

WARSAW OFFICE OPENING

British Council opens in Warsaw, one of our first five locations in the world, outside of the UK. Despite the short break in operations caused by the Second World War, we have operated in Poland ever since.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN TEACHING ENGLISH

We introduce correspondence English courses with the use of gramophone records and conduct teaching programmes on the TV and radio.

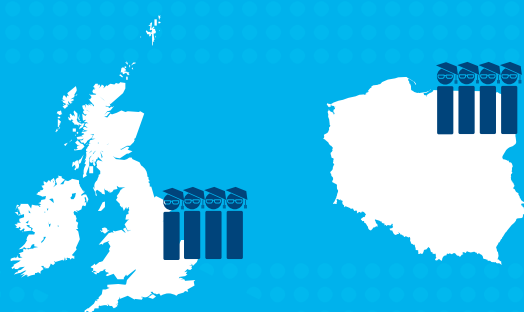


CULTURAL CONVENTION SIGNED

The governments of the People's Republic of Poland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland sign a convention on cultural and educational cooperation. The convention is ratified every 3 years at the meetings of the Polish-British Joint Commission, consisting of British Council representatives and members of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

SUPPORTING SCIENCE

In 1985 we organise 227 academic exchanges enabling Polish and British scientists to do their research in science and technology, and subsequently also in social sciences. Since 2004 our main aim has been to offer new opportunities for international cooperation between young scientists.



PROMINENT ARTISTS IN POLAND AND BOOK DISCUSSION CLUBS

We organise programmes devoted to contemporary British literature, music and film. We bring to Poland such artists as: Zadie Smith, Terry Pratchett, Matthew Herbert, Jeanette Winterson, Seamus Heaney, Horace Andy, Neil Gaiman, Tom Stoppard, Roots Manuva, Marina Lewycka, Kazuo Ishiguro, Irvine Welsh, David Mitchell and many others. We initiate reading groups and help introduce them in public libraries across Poland.

1938



1956



1958



CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH EXAMINATIONS

At the request of the Ministry of Higher Education, the first post-war pilot scheme for the Cambridge English Examinations (Proficiency level) in Poland is held on the British Council premises.

1963
1994

ENGLISH AT UNIVERSITIES

Together with the University of Warsaw in 1963 we open the English Language Centre for translators and interpreters. Starting in 1974 we open English Language Centres at Universities all over Poland, aiming at enhancing the language skills of academic staff. Until 1994 we open up 9 centres across the country.

1978



1989

SUPPORTING THE TRANSFORMATION IN POLAND

In Spring 1989 Margaret Thatcher launches the Know How Fund, supporting economic transformation in Poland. We implement a series of Know How Fund programmes, including the £7 million Polish-British Enterprise Project.

1985
2007

1996
1999

TEACHING CENTRES OPENING

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II opens our new Teaching Centre in Warsaw. In the first semester more than 200 students learn English with us. Three years later we open a second Teaching Centre in Cracow. Today over 5,000 students learn English with us each year.

2004



PROMOTING MULTICULTURALISM AND DIVERSITY

After Poland joins the European Union, our society work focuses on multiculturalism, diversity and dialogue between cultures.

2003
2008

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