

## **BEFORE ARRIVAL**

Make sure you have packed all the necessary documents such as travel ticket, insurance documents, any medical records and contact details of your university, relatives and friends.

There will be a Mentor, also known as Buddy, who will help you to deal with all practical issues during your stay in a new country.

International Relations Office is located at Lwowska 9 Street. People who work there will be happy to help you with every difficulty you might encounter. This office will also be in touch with your home university in order to issue all necessary documents, answer any questions which apply to you as well inform them about the progress you make.

## **RACIBÓRZ – LOCATION AND NATURE**

Raciborz is an attractive and historical town of about 50,000 inhabitants, situated in the upper Odra River basin, at the Moravian Gate, not far away from the border with Czech Republic. This Upper Silesian centre, with its rich historical heritage, has been for ages heavily influenced by Polish, Czech – Moravian and German cultures. Raciborz is an important railway and road hub. Here are the roads that run through the town: Katowice – Bielsko- Biała – Rybnik – Racibórz – Klodzko , Opole – Raciborz – Ostrava and Gliwice- Raciborz- Opava-Olomuniec. Moreover, the town is a significant railway junction with the following lines: Ostrava – Raciborz – Rybnik – Katowice, , Ostrava – Raciborz – Kedzierzyn-Kozle – Opole, and Raciborz – Glubczyce. There is first – category border crossing checkpoint in Chalupki. There are also minor local border crossing points like Pietraszyn – Sudice, Chalupki – Silherovice, Tworkow – Hat, Boleslaw – Pist, Krzanowice – Chuchelna, and Krzanowice – Strahovice. Apart from that, Raciborz is about 45 kilometers from an international airport in Ostrava and approximately 90 kilometres from an international airport in Katowice – Pyrzowice.

Source: [http://www.raciborz.pl/english/about\\_the\\_town.html](http://www.raciborz.pl/english/about_the_town.html)

## **ABOUT THE STATE HIGHER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL (THE COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES) IN RACIBORZ**

The study at the State Higher Vocational School in Raciborz lasts for 3 and/or 3,5 years. The graduates of all specializations obtain a Bachelor's Degree in vocational studies. Moreover, graduates of Automation and Robotics, as well as Architecture receive an Engineer's Degree. The diploma enables them to take up an employment in the trained specializations and/or continue a Master's Degree studies at the universities. According to the general trends in most specializations offered in the world, our students receive both the basic and the additional specialty, which provides more opportunities with regard to the labor market. It is essential to point out that full-time students at our school do not pay a tuition fee.

Additionally, it is mandatory to underline that our school organizes various thematic camps, workshops, artistic events and open-air affairs in many interesting cities both in Poland and abroad. There are various scientific and educational associations established and working at our school, such

as: the Polish Pedagogical Association, the Polish Association of Physical Education, the European University.

## **BUILDINGS**

Main building with Rectorate, didactic rooms and labs is located at Juliusza Slowackiego 55. It is a part of the campus where you can also find a swimming pool, gymnastic rooms, café and a dormitory with 50 rooms and 150 beds, equipped in a sanitary unit and a shower. Each room has an access to the Internet, which is free of charge.

Another building is situated at ul. Lwowska 9. This is a place, where Art Education courses take place. In this building you can find sculpting studio, darkroom and mosaic studio where students develop their skills and interests.

Students of Architectural studies attend for their classes to another building, which is situated at ul. Łąkowa 31.

## **HOUSING**

The dormitory is located in direct neighbourhood of our college. Students who live there can use parking places which are lightened and monitored. There are single, double and triple rooms available. All rooms have an Internet connection and cable TV (paid).

## **STUDENTS' LIFE**

Student Council is a representative body of all students of State Higher Vocational School in Racibórz. Its aim is to care about students' matters, mediate between students and authorities, as well as organise events such as 'Juwenalia' and any other social and charity events.

## **AZS**

There is Students' Sport Association at our School. Its aim is to promote the importance of fitness and physical education among students and to encourage them to take up sports and other forms of physical activity.

