

FREE YOUR MIND




**University of Lodz
for International
Alumni**



**UNIVERSITY
OF LODZ**

Poland

 www.uni.lodz.pl

“Leading entrepreneurs, authors of creative projects, eminent scientists, activists, owners of small businesses or restaurants and, last but not least, originators of interesting initiatives – Graduates of the University of Lodz are our pride. We are more than happy to see how they represent our University in Lodz, in Poland and abroad as active creators of our world – far and quite near.”

Prof. Elżbieta Żądzińska,
Rector of University of Lodz

University of Lodz **Alumni Club**

It is the tradition of the most prestigious universities throughout the world to build and maintain lasting relationships with their Graduates, international ones included. The Alumni Club of the University of Lodz was established to cultivate close ties between the Graduates and the academic community of the University of Lodz also after completing education. With the aim of supporting Graduates in improving professional qualifications and expanding competencies, the Club offers a number of attractive opportunities for further development, such as selected post-graduate programmes, post-graduate studies, MBA studies, trainings and courses.



Main actions

VIP Alumni Programme

a unique initiative of the University of Lodz, created with a view to honouring the eminent Graduates of the University and including them in the life of Alma Mater. As part of the programme, numerous accompanying projects are implemented, e.g. a mentorship project or expert lectures.

Alumni Card

giving Graduates of all programmes: bachelor's, master's, doctoral, postgraduate and MBA studies the chance to benefit from discounts at the Alumni Club Partners and special opportunities at the University of Lodz. See also the Alumni Card app!

Offer for graduates

- Alumni Card
- VIP Alumni Programme
- VIP Alumni Mentorship Project
- expert lectures
- postgraduate studies
- career counselling
- entrepreneurship support

VIP Alumni Programme

University of Lodz has an over 75-year tradition of dialogue, freedom of academic discussion and transfer of knowledge. The unity of science, didactics, education and development means that for years the University has been educating responsible, open and tolerant people with broad intellectual horizons. Following in the footsteps of the best universities in the world and with the aim of strengthening ties with Graduates, since 2013 the University of Lodz has been implementing the VIP Alumni programme addressed to the most outstanding Graduates of the University – a group of successful people and experts, including personalities from the world of science, art, politics and business. The programme offers various forms of activity and valuable initiatives for the development of Polish education.



Innovative Idea

The VIP Alumni programme is a unique and innovative initiative of the University of Lodz, which includes, among others:

- **Expert lectures** and regular meetings of VIP Alumni
- **VIP Alumni Mentorship Project** for the most ambitious students of the University of Lodz
- **Special events**, e.g. World Alumni Convention as part of the 70th anniversary of the University of Lodz.

During regular meetings, other distinguished Graduates receive from Her Magnificence Rector the prestigious title of ‘**VIP Alumnus/a** of University of Lodz’, as well as a ceramic statuette – an **apple** as a symbol of hard work and an announcement of fruitful cooperation with Alma Mater.

A unique career and special achievements require remarkable honouring.

When designing the VIP Alumnus/a statuette, we used the experience and talent of an artist-craftsman to make each shape unique. The apple is both a symbolic fruit of hard work put into acquiring knowledge and broadening one’s own horizons, and a ripe fruit from the branches of the great tree of knowledge, which the University brings to our lives.

Expert lectures

Expert Lectures are periodic meetings with our University’s VIP Alumni, during which such topics as development of the University in the context of economic and geopolitical challenges and global trends in a changing world are discussed. The Expert Lectures are also a great opportunity to meet the most outstanding graduates from the University of Lodz in person.

VIP Alumni Mentorship Project

The main aim of the initiative is to include the outstanding Graduates of the University of Lodz in the process of developing the scientific and professional career of the most talented students. VIP Alumni, while playing the role of mentors and experts sharing their knowledge and experience, can support students in finding new ways to expand their qualifications and indicate the latest trends and development directions. Diversity of personalities and a wide range of mentor competences mean that young people receive knowledge and skills in many aspects. The roles of mentors are taken up by those holding high positions in leading companies and organisations operating in Poland, e.g.: Accenture, Deloitte, KGHM, Grupa Azoty, Amcor or PKO BP S.A, Nordea Bank AB S.A., Philips, Clariant, Fujitsu, Infosys.

