

Hello future student of Białystok University of Technology! I hope this report will help you.

What can you expect from Białystok? I would say that it has a lot to offer. Let's start. 😊

Before your arrival, you should get a message from your mentor. Mentor is a local student who will help you with everything you need and with all the paper work that has to be done during first days. I don't know if you heard about Erasmus Student Network (ESN). ESN is non-profit international student organisation and their main motto is "Students Helping Students". There are 2 ESNs in Białystok – ESN PB and ESN UwB. ESN PB is in charge for students of Białystok University of Technology, so if you need any help, feel free to contact them → <https://www.facebook.com/esn.bialystok/>

When it comes to public transport, you can use buses, the price of a single ticket is 1.4pln for students, if you buy the ticket in a store. But, be careful, you should have Polish student card to use the student discount. Without discount is 2.8pln. You will get your Polish student card in a week or two after your arrival. Besides Google maps, you can use this → <https://jakdojade.pl/bialystok/trasa/> to find schedule or route of the buses. Also, there is one great thing – Nextbike. It's a rent-a-bike company and bicycles can be rented on 24/7 basis from early spring to the end of autumn. You should make an account, which is super easy thing to do! You can check everything about it here → <https://bikerbialystok.pl/en/>

Okay, move on. Accommodation. You can apply to live in dormitories. The price are 500pln if you are sharing the room with someone or 550pln if you are living alone. There are 4 buildings of dormitories – Alfa, Beta, Gamma and Delta. Usually, Beta and Delta are for foreign students. I can talk about Delta. There is shared kitchen and laundry room on every floor. Two rooms (usually one single and one double room) are sharing one bathroom. The rooms are fine, classic communist style, but you can always decorate them to make them pretty for you. 😊

Food. Well, my impression is that Polish people like sweets. A lot. Everything is sweet. They don't have salty pastries in bakeries. But, you can avoid that by buying food you want in supermarkets. You can save up a lot of money if you believe in your own cooking skills. My cooking skills are still in process of improving, that's why I can tell you about some good fast food places. 😊 There are Telepizza and Mify Burgery 10 minutes on foot from the dorms. For around 15pln you can have a big meal. But have in mind that your big and my big are maybe not the same. 😊 There is also one kebab place right across the street from dorms, but I didn't try that one. There is also supermarket called Biadronka which is the cheapest one and it is 12 minutes on foot from dorms. Besides Biadronka, there are LIDL, BI1, Auchan. You can find all of these stores on Google Maps.

If you are interested in travelling, there are a lot of possibilities. Train to Warsaw is 15pln for students and it's just 2 hours ride. From Warsaw you can go anywhere in Poland. There are also good bus connections from Białystok to other countries with bus company called Ecolines. And, let's not forget about PolskiBus that has a lot of offers and one of them is a ticket for only 1pln! To be honest, I wasn't lucky enough to come across those offers, but maybe you will be!

The most interesting part of this report – PARTIES! Don't even think about drinking in public – strictly forbidden. That's why Białystok has a variety of clubs, pubs, bars, restaurants. In the beginning of the semester you can expect a lot of welcome parties organized by the ESN. Beer in bars is approximately 7pln. But, you know, you are here to study, don't forget that. 😊

If party is not your cup of tea, you can check out:
Helios cinemas → <http://www.helios.pl/26,Bialystok/StronaGlowna/> ,
ice skating rink → <http://www.miejskoaktywni.pl/s,lodowisko,12.html#/home> ,
opera and philharmonic orchestra → <http://www.oifp.eu/en/>
or Akcent Zoo → <http://atrakcjepodlasia.pl/atrakcje-dzieci/akcent-zoo-w-bialymstoku/>
In this article → <http://hasajacezajace.com/murale-w-bialymstoku/> you can find a route of the murals in Białystok. Expect to see a lot of different churches on the way.

And, let's not forget why you are here – studying! I can't help you much with this, because we will not maybe have the same professors. Every professor has its own plan and approach. So, that's individual experience. Just do your best and they will appreciate that.

Last, but not the least – do NOT cross the road on the red light. Never. Ever. 😊