

# Multilingual Map of Europe



Report

2021

**Title: Foreigners in Poznań - the case study of  
Ukrainians studying at Adam Mickiewicz  
University, especially at the Faculty of English.**

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## 1. Research questions & Planned data collection methods

Research questions	Planned data collection methods
What is the number of Ukrainian students in Poznań? How many of them are at the Faculty of English at Adam Mickiewicz University?	article analysis, questionnaire, interviews
What are the reasons why Ukrainians study at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań?	article analysis, questionnaire, interviews
What languages do Ukrainian students at AMU speak? Do they code-switch?	questionnaire, interviews
How do the Ukrainians cope with the university environment? Was it difficult for them to adapt?	interviews

## 2. Introduction

The focus of our paper is to broaden our knowledge of the topic of Ukrainian students in the city of Poznań. More exactly, in our project, we aim to find out how many Ukrainians are studying in Poznań and examine the reasons why the students of Ukrainian nationality decided to choose Poznań, a city in Poland inhabited by more than 540 thousand inhabitants, as a convenient place to study. Also, we would like to know why their target university is Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań – the reference point in our study. Furthermore, we will examine what languages do Ukrainians use on a daily basis and whether the particular linguistic phenomenon – the code-switching – takes place also outside the university. Last but not least, we strive to find out whether the students of this particular nationality find any difficulties in adapting to the Polish university environment and if so, what were the instances of such difficulties.

## 3. Methodology

Considering all options available, we decided that the best way to collect data would be to create a questionnaire online, on the Google Forms platform. Our questionnaire consists of one open-ended and eleven multiple choice questions. Its participants were 24 anonymous students from various faculties at the Adam Mickiewicz University. All participants provided consent on

the questionnaire before filling it in. As we have already received all the responses, we will soon move on to analyze them. We will use charts, diagrams, and do it descriptively as well.

Another source we will base our research on are the interviews we conducted with two Ukrainian girls - Olesia Plotianska and Anastasiia Radkowska, who are studying at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, at the Faculty of English. We believe that through this approach we will be able to investigate our research aims properly.

The five articles we had previously found on the internet helped us in formulating our research questions. We decided to use information from the websites such as [pozn.pl](http://pozn.pl), [study.gov.pl](http://study.gov.pl), [multirank](http://multirank.pl), [empr.media](http://empr.media), and the official WA website. They also helped us gain a great number of relevant information, which is useful to answer most of our research questions.

In our opinion, conducting an online questionnaire may help us examine people's awareness of what portion of the international student body in Poznań Ukrainians constitute. Additionally, it will check what people believe are the reasons why Ukrainians come to study in Poznań. Last but not least, we would like to find out what languages are spoken by Ukrainians at AMU and whether Ukrainian students code-switch.

Conducting an interview will help us check Ukrainians' knowledge about the population of Ukrainian student body in Poznań. Furthermore, it will help us ascertain what are the actual reasons why so many Ukrainians choose Poznań as their study destination. It will also help us confirm what languages are really spoken by Ukrainian students and find out whether they code-switch. Lastly, by interviewing Ukrainians we will find out whether it was difficult for them to cope with the university environment.

#### **4. Article analysis**

We have managed to analyze five different articles taken from five different websites.

The author of the first article (Eliza Kania 2018) informs the readers that Ukrainians constitute the biggest part of foreign student body in Poznań and in the whole Poland as well. Almost 50% of foreign students in Poland are of Ukrainian origin. Moreover, Kania mentions that in the past only few people knew where Poznań was, whereas nowadays it is one of the most chosen destinations. There are over 2000 Ukrainians in Poznań now. According to Eliza Kania, the high level of education and better prospects in the labor market are one of the most important reasons why Ukrainians decide to study in Poland. She points out to the fact that an increasing number of Ukrainians are learning Polish. This language may help them both at university and at work.

