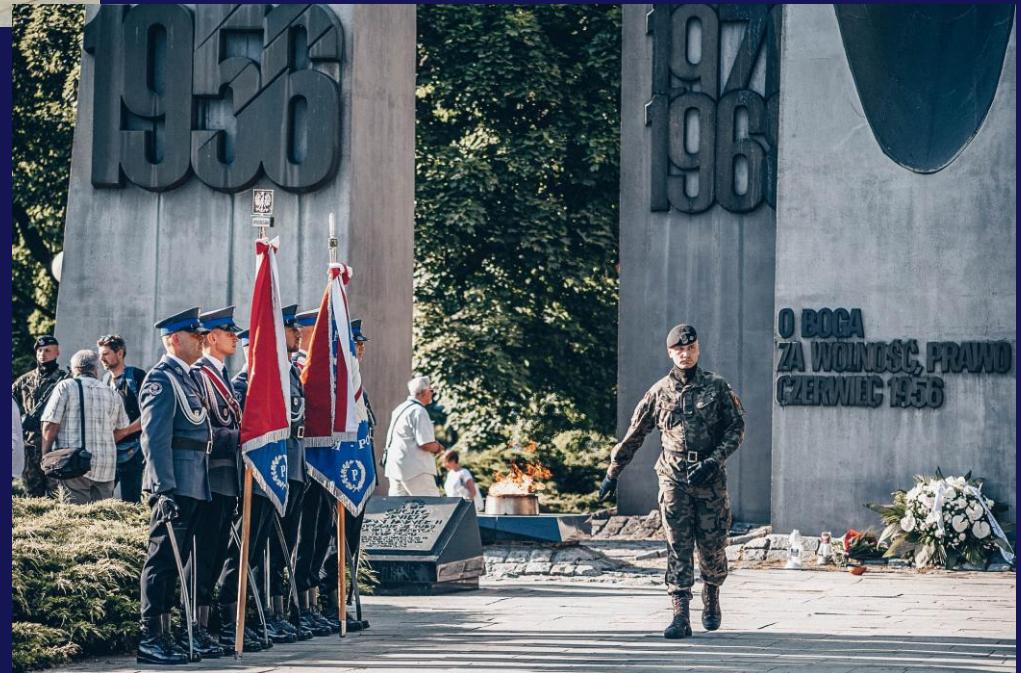








Official uniform









## Some usefull personal safety tips:

- Stay alert – stay aware of your surroundings
- don't leave your personal belongings unattended (e.g. documents, cash, cell phones or photo cameras),
- do not carry cash or documents in the back pocket of your trousers – keep them in a chest pocket or in a zip pocket,
- keep a photocopy of your passport or another ID document at your place of residence,
- do not carry large amounts of cash on your person – you can always withdraw cash from numerous ATMs or pay for services using a credit card – split your cash and keep it in several different places,
- do not carry your credit card PIN number along with the card itself,
- avoid secluded and badly-lit areas,
- do not show off your belongings in public – e.g. cash or cell phones – someone might be watching you,
- stay clear of untrustworthy services and enterprises – e.g. gambling, fortune telling, bargain sales, etc.,
- make sure to lock your car and do not leave any valuable belongings in the car.

# Police powers

A police officer has the right to:

1. Request identity documents from people in order to ascertain their identity.
2. Inspect vehicles and verify documents authorizing their use – driving license, registration and insurance.
3. Conduct a body search, search persons and premises, as well as search through baggage.
4. Detain persons – perpetrators of felonies and misdemeanours.
5. Fine for committing petty offences.
6. Use direct measures.

Keep in mind that you are required to follow orders given by a police officer and to produce the required documents on his or her request.

# Foreign citizen's ID documents:

- Travel document (eg. passport, EEA ID)
- Temporary stay card,
- Polish travel document for an alien,
- Provisional travel document for an alien,
- Provisional identification certificate for an alien,
- Refugee travel document.



When carrying out official duties, a police officer is always required to provide for his own personal safety, the safety of his service partner and the safety of any involved people.

Therefore, a police officer is authorized to issue orders leading to securing his safety and the safety of others.

These orders must, however, be based upon and in accordance with current legal regulations in force.

Any circumstances causing a threat to a police officer's life or health, or endangering the life or health of other persons, authorize the officer to (legal basis):

- ❑ use direct coercion measures or a firearm (art. 16 and 17 of the Police Act) .

- ❑ (art. 15 of the Police):

**personal check** – whenever there is a justified suspicion that a person refusing to produce their identification document carries such a document on their person.

**search a person** – if the person is a perpetrator of a felony or a misdemeanor and there is a justified suspicion that they are carrying objects acquired through or used in the commission of a criminal act.

**detain a person** – being a perpetrator of a felony or a misdemeanor whose identity is impossible to ascertain.

**body check** – in case of detention – a police officer is required to search the person for weapons or other dangerous objects, for objects acquired through or used in the commission of crime, as well as for objects the possession of which is forbidden by law.

**escort a person to a police station** – in order to perform the required official duties, e.g. to draw up a personal check report or to conduct an examination of alcohol intoxication using a measurement device.

