

Kraków



***The Global Economic Education Alliance***

**in cooperation with**

***Innovation and Knowledge Foundation*** in Warsaw  
& the

***Center for Economic Education***

University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (UCCS)

**UCCS** University of Colorado  
Colorado Springs

**REQUEST for APPLICATION**  
**to Participate in an**  
***Economic Education Study Tour***  
**to Poland**

**May 23 – June 5, 2026**



***Application Deadline: December 31, 2025***

## ***Economic Education Study Tour to Poland***

### **I. Overview.**

- The *Global Economic Education Alliance* is offering a 14-day Study Tour to Poland for 10 – 12 schoolteachers (K-12) and economic educators from throughout the United States. The Study Tour will be led by Professor John Brock, Director of the *Center for Economic Education* at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (UCCS). Our in-country host, Katarzyna (Kasia) Jaszczuk, is the Deputy Chair of the Innovation and Knowledge Foundation in Warsaw. John and Kasia are both active members of the U.S. National Association of Economic Educators.
- This tour will provide a unique educational opportunity for teachers to exchange ideas, teaching methodology and experiences in economic education with educators from Poland as well as colleagues from other states within the U.S.
- This Study Tour to Poland is a highly effective way of learning about an economy and experiencing firsthand, not only the educational system, but also the reality of everyday life. Teachers who have participated in such international exchange often remark that it was “an experience of a lifetime.” The objective is that teachers return to their classrooms with renewed appreciation of the importance of economics and enthusiasm for economics and personal finance education. Students will ultimately gain from their teacher’s life-changing experience.
- For additional thoughts about the value of GEEA Study Tours, you are encouraged to read the Post-Study Tour teacher reflections on the GEEA website, [www.globaleconed.org](http://www.globaleconed.org).

**II. Structure.** The Study Tour is divided into three distinct phases – preparation, trip to Poland, and post-tour follow-up.

**A. Preparation.**

A preparatory program will be held for several months prior to departure. Once the tour group is selected, Professor Brock will conduct preparatory planning via electronic communication. We will discuss Study Tour logistics as well as read/discuss articles about Poland's history, culture, politics, economics and educational system.

**B. Trip to Poland.**

- ❖ Dates: Participants depart from their home airport on Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> & return home on Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. (This return date may be adjusted to June 3/4. TBD.)
- ❖ We will participate in some or all the following activities (among others):
  - Visit schools and classes at both the secondary and university level. These visits will include meetings with teachers, students, and education officials. Participants will observe how Polish educators conduct classes and manage the school.
  - Visit Poland's National Bank or Ministry of Finance to learn more about the economic situation in the country.
  - Visit cultural and historic sites in Poland, to include:
    - Old Town Gdańsk and learn about role in Solidarity Movement.
    - The capital of Warsaw, destroyed in WWII but rebuilt by the Polish people.
    - Tour Kraków & visit nearby Auschwitz-Birkenau & the Wieliczka Salt Mine.
  - Participate in a teacher economics/personal finance workshop.
    - U.S. teacher participants may be given the opportunity to conduct a lesson for the Polish teachers.

**C. Follow-up.**

- ❖ Upon returning to your respective schools, each participant is encouraged to:
  - Incorporate experiences from this program into teaching at your school. Share the experience with colleagues in your school, your school district, and/or your community (e.g., Power Point presentation with photos, video, etc.)
  - Optional: Based on your Council or Center workshop opportunities, attend a teacher workshop conducted by your local *Center for Economic Education* or state *Council for Economic Education* in the coming year to deliver a presentation about your experiences and observations in Poland.
  - Optional: Consider participating in an online exchange with a schoolteacher (and students) from Poland. While the time difference creates a significant challenge, some may figure out a way to communicate. Strictly optional and at your own initiative.
  - A GEEA Study Tour travel subsidy (between \$200) will be provided to K-12 teachers upon submission of the Post-Tour Reflection Report.
    - Submit a 1,000 word (about 3 – 4 pages with 12-point font, double space) **Post-Tour Report/Reflection** to your supporting Center/Council and to Professor Brock that summarizes the personal benefits gained from the experience, the benefits to your students, and your ideas for follow-on activities with your school, school district and/or your state Council or local *Center for Economic Education*. Consider this your reflection on the value of the Study Tour.
    - Due date: August 1, 2026