The author of the second article that we decided to analyze (PS 2014) informs the readers that there is an increasing number of foreign students who want to study in Poland. According to the

latest research conducted by the Central Statistical Office, there are about 57 thousand foreign students in Poland, which is 11 thousand more than a year before. CSO informs that the largest group of foreign students in Poland are Ukrainians. There are as many as 30.5 thousand of them. The second largest group are Belarusians (around 4.6 thousand), then Norwegians (1581), followed by the Spanish (1407), and the Swedish (1291).

In the next, third article (multirank 2014) the author gives the readers 5 major reasons why it is a good option to choose Poland as a study destination. First of all, Poznań is a large city with about 535000 residents, so it is perfect for those who enjoy feeling the pace of busy cities. The second reason that the author mentions is the variety of universities to choose from in Poznań. When it comes to public universities, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań University of Technology, and The Poznań University of Economics and Business are great choices. Another advantage is the fact that students often do not need the Polish language certificate to study in Poznań. However, being proficient in English is usually required. The fourth important issue is safety. According to the current Numbeo Safety Index, Poznań has a score of 76 – ranking it at number 38 of 374 cities globally for safety. Additionally, the cost of living in Poznań is not very high. Poznan has a score of 40.2 – ranking it at number 256 of 476 cities globally.

From another article (EMPR 2017), the readers can get to know that in 2017, the official website of the city of Poznań launched a section about the city in Ukrainian. This section provides information related to the city itself and additionally about study and work opportunities. The author of the article states that Ukrainians are the largest national minority in Poznań. A commissioner on countering discrimination issues - Marta Mazurek said that the reason behind increasing air connections between Kyiv, Lviv and Poznan is the fact that Ukrainians make up 90 percent of foreigners who come to Poland.

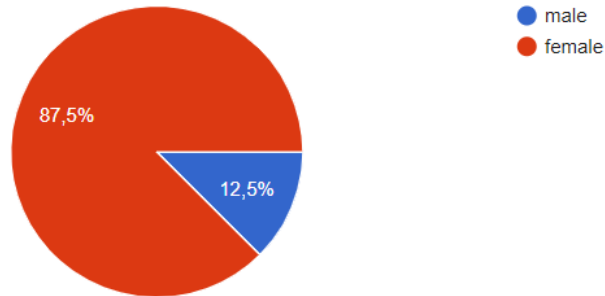
The last but not the least important source we used was the official website of the Faculty of English of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. On this website, one can find information about dr. Jan Kulczyk scholarship for Ukrainian students. The aim of this scholarship program is to support Ukrainian students financially since their political, social, and economical situation is really difficult.

## **5. Questionnaire results**

Apart from reading and analyzing the articles, we have conducted a questionnaire. The questionnaire consisted of one open-ended question and eleven multiple choice questions. The questionnaire was conducted on 24 people in total - 21 female participants and 3 males. The diagram provided below confirms it.

Are you a male or a female?

24 odpowiedzi

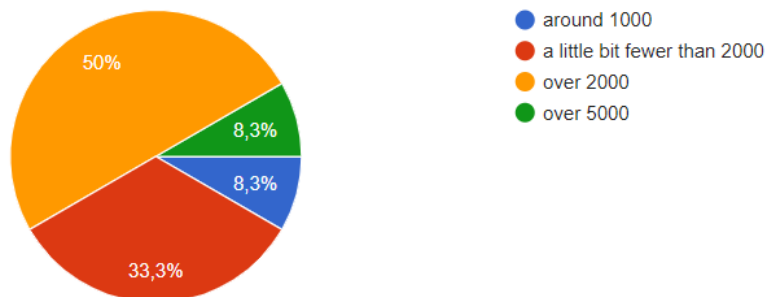


We asked our participants at which faculty they are studying. One person was from the Faculty of Biology, 1 person from the Faculty of Law, 1 person from the Faculty of Educational Studies, 2 people from the Faculty of Geographical and Geological Sciences, 2 people from the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, 2 people from the Faculty of Psychology, and finally 15 people from the Faculty of English.