## **PROGRAMMES**

### **INSTITUTE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Students of The Institute of Physical Education participate in the activities of the Academic Sports Association, winning medals and achieving renown for the State Higher Vocational School in Racibórz as a result.

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## 1. PHYSICAL EDUCATION STUDIES

The Institute of Physical Education provides education in the following specialisations:

- Personal Trainer (our graduates are qualified to work in institutions providing personal training services such as fitness clubs, sports and recreation centres, hotels and wellness centres, as well as running their own businesses)
- Kinesiotherapy for the Elderly (this course prepares our graduates to independently plan and conduct physical, preventive and therapeutic activities for the elderly)
- Instructor/Trainer (graduates are qualified to work as instructors or trainers in selected sports disciplines)
- Wellness (this course enables our students to become a wellness coach)
- Resocialisation Pedagogics (graduates are qualified to work with troubled children and young people)
- Corrective and Compensatory Gymnastics (graduates are qualified to work with children in the correction of posture)

## 2. TOURISM AND LEISURE

Tourism and Leisure Studies is a popular and challenging programme that introduces students to the expanding world of tourism and leisure. The programme adopts a multi-disciplinary perspective in examining the growth, patterns and problems of tourist and leisure activity as well as considering related planning and management strategies and methods.

# INSTITUTE OF EDUCATIONAL STUDIES AND ARTS

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## 1. VISUAL ARTS EDUCATION

The Institute of Education in Visual Arts at the State Higher Vocational School in Racibórz provides full-time and part-time studies in the following specialisations:

- artistic creation and graphic design
- interior design
- digital imaging and photography
- painting techniques and stained-glass design.

The main emphasis is placed on developing specific skills and practical abilities: our graduates learn how to design business cards, calendars or logos, use light in photography, develop photographs, cut glass and create stained glass using a lead seam, and design and create ornamental motifs using the mosaic technique. Our graduates are also able to paint an icon and gild its background, make a plaster form from a clay model and create its plaster positive, or arrange a functional and aesthetic

interior. These skills can also be practiced during practical training sessions in design studios, ateliers etc. Furthermore, our students acquire the ability to teach art at primary school level. Our staff consists of experienced and active artists who exhibit their works in public. Our Institute also employs teachers working at other universities and cultural institutions.

## 2. PEDAGOGICS

The course in **resocialisation pedagogics** prepares undergraduates for the position of educational specialist in resocialisation, school counsellor, probation officer, extracurricular tutor, youth outreach worker or family liaison officer.

Studies in the field of **primary education** (with a foreign language specialisation or specialisation in pedagogical therapy) enable our students to obtain the necessary qualifications to act as an educator, a foreign language teacher at preschool or early primary level, or a educational therapist.

Studies in the field of **speech and language therapy and educational therapy** enable undergraduates to obtain qualifications in school speech and language therapy and in educational/pedagogical therapy. Our graduates are qualified to work as speech and language therapists and to organise classes in corrective and compensatory therapy, sociotherapeutic classes and educational classes at preschool and primary school level.

The knowledge, skills and competences gained enable our graduates to work in nurseries, children's clubs, community centres, educational centres, pedagogical therapy clinics and speech and language therapy clinics.

Studies in the pedagogics of **adult care and education** lead to qualifications for working with the elderly: a profession with a future, bearing in mind our ageing society. Achieving qualifications as an educator for the elderly and specialising in geragogy enables our students to find employment in a variety of institutions which provide support for senior citizens. An additional advantage of our programme is its practical profile: the studies are aimed at ensuring a high level of professional competence. Activities realised during the course of study are carried out in conditions relevant to a given range of professional activities and allow for hands on practice by students. Moreover, these classes are taught by teachers with many years of professional experience and academic achievements.