Main aims of the project

- setting realistic and ambitious career plans
- determining strengths and weaknesses of each student
- motivating students to develop their professional career and achieve own goals
- providing knowledge about the labour market and possible development paths

Mentorship Project
2014–2021

8 completed editions
99 active mentors
190 outstanding students

Alumni Card

Did you know that as a holder of **any UL diploma** (bachelor's, master's, doctoral, postgraduate or MBA) you can get **an Alumni Card for free?** The graduates from the University of Lodz who have decided to continue their studies at the second or third-cycle studies may also apply for the Card.

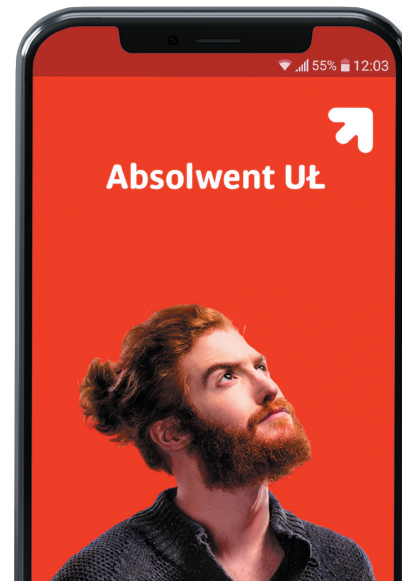
Benefits and privileges

The Alumni Card offers a number of benefits and privileges. Starting with discounts on services and products of **project partners**, among which you can find offers from the tourist, cultural and recreational, gastronomic or educational industries, and ending with a wide offer prepared by the University of Lodz, including **postgraduate studies** (10% discount on selected fields of studies), **access to the Library of the Lodz University resources** (without a deposit) or the possibility of using the **Physical Education Centre**.

The card is valid for an indefinite period and is issued free of charge as a virtual card generated in the **Absolwent UŁ app** available on Google Play and App Store.

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Are you still looking for your **career path?**

Career Office of University of Lodz offers a comprehensive support system on the labour market.

Career **counselling**

A career counsellor will help you determine your professional interests and potential. You will receive support in creating a career plan as well as prepare to enter the labour market, using CV consultation and job interview simulation.

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Career **coaching**

You will improve your time management, increase stress resistance and make a decision how to develop and use your strengths effectively.

Mentoring in your new job

Your mentor will help you enter a new environment and get used to the company structure, as well as support the development of your potential and competences related to a specific job.

Entrepreneurship support

You will receive support in starting your own business. You will submit your idea for an expert assessment, consult a business plan and find out where to look for funds to start your business.

Linked to UL Project

In October 2019, the University of Lodz launched a project entitled: **“Building a bond with international graduates – Linked to UL”** as part of the International Alumni programme funded by the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange. The main goal of the project is to maintain links with graduates from the University of Lodz who come from abroad.

As part of the project, a study called *Tracking international graduates’ professional careers in the last five years* was carried out. The University of Lodz has invited its international graduates to share information about their professional careers. The study allowed UL to learn more about further professional development of graduates and to show that they are still a part of University’s community. The study covered 860 (370 studied in English and 490 in Polish) alumni of all Faculties of the University, and in all fields of study who graduated in the academic years 2014/2015 - 2018/2019.

The respondents in the survey were asked to wonder if they could choose again, would they decide to study again at the same university and the same field of study. In total, **more than 75%** of the surveyed stated that they would have chosen the University of Lodz again, and **nearly 50%** of the respondents would once again start their education **in the same field of study.**

59% of the graduates answered that they live and work in Poland, and most often in Łódź (Lodz - as many as 2/3 of all those declaring to live in Poland).

Below a few profiles of our successful Alumni are presented.