## **When asking for ID documents, a police officer is required to:**

- give his rank and name in a fashion that makes it possible for a person to write this information down,
- when not wearing a uniform, a policeman shall also produce his service ID card and, upon request of the person subjected to the ID check, make it possible for the person to write his credentials down,
- inform of the legal basis for the ID check,
- inform of the reason for the ID check (on what grounds is being initiated),
- search police databases for the name of the person in question,
- after the ID check is finished, inform the person of their right to lodge a complaint about the methods used in conducting the check to the public prosecutor of competent jurisdiction.

# Direct measures taken by the police



## A police officer has the right to apply the following direct measures:

- physical force in the form of holds used for overpowering and other similar techniques of defense and attack,
- technical means in the form of handcuffs, hand restraints, straitjackets, restraining belts and nets, electroshock weapons, as well as road block spikes and other obstacles used for stopping vehicles,
- chemical incapacitating agents,
- service batons of regular, assault, multifunction and expendable types,
- liquid incapacitating agents,
- police dogs and horses,
- non-penetrating bullets shot from firearms.

Before applying a direct measure towards a person, a police officer is required to:

- order the person to behave in accordance with the law.
- warn the person of imminent use of such a measure against them.

A police officer has the right to abstain from giving these instructions, whenever delaying further action would pose a threat to human life, health or property.

# Traffic regulations



When driving a vehicle, be aware that:

- right-hand traffic law applies in Poland,
- maximum allowed speed is:
  - 50 km/h in developed areas,
  - 90 km/h outside developed areas,
  - 120 km/h on a two-lane expressway,
  - 140 km/h on a highway,
- lights must be turned on while driving, regardless of the season and time of day,
- seat belts are mandatory for both drivers and passengers, including passengers in the back seat,
- children under the age of 12 or shorter than 150cm are to be transported in infant safety seats or other child car restraints.



You are required to carry the following documents and produce them on request from competent authority, whenever you are driving a vehicle:

- document stating that you are authorized to operate the vehicle (driver's license)
- certificate of the vehicle's roadworthiness,
- proof of vehicle liability insurance (insurance policy or proof of payment of insurance premium).



# Cycling in Poland

Equipment that each and every bicycle must have before hitting the road:

- – front position lamp with a white or selective yellow color
- red tail light
- red rear reflector in a shape other than a triangle,
- at least one efficient brake
- bell or other warning sound

# Few rules to remember

- When you're on the road you need to follow the rules of the road
- When you want to take a turn you use your hand to signal your intention
- You are obliged to use the bike path (if there is one next to the road) or road lane designated for the bicycles
- If there is no bike path or road lane designated for the bicycles you use the road normally as the other vehicles do. Just remember to stick to the right edge of the roadway.

- You are allowed to travel on the sidewalk if you:
- take care of another rider under the age of 10,
- width of the sidewalk along the road where vehicles can travel faster than 50 km/h is greater than 2 m and there are no road paths or road lanes for bikes around,
- weather conditions threaten your safety on the road (snow, high winds, rain, sleet, heavy fog) Just keep in mind that on the sidewalk the pedestrians are the kings.
- You are not allowed to cross zebra crossing while riding a bike.
- Cycling under influence of alcohol is illegal.

When using public transportation, keep in mind that:

- bus and tram tickets can be bought at newsstands, using ticket machines, in selected shops and in some cases, directly from the driver, you can also use a PEKA card with a season ticket,
- train tickets can be bought at train stations or on-line,
- in specific circumstances when you are traveling without a ticket, a ticket inspector has the right to call the police and prevent you from leaving the vehicle.



# **Rules of conduct when attending mass events**

Alcohol may only be bought by persons aged 18 or older.

It is forbidden to consume alcohol in public places. Alcoholic beverages may be sold, served and consumed only in designated places.

If you are drunk and behave in an inappropriate, obscene manner or if you are disturbing public order, you can be arrested and penalized.

The use, possession and traffic of drugs is prohibited by law.

It is forbidden to bring in or carry weapons or other dangerous objects, explosive and pyrotechnic materials, alcoholic beverages, narcotics or psychoactive substances to the events.

When drugs are found on the university grounds:

- It is a legal responsibility of the university president to report the crime (public officer status).
- University employees are required by official duty to report such incidents to their direct superiors.

# Missing person



You can report a person missing at any police station.

Missing student notification policy included in PUMS Dormitory Regulations.

The case will be relayed to a police unit of competent venue.

The report should be filed with the station's officer on duty or another police officer from that unit designated by them for this task.

If the missing person is a foreign citizen, the report can be filed by a representative of the relevant consular office.



## Criminal stalking

Any individual who causes another person to rightly fear for their personal safety by

persistent harassment of that person or the person closest to them, or severely violates their privacy, is committing the crime of stalking.

Stalking is punishable by imprisonment for up to 3 years.

Criminal stalking is prosecuted on complaint of the offended party.

Therefore, if you are a victim of stalking, it is enough to report this crime to the police or to the public prosecutor and motion for the prosecution of the perpetrator in order for those agencies to initiate procedures leading to the punishment of the perpetrator.

# What to do if you become a victim of crime

- don't panic, try to remember as much details about the perpetrator as you can,
- do not cover the tracks left by the offender,
- immediately ask the nearest police or city guard patrol or volunteers for help,
- report the incident at the nearest police station,
- in case your credit card is stolen, make sure to report it to your bank as soon as possible to have the card canceled.
- in case your passport is lost or stolen, the local embassy or consulate of your home country can issue a replacement document for you.