

# Teacher training in Poland



# Teacher training institutes

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- These were secondary schools for holders of the maturity certificate who wished to supplement their vocational education. They trained future teachers for nursery schools, primary schools and other school education establishments. Day courses lasted for 2 years, and extramural courses for 3 years.
- From the 1st of September 1984, teacher training institutes provided the following types of courses:
  - 6-year courses designed as a follow-up to the primary school curriculum for those who intended to work as pre-primary teachers (abolished on the 31st of August 1992);
  - 2-year courses designed as a follow-up to the secondary school curriculum for those who intended to work as beginning learning teachers, teachers of music, fine arts, crafts and technology, and physical education at primary level (abolished on the 31st of August 1994).

# Teacher training institutes

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- Those who completed 6-year courses were awarded the **maturity certificate**, giving them the right to apply for admission to higher education, and specific vocational qualifications. Those following 2- and 3-year courses obtained at the end the **diploma of completion of education in the teacher training institute** which attested to their specific vocational qualifications

# Primary school teachers

- Until 1994 primary school teachers trained at teacher schools. They could either take a two-year post-secondary course or a six-year post-primary course (discontinued since 1992). In 1990 3-year teacher-training courses were established.



Teacher schools were replaced with two types of school:

- **teacher colleges** under local educational authorities awarding **certificate of completion of a given teacher college**
- **teacher training colleges** functioning within the academic structure and awarding *Licencjat* degrees.

Before 1990, the qualification awarded was the **maturity certificate** and/or **diploma of completion of education in... institute.**

# Secondary school teachers

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- Holders of the master's degree or its equivalent who have taken a pedagogical course are eligible to teach at the secondary level.

Since 1990, specialized foreign language teacher training colleges functioning within the academic structure provide three-year courses for teachers of English, German and French.

Graduates receive the professional title of ***Licencjat***.

# Higher education teachers

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- Holders of *Doctor of Science* and *Habilitated Doctor* are eligible to teach at tertiary-level institutions.



# Teacher training colleges

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- First teacher training colleges were established on the 1st of October 1990. They train candidates (including in-service teachers) who intend to work as teachers in nursery schools, primary schools and other educational establishments.

A teacher training college may only be established and function on the basis of an agreement with a higher education institution which offers teacher training; this agreement covers issues such as scientific and educational supervision, requirements for graduates to be awarded the title of bachelor and the possibility of their undertaking complementary master level courses in the partner higher education institution.

- Applicants are enrolled on the basis of their maturity certificate and the result obtained in an entrance examination, with the contents of this examination defined by the college.

# Teacher training colleges

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- Teacher training colleges offer 3-year day-, evening- and extramural courses. Education is organized within specializations which correspond to the subjects to be taught by future teachers or the types of activities for which future teachers will be responsible in schools and educational establishments.

Courses end with a diploma examination. Graduates are awarded the **diploma of completion of education in the teacher training college** and the professional title of *licencjat*, the latter conferred by the higher education institution which supervises a given college. The diploma attests to qualifications which entitle its holder to teach in a given type of school or establishment. The title of *licencjat* opens the way for continuation of study in a higher education institution.

# Foreign language teacher training colleges

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- First foreign language teacher training colleges were established on the 1st of October 1990. Their task is to train foreign language teachers, in particular teachers of English, French and German, for primary schools, gymnasiums and secondary schools.
- A foreign language teacher training college may only function on the basis of an agreement with a higher education institution which offers teacher training; this agreement covers issues such as scientific and educational supervision, requirements for college graduates to be awarded the title of *licencjat* and the possibility of their undertaking complementary *magister* level courses in the partner higher education institution.

# Foreign language teacher training colleges

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- Admission procedures are established in co-operation with a relevant organizational unit of the higher education which supervises a given specialization in the college. Foreign language teacher training colleges offer 3-year day-, evening- and extramural courses. Courses are given in a foreign language, within the language specialization chosen by the student.
- Courses in a foreign language teacher training college end with a diploma examination. Graduates are awarded the **diploma of completion of education in the teacher training college** and the professional title of *licencjat*, the latter conferred by the higher education institution which supervises a given college.

The diploma attests to qualifications which entitle its holder to teach a given language in all types of schools and establishments. The title of *licencjat* opens the way for continuation of study in a higher education institution.

# Teachers advancement

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- Teachers can advance their skills all the time using various forms:
  - courses for holders of higher education diplomas
  - courses and workshops in the in-service teacher training institutions

The problem is, that many forms, courses and workshops are organized on Saturday and Sunday. Teachers spend their free time on learning very often.

# Professional promotion

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- According to the Teachers' Charter, a teacher can obtain the following professional promotion grades:
  - trainee teacher
  - contract teacher
  - appointed teacher
  - chartered teacher

A possibility of granting an honorary title of education professor is also envisaged for chartered teachers with outstanding professional achievements (first titles were conferred last year).