Brian Baret from Zimbabwe
with **Prof. Tomasz Domański**

Obtained his Master's degree in the field of International and Political Studies from Faculty of International and Political Studies in 2019.

I came to Lodz in 2016 when there was World Youth Day and stayed 1 week before going to Krakow. My friend who was studying at the University of Lodz also recommended me and helped me to apply. Next in 2017, I came to study. I have never regretted my decision. I would recommend studying at the University of Lodz because it is one of the renowned universities in the country, and it has given me a better perspective of life. International

Marketing was not in my plans at first. I wanted to do International Relations and then it came with a specialisation of marketing which was a blessing in disguise. After the 1st semester, I saw the opportunity for my brand flourishing. This is when I embraced Marketing. Studying International Marketing has given the scope to my Brand 'HAPPYPEOPLE' (2 words are one because happiness and people are inseparable, everyone wants to be happy, but at times we are unfortunate to fall into negative traps), which I always had in mind and which is now open. This is about integrating people from all over the world uniting them in happiness as we focus on the positives that life gives, rather than on the negatives.

My Master's dissertation was about Natural Heritage Management and Destination Branding: a case of Victoria Falls Zimbabwe. This was about how Victoria Falls, one of the world's 7 natural wonders, is not being advertised well enough so that more people could know about it.

My supervisor was Prof. Tomasz Domański.

I decided to stay in Lodz because of the hospitality that I got from the people and for the love of the city. I work at an international company, which is Fujitsu Technology Solutions. The company is flexible. It helps me to do my voluntary work at EuroFRC.

EuroFRC is an organisation that is co-funded by Erasmus+. In full, it is called: European Foundation of Human Development. I am a Youth Leader and ESC Coordinator. I mainly lead young people to different EU countries within Erasmus projects.

What I like in Poland is the culture, warm people and love, hanging out with the natives. This has given me a sense of belonging even though I am far away from home.





Narmin Huseynli
from Azerbaijan
with Prof. Michał Mackiewicz

Obtained her Master's degree in the field of Economics and International Business from Faculty of Economics and Sociology in 2019.

It was always my dream to complete my education studying abroad despite of the fact that I was able to save little. Although I had completed both my bachelor's and master's degrees in my country Azerbaijan with a distinction I still kept this dream as a plan to realize one day. Finally, I had this opportunity when I heard about the University of Lodz programme, addressed especially to the students coming from post-soviet

countries. I decided to use this opportunity and to get one more Master's degree in Economics in Poland. As a result, I got accepted and came to Lodz, Poland in 2017. I would recommend studies at the University of Lodz to prospective students and would like to advise no matter what happens, just try to fight for your dreams. My master dissertation was about "Determinants of Successful Transnational and Immigrant Entrepreneurship".

My supervisor was Prof. Michał Mackiewicz.

While studying here I was able to find an internship position at Philips for obtaining practical skills in European standards. It was just 6 months after I arrived in Poland. It helped me make a decision on staying here and improving myself more. Furthermore, I made nice friendships and faced lots of advantages in Poland regarding broadening my horizons – which are the most crucial factors for me to stay here.

Currently I am working as an AR Collection Analyst. I have worked at McCormick Company since 2019. I am happy to work here as the working environment is really efficient and sufficient as well. It feels like a second home here.

Lodz plays a significant role in my life, as my being here really contributed to my meeting people of different nationalities (also making valuable friendships). Moreover, this city is so close to me as not only do I have nice memories from here but I was also able to prove myself as an individual. I am also glad to see how Lodz is developing its standards as a city.





Rajesh Ghosh from Bangladesh with dr Piotr Cybula

Obtained his Master's degree in the field of Computer Science from Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science in 2018.