### III. Important Requirements and Miscellaneous Details.

- ❖ Applicants must currently be:
  - K-12 teachers in the United States
  - university professors of economics/personal finance
  - involved in Economic Education administration (e.g., Center or Council personnel).
- ❖ Applicants **must** have valid passports when submitting the application. A copy of the photo page of your passport must be included with your online application. Your passport should not expire for at least 6 months after the completion of our Study Tour.
  - **Please note:** Participation in a study tour can be physically taxing involving a lot of walking.
  - You may be required to carry your own luggage. You may not have baggage handlers to help you, so try very hard to **minimize luggage/weight**; large suitcases become difficult to handle, as you may have to carry up and down stairs. Ramps & elevators are sometimes not available.
  - Accommodations (**double-occupancy**) are not deluxe, but very comfortable. Be prepared to depart the hotel in the morning (sometimes early) and not have an opportunity to rest until late afternoon or early evening.
- ❖ The plan is to depart from your home airport for Warsaw on Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, likely arriving in Warsaw on May 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - **In coordination with John Brock** ([jbrock@uccs.edu](mailto:jbrock@uccs.edu)), each participant will purchase his/her own airline ticket to Warsaw (WAW). Pre-arranged taxis or a ride share (*Bolt* or *Uber*) will take participants to our hotel in Warsaw.
  - Return to U.S.: Participants should schedule the return flight to the U.S. from Warsaw (WAW) on Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. Given the time change, you should arrive home on the same day (or on June 6<sup>th</sup> for some itineraries). NOTE: We may change the return date; the final decision will be made by January 2026.
- ❖ Internet access should be available at all hotels as well as most public buildings. International calling should always work.
- ❖ It may not be easy to accommodate special dietary requirements, but our hosts will do their best to ensure diet needs are met. Be sure to let us know of any special needs.
- ❖ Each participant should purchase his/her own travel medical insurance through one of the many providers of these policies. Past Study Tour participants have been pleased with *TravelGuard*, *RoamRight*, or *Seven Corners* for their travel medical insurance.
- ❖ Breakfasts are usually provided complimentary during each hotel stay. Most lunches and some group dinners are provided with the Study Tour. Participants will be responsible for alcoholic beverages, some meals, and snacks.
- ❖ **Expense Summary:**

• Airfare: your roundtrip airfare will cost <sup>1</sup> approximately:	\$1,300.00
• In-country costs <sup>2</sup>	2,700.00
• Less: GEEA subsidy	– 200.00
• Net estimated total Study Tour cost paid by each participant	\$3,800.00

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<sup>1</sup> Current roundtrip fares are estimated to be in the \$1,000 - \$1,600 range, depending on city of U.S. departure, airline and chosen itinerary.

<sup>2</sup> Includes hotel (double occupancy), many restaurant meals including tips, local transport, trains to Gdańsk & Kraków, museum & other activity entrance fees and tour guides. Only minor personal and incidental expenditures, some meals, and tour guide tips are borne by participants.

- ❖ Applicants will receive notification of acceptance no later than January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026.
- ❖ The *Global Economic Education Alliance* will be the fiscal agent. Each participant is responsible for sending a non-refundable downpayment check of \$200 payable to the *Global Economic Education Alliance* to arrive no later than January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026. The remaining \$2,500 payment is due no later than March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Checks should be mailed to John Brock, 1334 Culebra Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903.
- ❖ Cancellation Policy: After March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026, refunds on payments made to GEEA to cover in-country expenses will be provided if GEEA is able to cancel in-country financial commitments. Only the non-refundable expenses incurred by GEEA will be charged to a participant who must cancel.
- ❖ If you have any questions, feel free to contact John Brock at [jbrock@uccs.edu](mailto:jbrock@uccs.edu).

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE<sup>3</sup>

**Teacher Study Tour to Poland, May 23 – June 5, 2026**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION IS: December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025**

- ❖ Email your **application** directly to John Brock at [jbrock@uccs.edu](mailto:jbrock@uccs.edu).
- ❖ Your application should include the following three items:
  - 1) **Descriptive Essay:** A double-spaced typewritten descriptive essay addressing the following questions (please limit to 750 – 1000 words – about 2 to 4 pages).
    - Top of the first page:
      - Name: \_\_\_\_\_
      - School: \_\_\_\_\_
      - Grade Level(s): \_\_\_\_\_
      - Courses Teaching: \_\_\_\_\_
      - Degrees and Universities:
        - Bachelor’s degree in \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_.
        - Advanced degree(s) in \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_.
    - In your essay, briefly address the following:
      - Why are you interested in participating in this teacher *Study Tour to Poland*?
      - Identify two primary goals you have for this Polish experience.
      - Describe one of your cross-cultural experiences or your international travel experiences. (Note: Previous international travel experience is **NOT** required to participate in this Study Tour.)
      - How do you plan to share your expanded knowledge and experiences from this Study Tour with your students, community, and colleagues?
  - 2) **Copy of the photo page of your passport**, which shows expiration date (and provides needed information for in-country train reservations). If you have applied for a passport or passport renewal, please provide related information.

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<sup>3</sup> The *Global Economic Education Alliance*, the University of Colorado, and all organizations involved in the Study Tour selection process shall provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

- 3) **Letter of Support:** From your state *Council for Economic Education*, your local *Center for Economic Education*, or another economic education organization with which you have interacted (e.g., *Foundation for Teaching Economics*, *Junior Achievement*), or from your school principal/administrator/department chair.