Later, we proceeded to ask our participants how many Ukrainian students in Poznań they think there are. Fifty percent of the examined group of people think that there are over 2000 of Ukrainian students in Poznań. In fact, it was the correct answer. Exactly 8.3% of participants believe there are over 5000 Ukrainian students in Poznań, while another 8.3% guess that there are only about 1000 Ukrainian students. The remaining 33.3% of people think there are a little bit fewer than 2000 Ukrainian students in Poznań.

How many Ukrainian students are there in Poznań?

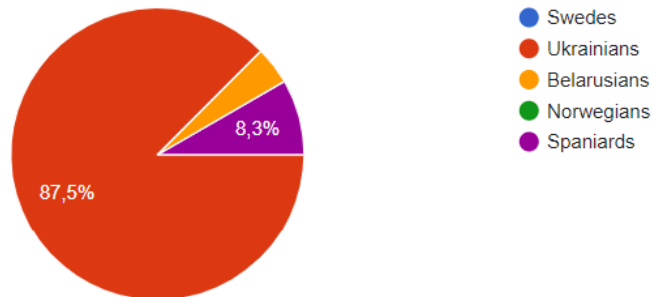
24 odpowiedzi



Another question we asked was supposed to check people's awareness of the number of Ukrainian students in comparison to other foreign student groups. The biggest group of participants (87.5%) believe that Ukrainians comprise the largest foreign student body in Poznań. They are actually right to believe so. Another 8.3% of people believe that the largest foreign student group are Spaniards, while only 4.2% (1 person) believes that the correct answer is Belarusians.

Which of these groups is the largest group of foreign students in Poznań?

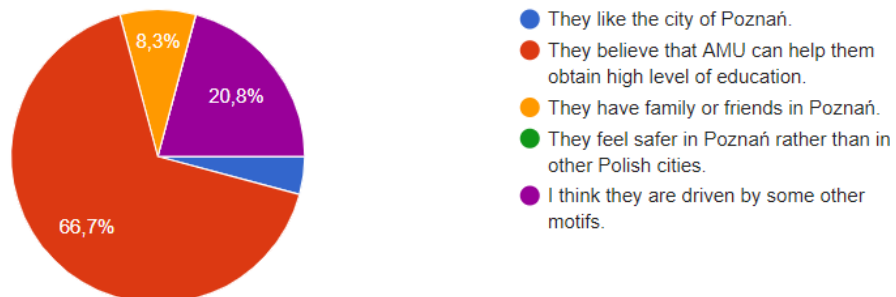
24 odpowiedzi



In the next question, we asked our participants what, according to them, are the reasons why Ukrainians chose Poznań as their study destination. As much as 66.7% of people answered that Ukrainians believe that AMU can help them obtain a high level of education. Another 20.8% of participants claim that Ukrainians are driven by some other motifs. Two people think that Ukrainians moved to Poznań due to having family or friends in this city, while one person believes they simply like the city of Poznań.

What are the reasons why Ukrainians study at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań?

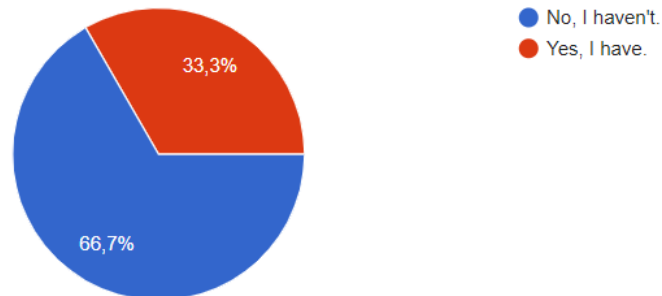
24 odpowiedzi



Another question in our questionnaire concerned scholarships for Ukrainians and people's awareness of their existence. As much as 66.7% of participants responded that they had never heard about any scholarships for Ukrainian students. The remaining participants answered that they had heard about such scholarships before.

Have you ever heard about any scholarships for Ukrainians studying at AMU?