## INSTITUTE OF TECHNICS

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## AUTOMATION AND ROBOTICS

The Automation and Robotics program offers training in two specialties: Industrial Automation and Programmable Logic Controllers. Our ambition is to make academic excellence our hallmark. Bearing in mind the constantly growing market and the growing needs of the industry, we

aim to keep up with the latest developments in the field. We invest in knowledge and experience: our teaching staff includes highly qualified specialists who have rich practical experience of working outside our institute. Our laboratories are equipped with the types of modern equipment, systems and software which our graduates are likely to encounter in their future careers. Recently, the Institute of Automation and Robotics has purchased a 3D printer. This device gives students the opportunity to make their own prototypes, machine parts or housings which they will go on to use when preparing their engineering projects.

## **INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE**

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### **ARCHITECTURAL STUDIES**

The Architectural Studies program at PWSZ Racibórz lasts seven semesters. After successful completion of the course, our students are awarded an engineer's degree – the equivalent of a Bachelor of Science degree – which certifies their ability to solve a wide range of architectural design problems independently. Among many subjects taught during the Architectural Studies program, special emphasis is placed on practical design classes, offering a great variety of architectural design tasks related to both small scale and large scale building design, such as designing a detached house, an apartment building or a building designated for public use. These classes are supported by the Introduction to Design course, the main goal of which is to teach the basics of visual composition and to enable students to design a number of abstract architectural structures. The Architectural Studies program also teaches a wide range of subjects which include architectural design norms, the history of architecture and descriptive geometry. From day one, our students are taught both practical and academic skills and their drawing and abstract visual composition skills are assessed. Our students have been awarded prestigious prizes in international architecture competitions and their activities add a touch of dynamism and positive energy to the atmosphere of the local area. The Architectural Studies program prepares our students for graduate study in architecture at any university in Poland or abroad, with the high quality of their diploma projects proving that they are well prepared for their future career.

## **INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL STUDIES**

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### **1. ADMINISTRATIVE STUDIES**

Our graduates of Administrative Studies achieve a specific skill set which enables them to solve complex problems requiring a considerable level of expertise. Owing to the study programme, which has been positively evaluated by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, they are well prepared to undertake a variety of professional activities, demonstrating perseverance in the implementation of both individual and team oriented tasks in the area of administration. The practical administrative study programme corresponds to modern educational standards. A high quality of education is guaranteed by the structure of the programme, the dominant role of practical classes and workshops in the process of education, and excellent research and teaching staff, consisting largely of experienced specialists.

## **2. NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES**

The National Security Studies program at PWSZ Racibórz offers two specialities: Socio-economic Safety and Political and Military Security. The National Security Studies program is our response to the rapidly growing need for qualified personnel in the region of Silesia. Our students gain the knowledge and professional skills necessary to work as national security planning officials and specialists within the environmental/ spatial dimensions of security. The overall objective of this undergraduate program is to educate national security and public administration personnel specialising in security, response team work and crisis management.

## **INSTITUTE OF MODERN LANGUAGE STUDIES**

The Institute of Modern Language Studies is one of the most significant and dynamically developing Institutes at the State Higher Vocational School in Racibórz. It consists of three departments: English Studies, German Studies and Slavonic Studies

### **MODERN LANGUAGE STUDIES**

After the first year, students of English and German choose one of the following specializations: teacher training, translation studies or business English/German. Following their first term, students of Slavonic philology choose either Czech or Russian Studies. The Institute of Modern Language Studies has well-qualified and experienced research staff, and the high quality of academic work which is carried out within the Institute meets the needs of both students and the market place. The Institute cooperates intensely with the outside community: local governments, educational institutions, and regional foundations and associations. This provision of high quality education is also based on the development and implementation of the programme of practical studies, which enables students of philology to achieve the required range of skills and knowledge. The studies end with final examinations and the graduates are awarded the Bachelor of Arts degree. The Institute of Modern Language Studies has also developed ERASMUS cooperation with universities from abroad, where students gain unforgettable experience, develop foreign language communication skills and learn about the cultures of foreign countries, which might prove beneficial to their future careers.