There is a funny story about getting to know about the University of Lodz. I was working in Somalia, Africa under a project organized by Danish organization DANIDA. At that time my fiancé got Erasmus Mundus in Lodz University of Technology. Actually, that was the first time I came to know the name of the city Lodz and I also applied for my Master's. But the funny part is when I applied for the Master's, I applied for the University of Lodz, because I thought

they are one and the same university and this is the main division where I have to apply. Then, I thought, they would shift me to the “right” division because I applied for Computer Science. Then I got accepted and got to know that they are not the same, but two different universities. In the meantime, the application period was over so I decided to start processing for the University of Lodz. The first time I came to Lodz was on 8th October 2016.

I recommend the University of Lodz first of all because it has a well-organized and very updated curriculum, so the courses provided by the Departments are really up to date with the latest technological world. Which is very, very important for a computer science student. Courses such as AI, concurrent programming, web services are very helpful to get quite good knowledge about the job market and latest fancy technologies.

I did my Master's degree and my dissertation was about “*Comparison of graph databases with other database technologies. Programmer's guide.*”

My supervisor was dr Piotr Cybula.

Well, I am not sure when I have decided to stay in Poland. Actually, I started working from the 2nd year of my studies and that is the reason that I prolonged my stay even after my graduation. I work as a Software Engineer at Facebook via CE. About the job, I love the environment inside the company and team mates who are one of the best team mates I have ever had. Also I find the job very interesting and challenging with a lot of things to learn. So, it is also helping me to enrich my technological knowledge every day. The best thing about Lodz is fewer people :) so less traffic and not crowded at all. Because I came from Dhaka, Bangladesh which is one of the most crowded cities in the world. So I love this calm and quietness of Lodz. About Poland, the best thing is winter weather, which is beautiful this year. I love winter in Poland, also the Polish food and culture, though the language is very difficult, but yeah “Próbuję się nauczyć” /I am trying to learn/.





**Khalid Ouzguid from Morocco
with dr Monika Kopytowska**

**Obtained his Master's degree in the field
of English Studies from Faculty of Philology
in 2018.**

I came to Lodz at the end of September, 2016. I had chosen the University of Lodz over many others because of plethora of reasons, one of which is the ISO website which was (is) very precise and well-organised, not to mention English Philology professors who drew my attention and whetted my appetite for pursuing my career in the realm of academia. I always recommend the University of Lodz for international students. I am doing so

because of all these countless benefits which University offers ranging from solid academic training in different majors to constant care about students' career (different competitions, activities, workshops, conferences, lectures, and many more).

Because I have always been interested in linguistics, I chose applied linguistics as my speciality. Therefore, my thesis tackled the attitude of English language teachers towards code switching in the classroom: case study of high school students.

I was honoured to be the last generation to get supervised by Prof. Jan Majer before his retirement.

Being a qualified English language teacher and a fresh graduate of the University of Lodz highly increased my chances of getting a steady job right away in Lodz. More importantly, Lodz has become an essential part in my career development. Working on a freelance PhD as a new challenge at the University of Lodz.

I absolutely enjoy my current job. I work as an academic English teacher at International Faculty of Engineering, Lodz University of Technology. My job involves teaching Academic English, Business English, English in Action for Erasmus students, seminars, theses/projects reviewing and proofreading, workshops, etc. I just love what I do. Lodz is a very unique city, a cross-cultural city where I've never felt homesick. The history of the city is more intriguing, there is always something new to learn, and also there are so many places around to visit. In a nutshell, Lodz is a blossoming flower in the very beginning of spring.





**Arnoldo Font Najera
from Guatemala
with Prof. Joanna Mankiewicz-
Boczek**

**Obtained his Master's degree in the field
of Ecohydrology from Faculty of Biology
and Environmental Protection in 2016.**

I was accepted for the programme ECOHYD in Erasmu Mundus 2014-2016. A master's degree in Ecohydrology that was shared between Portugal, Poland, Brazil and Germany. I decided to start my master's in Poland, because the programme was focused on more interesting topics according to my background studies (biology) and I had the opportunity to meet my master supervisor. Due to this, I came back to Poland to finish my master's degree.