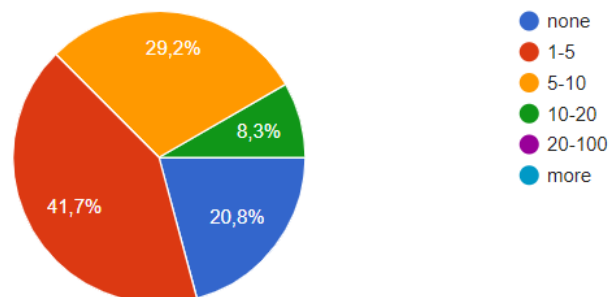
24 odpowiedzi



Later, we asked our participants how many Ukrainians they met at AMU. Almost 42% of participants said they had met 1-5 Ukrainians at AMU. Around 30% responded that they had met 5-10 Ukrainians, 8.3% of people said that they had met 10-20 Ukrainians, while around 21% of participants had never met any Ukrainian student at AMU.

How many Ukrainian students at AMU have you met?

24 odpowiedzi

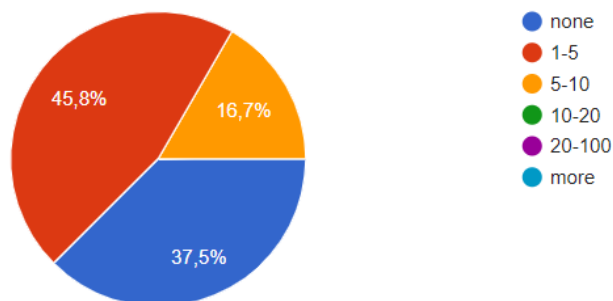


Then, we decided to ask about the number of Ukrainian students at the Faculty of English. It turned out that none of our participants met more than 10 Ukrainian students at this faculty.



How many Ukrainian students at the Faculty of English at AMU have you met?

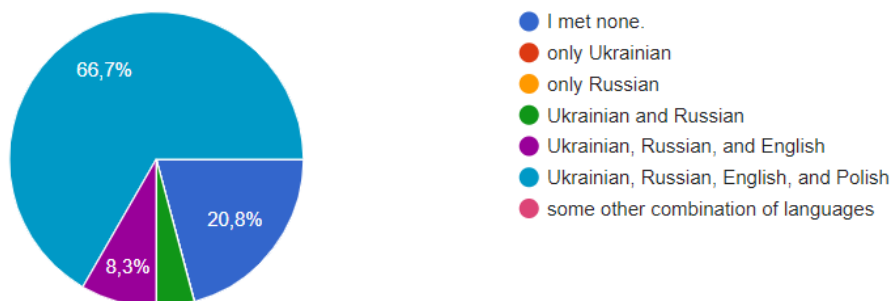
24 odpowiedzi



When we asked about languages spoken by Ukrainians on a daily basis, most people responded that the Ukrainians they met were able to speak Ukrainian, Russian, English, and Polish as well. There were no monolingual Ukrainian or Russian speakers observed by our participants.

What languages did the Ukrainian students you met use on a daily basis?

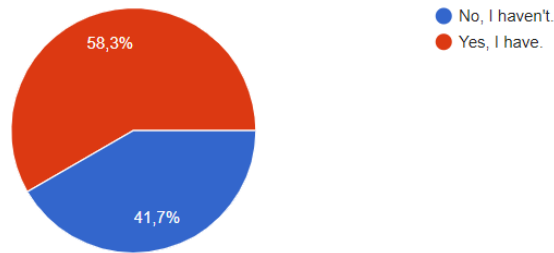
24 odpowiedzi



When we asked our participants about the code-switching patterns they observed among Ukrainian students, almost 59% of people admitted that they witnessed situations in which Ukrainians code-switched. In most cases (33.3%) it was switching between Russian, Ukrainian, English and Polish.

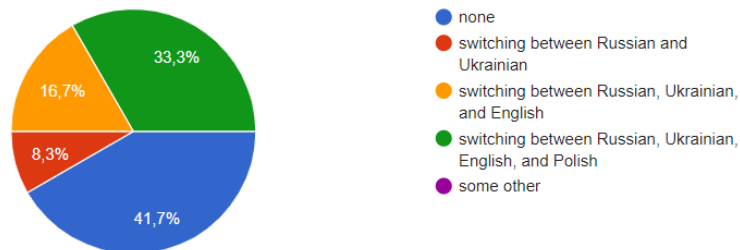
Have you ever heard Ukrainians at AMU code-switch (alternate between two or more languages in one conversation)?

