

FROM the Polish Government Website

Who can receive a Pole's Card?

You can receive a Pole's Card if:

1. you will demonstrate your connection with Polishness through at least basic knowledge of the Polish language and knowledge and cultivation of Polish traditions and customs;
2. in the presence of the consul, you will submit a written declaration of membership in the Polish Nation;
3. you will prove that you are of Polish nationality or at least one of your parents or grandparents or two great-grandparents were of Polish nationality **or** you will present an authorized certificate from an [authorized Polish organization](#) confirming your active involvement in activities for the language and culture of the Polish or Polish national minority for a period of at least the last three years;
4. you will make a declaration that you or your ascendants have not repatriated from the territory of the Republic of Poland on the basis of agreements concluded by Poland between 1944 and 1957 with a:
 - Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic,
 - Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic,
 - Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic,
 - Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,
5. you have Polish origin, which has been confirmed in accordance with the regulations [act of November 9, 2000 on repatriation](#) provided that you demonstrate knowledge of the Polish language at least to a basic extent.

What rights can a Pole's Card holder obtain?

The holder of a Pole's Card has the right to:

1. exemptions from the obligation to hold a work permit and to take up and pursue a business activity on the same terms as Polish citizens;
2. completing studies, doctoral studies and other forms of education, as well as participating in scientific research and development work;
3. using emergency health care services;
4. 37% discounts on journeys in Poland on passenger, express and express trains, based on single-use tickets;
5. free entry to selected state museums in Poland;
6. assistance to the consul in the event of a threat to life or security, within his competence, applying and respecting customs and international law,
7. exemptions from consular fees for:
 - the acceptance and examination of an application for a national visa in order to exercise the rights conferred by the possession of a Pole's Card;
 - the adoption and elaboration of an application for granting Polish citizenship;
8. receiving a cash benefit to partially cover subsistence in Poland in the event of submitting an application for permanent residence. Cash benefit is granted for up to 9 months;
9. priority when applying for financial assistance intended to support Poles abroad.

Are certificates of completion of a Polish language course proof of knowledge of the Polish language?

A certificate of completion of a Polish language course is not enough to confirm knowledge of the language in the procedure for granting a Pole's Card.

Documents that support language proficiency include:

- school or study certificate in Poland,
- diploma of graduation abroad with Polish as the language of instruction,
- certificate of knowledge of the Polish language issued on the basis of the Act of October 7, 1999 on the Polish language.

If you do not have any of the above-mentioned documents, the consul will assess your knowledge of the language. The conversation with the consul, conducted in Polish, will concern, among others: Polish traditions and customs.

How long is the Pole's Card valid and how to extend the validity of the Pole's Card?

The Pole's Card is valid for 10 years from the date of issue. The validity of the card can be extended for another 10 years if the holder submits the application at the latest 3 months before the loss of the Pole's card's validity.

A Pole card issued to a minor is valid for 10 years, but not longer than a year after reaching the age of majority. The card's validity can be extended for another 10 years if its holder submits the application at the latest 3 months before the card's validity loss. This means that after the age of 18, the Polish card holder should submit an application for its extension no later than in the next 9 months.

How much will you pay?

All activities related to submitting an application for a Pole's Card are free of all fees.

What is the completion date?

The deadline for considering an application for a Pole's Card should not exceed two months. If the deadline is extended, you will be informed about the new expected completion date of the case.

Remember that the date of issue of the Pole's Card also depends on the date of its delivery to the office.

Where will you handle the matter?

You can submit your application to the consular office.

Do you have to submit documents in person?

1. Submit your application for a Pole's Card in person – due to the need to submit a declaration of membership in the Polish Nation to the consul and the requirement to demonstrate knowledge of the Polish language in an interview with the consul.
2. An application for a Pole's Card for a minor is submitted personally by both parents of the child. A parent who does not have a Pole's Card is obliged to consent to the granting of a Pole's Card to a minor before the consul.
3. An application to extend the validity of a Pole's Card, to issue a new Card after changing personal data or to issue a duplicate of a lost Card can be submitted after making an appointment with the consul by phone or e-mail.

How will you arrange a meeting?

Make an appointment to submit an application in the system [e-consulate](#).

What documents do you need to submit?

Adults applying for a Pole's Card consist of:

- completed [request](#) (application) for the award of the Pole's Card,
- photo and copy of an official ID.
- documents confirming the Polish nationality of the applicant or his ascendants and possible documents confirming kinship with the persons to whom the applicant refers, together with copies

or

a certificate of an authorized Polish or Polish organization confirming the applicant's active involvement in activities for the Polish language and culture or the Polish national minority.

- a document confirming knowledge of the Polish language from a school, language instruction program or a study certificate in Poland. If you do not have any of the above-mentioned documents, the consul will assess your knowledge of the language. The conversation with the consul, conducted in Polish, will concern, among other topics, Polish traditions and customs.

Parents applying for the Pole's Card to minors submit a:

- completed [request](#) (*application*) for the award of the Pole's Card,
- a minor's birth certificate with a copy,
- parents' identity documents with copies,
- Parent Pole Cards or One Parent Pole Card with copy/copies.

Applicants for a Pole's Card with amended personal data submit a:

- completed [request](#) (*application*) for the award of the Pole's Card,
- copy of an official ID,
- document confirming the change of personal data with a copy,
- Pole's card with a copy.

Applicants for a duplicate card submit a:

- completed [request](#) (*application*) for the award of the Pole's Card,
- identity document with copy.

How will you collect the Pole's Card?

The Pole's card is collected in person.