I do recommend studies at the UL, especially in the Applied Ecology Department, because I have met very good and inspiring scientists. I prepared my master's dissertation here in Lodz. I was working in the field of microbiology and biochemistry. We were able to isolate and characterize a new bacterial strain with the ability to degrade cyanobacterial toxins (harmful algal blooms that appear during summer seasons in lakes and reservoirs). All the experiment and details were published in a scientific journal.

**My supervisor was
Prof. Joanna Mankiewicz-Boczek.**

My supervisor offered me the opportunity to continue my work as a PhD student. I accepted and found another scholarship to continue my studies. Definitely, the topic I used for my PhD dissertation is very interesting, and the fact that I feel like I am doing science. I am still a PhD student at the UL, however, close to finish. I have just published my first PhD paper

in another scientific journal, hoping to prepare my dissertation in September 2021.

I currently work in the European Regional Centre of Ecohydrology PAN (The Polish Academy of Sciences).

I have lived in Lodz for over 5 years, and probably what I like the most is the people, families, friends and scientific connections that I have made till the moment. Specifically, from living in Lodz, I like the proximity of parks and other green areas in almost every corner of the city, which is something that you cannot easily get in my country city (Guatemala). In Poland, generally, I like the culture, some of the traditional dishes (żurek, my favorite!), and also trying to learn the difficult language, which is a continuous challenge for me (even bigger than finishing my PhD).





Juney Maria Jaison from India with Prof. Robert Kozielski

Obtained her Master's degree in the field of Business Management from Faculty of Management in 2020.

I came to Lodz for the first time in 2018. It was such an amazing experience to get to know a new place, people, culture etc. I learned about the University through a friend. They recommended the University of Lodz because of its welcoming atmosphere and diversity. And I can agree that it's totally true!

I really like accounting. So I was looking for something similar and I found Business

Management degree here. The programme had many subjects with great potential which I liked. So I would say this was one of the major reasons I took this course. Also I heard great reviews from a number of UL alumni regarding Business Management. I would totally recommend the courses here, because from my experience I can say that the time and energy you expend at this University courses is totally worth it. The methods used to teach the students are very versatile and are aimed not only in their academic growth but also in their overall growth such as personal and professional. In short this study program allows the students to always think outside the box. Also the staff at the faculty are very keen to help their students. We could always rely on them no matter what happened. My Masters dissertation was about 'The impact of Media in Capital Market: Polish and Indian perspectives'. Thanks to my supervisor it was a great experience working on it and completing.

My Master's thesis supervisor was Prof. Robert Kozielski.

I always liked playing with numbers. So when I grew up I pursued that idea for my career. And accounting was my favourite, so I hoped I would get opportunities based on my interest. And then I heard about ABB from the University placement website. I work at ABB Business Services as a Financial Analyst. First of all I really liked the place. The people are very welcoming. It gave me a feeling of belongingness. I got my job when I was still a student, so after graduation I decided to prolong my stay because my place of work is also really nice. Most of all I love what I do here :). Also Lodz is a calm and quite city but if you want to see the city part you also have that. Nowadays it is really hard to find such comfortable places which has options like these. Everything about Poland is amazing. People, Culture, the beautiful sites and buildings, food (pierogi/dumplings). As I said before I like the overall atmosphere and it's serene beauty. Also I love how so many cultures blend in one place. It's so beautiful.



The experience of the Alumni is one of the most valuable sources of knowledge for improving the methods of teaching and study programmes at the University of Lodz. The University is keen to know more about our Alumni's career paths, professional achievements and possible challenges. Through sharing these experiences, the University of Lodz will have a better understanding of how studying at UL influenced Alumni's lives.

The life stories of our graduates will form the basis for the introduction of a number of activities designed to share experiences and skills between the Alumni and the current or prospective students of UL.

The University of Lodz would like to engage the Alumni in the following areas: *Alumni success stories, Alumni guest lectures, Alumni mentoring.*

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Our Alumni are our best Ambassadors!

The Project Linked to UL has been run by International Relations Office

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NARODOWA AGENCJA
WYMIANY AKADEMICKIEJ

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