## **Background Information Teacher Study Tour to Poland**

### **Study Tour Coordinators:**

- **John Brock** is the Director, *Center for Economic Education*, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs and is President of the Board of Directors of the *Global Economic Education Alliance*. He has led fifteen study tours – two to South Africa, seven to Peru, and six to the post-Soviet region (Ukraine, Lithuania, Russia, and Estonia/Latvia/Lithuania, and the Republic of Georgia)
- **Katarzyna Jaszczuk** is the Deputy Chair of the *Innovation and Knowledge Foundation* in Warsaw. She has attended multiple national Council for Economic Education conferences and has been a co-presenter with John.

### **Why Poland?**

On this Study Tour, we spend several days in each of three major Polish cities. Gdańsk, Warsaw, and Kraków offer a mix of educational, cultural, and historical exploration. We plan to visit local schools throughout the country to engage with educators and students. In Gdańsk, we will visit the Old Town rebuilt after WWII and we will learn about the city's role in the Solidarity movement. In the capital of Warsaw, which was destroyed in WWII but meticulously rebuilt by the Polish people, meetings are planned with top officials, such as representatives from the National Bank or the Ministry of Finance. In Kraków, we will visit Auschwitz-Birkenau and the Wieliczka Salt Mine. This Study Tour fosters cross-cultural understanding, deepens historical knowledge, and enriches teaching practices through firsthand experiences in Poland.

### **Program Overview**

The study tour will include all or many of the following:

- Visits to K-12 schools.
- Visit to the National Bank or Ministry of Finance with a talk from an economist.
- Social event and/or education sessions with students.
- Participate in/conduct a lesson for economics workshop with Polish teachers.
- Meetings with school faculty.
- Visit University of Warsaw or Warsaw School of Economics for professor lecture.
- Cultural and history component to include tours of the historical city centers of Gdańsk, Warsaw, and Kraków.

As part of the study tour routine, structured group reflection and journaling or field notes will be utilized to share perspectives and to stimulate deeper learning. Participants will be asked to reflect daily on their experience as well as share their insights from the activities.

### **Benefits of Program**

- Dinner and social gatherings will provide ample opportunity for participating teachers and our hosts to explore mutual areas of interest and to exchange insights on the economic, political, and education challenges in Poland.
- Participating teachers will be better able to develop their students' understanding of our world. The program will provide teachers with first-hand knowledge of Poland and its economy. Classroom educators will be able to compare issues in both the U.S. and

Poland. Some participants may choose to incorporate their enhanced knowledge into an expanded unit or topic in a course they teach.

- Participating teachers will also be able to bring their enriched international perspective to their community and professional conferences. All are encouraged to share their experiences via a PowerPoint or video presentation at a seminar or workshop conducted by their state *Council for Economic Education* or local *Center for Economic Education*.

### **Timeline:**

#### **Pre-Decision Phase:**

**As soon as possible, but no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025:**

- Email your application to John Brock at [jbrock@uccs.edu](mailto:jbrock@uccs.edu).

**January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026:** Notified of selection; early applicants may receive early notification.

#### **Post-Selection/Preparation Phase:**

**January 31:** Deadline for receipt of \$200 non-refundable check made payable to the *Global Economic Education Alliance* to John Brock, 1334 Culebra Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

**January 31 – April 30:** Airline tickets purchased by participants; **before finalizing purchase get approval from John Brock; then provide John with final itinerary.**

**March 14:** Deadline for receipt of \$2,500 made payable to the *Global Economic Education Alliance* to John Brock. Mail to: John Brock, 1334 Culebra Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903.

**January 31 – May 22:** Preparation for the Tour via electronic communication, readings, and Zoom meetings.

#### **Study Tour/Trip Phase (approximate trip agenda):**

**May 23:** Depart home airport for Warsaw, Poland (WAW airport code)

**May 24:** Arrive Warsaw Airport. Pre-arranged taxi (or John meet you at WAW to arrange *Bolt*) to the hotel in Warsaw.

**May 24 - 26:** Warsaw portion of tour to likely include: School visits, museum & city tours, Ministry of Finance/National Bank visit, economics workshop with Georgian teachers, etc.

**May 27:** Train to Gdańsk.

**May 27 - 29:** Gdańsk including Old Town tour.

**May 30:** Train to Kraków

**May 30 – Jun 2:** Kraków portion to include visits to Auschwitz-Birkenau and the Wieliczka Salt Mine.

**Jun 3:** Train to Warsaw.

**Jun 4:** Corpus Christi celebration in Poland

**Jun 5:** Flights to USA and likely same day arrival.

#### **Study Tour Follow-up Phase:**

**Following Study Tour:** Implement plan to share experiences with students, colleagues, Council/Center, etc.

**August 1, 2025:** Deadline for K-12 teachers to submit Post-Tour Report to Professor Brock and to your supporting Council/Center/recommender. GEEA \$200 subsidy check to follow.