24 odpowiedzi



What code-switching patterns among Ukrainian students have you observed?

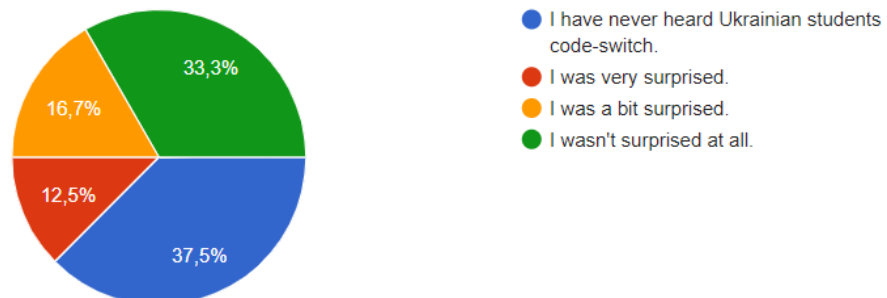
24 odpowiedzi



Lastly, we found out that 33.3% of people weren't surprised to hear Ukrainians code-switch, 16.7% were a bit surprised and 12.5% were very surprised. The remaining 37.5% didn't hear Ukrainians code-switch at all.

What was your reaction when you heard Ukrainian students code-switch?

24 odpowiedzi



## 6. Interview analysis

On the 9th of June, at 2 pm, on Microsoft Teams, we conducted interviews with two Ukrainian girls studying at the Faculty of English at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. One of them - Olesia Plotianska is a third year student, while the other one - Anastasiia Radkovska is a second year student.

The interview was divided into three parts which differed in terms of their context. The first part was devoted to the theoretical knowledge of our interviewees on the topic of Ukrainian students studying at AMU, WA, as well as the Ukrainian students in Poland in general. In the next part of the interview, the questions we asked were linguistically oriented and concerned the linguistic phenomenon known as code-switching, as well as they aimed to enquire what are the languages our Ukrainian participants use in their daily lives. The final part aimed to examine the social background, hence the questions asked in this part of the interview concerned the processes of assimilation and adaptation of the Ukrainian students to the Polish environment, particularly the AMU environment, as well as they aimed to find out about the reasons why the interviewed students decided to learn at WA in Poznań, Poland.

Our first question concerned the number of Ukrainian students in Poznań. Olesia believes there are around 70 thousand of Ukrainian students in Poznań, whereas Anastasiia thinks there are around 5 thousand of them or probably even more. Olesia said she had met plenty of Ukrainian students in Poznań, most of whom are students of Journalism, International Relationships and of Programistics. Anastasiia met around 10 Ukrainians at AMU in general and only one girl from the Faculty of English. Olesia, on the other hand, said she had met 5 Ukrainians at the Faculty of English. After hearing that Ukrainian students comprise as much as 50% of the total foreign student body in Poland, Olesia was really surprised. In fact, she thought that there would be many more Ukrainians. Anastasiia was not surprised at all to hear about these statistics. When we asked Olesia if she could understand Polish, she said it had always been easy for her to understand this language, since it is very close to Ukrainian. For Anastasiia it was even easier, as she used to be a teacher of Polish in Ukraine. However, she admitted that the speed of Polish speech was sometimes difficult to follow. Later, we asked Olesia about languages Ukrainian students use on a daily basis. She said that it depends on the region. She comes from Odessa and people there speak mainly Russian, however, she claims that Ukrainians from the north and from the west may be more prone to speaking Ukrainian. Anastasiia said that she and her friends speak Russian but she also met some students who spoke mainly Ukrainian. Both Olesia and Anastasiia often hear Ukrainian students code-switch and they themselves code-switch as well. Olesia noticed code-switching between Ukrainian, Russian, Polish, and English, while Anastasiia usually heard people code-switch between Ukrainian and Russian. Both Olesia and Anastasiia believe it is not difficult for Ukrainians to assimilate with the Poles because the countries are close to each other and the cultures are also similar. They did not encounter any difficulties

adapting to life in Poland. Olesia believes that Poland is a nice place to study because the higher education is of a better quality than in Ukraine. According to Anastasiia, Poland is a good place to start a career in, because it provides opportunities to gain a high level of education, it is affordable and it is very near Anastasiia's homeland - Ukraine. Olesia decided to study in Poznań at the Faculty of English because she was invited to study here. Anastasiia was convinced to start studying at the Faculty of English because of the good opinions she heard about this faculty. Both of our interviewees heard about scholarships for Ukrainians studying at AMU but they never applied for any of them.

After conducting this interview, we realized that even Ukrainians themselves, or at least the girls we asked, do not know how many Ukrainian students are there in Poznań. Our interviewees' guesses were much higher than the actual number of Ukrainian students in Poznań. Apart from that, we learnt that there are probably more Ukrainian students at other faculties of AMU, rather than at the Faculty of English. We also got to know that it is not difficult for Ukrainians to understand Polish speech. Many Ukrainians actually speak Polish and they use languages such as Russian, Ukrainian, English, and Polish on a daily basis. Additionally, they often code-switch. It can be concluded that the process of adaptation to the Polish way of living is rather easy for Ukrainians. They feel comfortable in Poznań and believe that this relatively cheap city may provide them with a high level of education.

## 7. Conclusions

Out of all the data we collected through our research we have come to the following conclusions:

Research questions	Answers from participants of the survey	Answers from the interviewees	Information derived from the articles
What is the number of Ukrainian students in Poznań? How many of them are at the Faculty of English at Adam Mickiewicz University?	Most of our participants believe that there are more than 2000 Ukrainian students in Poznań. According to the articles we found, this answer is correct. The majority of the participants met up to 5 people at the Faculty of English.	One of our interviewees believes there might be even up to 70 thousand Ukrainian students in Poznań. The other girl believes there are more than 5 thousand Ukrainian students in Poznań. However, the articles confirmed that the girls were	The data suggests that there are more than 2000 Ukrainian students in Poznań. There is no data regarding Ukrainians at the Faculty of English at AMU.

		wrong. Our interviewees know up to 5 Ukrainians at the Faculty of English, so we can presume there are very few of them at this faculty.	
What are the reasons why Ukrainians study at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań?	According to the participants of the survey, the main reason Ukrainians choose AMU is the belief that this university can provide them with a high level of education.	Olesia was invited to live in Poznań and this is the reason why she moved there. Both she and Anastasiia believe that AMU can provide students with a high level of education. Additionally, Anastasiia believes that living in Poznań is pretty cheap.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● They can get a higher educational level</li> <li>● It is a big city</li> <li>● It is safe</li> <li>● It doesn't have a big cost of living</li> </ul>
What languages do Ukrainian students at AMU speak? Do they code-switch?	Most AMU students heard Ukrainians speak Ukrainian, Russian, English, and Polish. They also heard Ukrainians code-switch.	Our interviewees confirmed that most Ukrainians can speak Russian, Ukrainian, English, and Polish. However, whether they use Russian or Ukrainian may depend on the region. They do code-switch.	No data. However Eliza Kania (2018) observed that there are more and more Ukrainians learning Polish. From another article (multirank 2014) we can get to know that being proficient in English is often required to become a student in Poland. It makes us believe that many Ukrainian students can speak English as well.
How do the Ukrainians cope with the university	No data.	The participants didn't find the university environment hard to	No data.

environment? Was it difficult for them to adapt?		adapt to, especially because both of them have a good understanding of Polish.	
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In conclusion, from the data presented above we can clearly see that mostly the data collected from our own interviews and questionnaires agree and can be supported from the information presented in the articles we found relevant to the subject.

## 8. References

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Our interviews <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=812LgnnQ6SA>