

Police Academy in Szczytno



Szczytno is situated in Warmia and Mazury Province, 50 km away from Olsztyn, which is the capital of the region. The town and its surroundings are famous for the characteristic forms of the Masurian landscape – numerous lakes and forests. Every year Szczytno attracts a lot of tourists, who come here to escape from the hustle and bustle of the city life. And it is just here, in this picturesquely situated town, that the Police Academy – the only school of this type in Poland - is based.

History

The beginnings of the Police Academy in Szczytno date back to 1954. It was then that the School for Citizens' Militia Officers was founded. In the first years of its existence the School struggled with many difficulties. Taken over from the army, its buildings required immediate renovation. Thanks to the work and investments by its successive commandants, the Academy is nowadays one of the best equipped educational facilities for police officers in Poland. The biggest problem of the school, however, were not the run-down buildings but understaffing. At the beginning of its operation, the school employed not even 60 commissioned officers and more than 10 non-commissioned ones. Today, it employs over 600 persons. Due to the staffing problems, until 1958 the school functioned as the Citizens' Militia Training Centre. Since 1972 it has been renamed three times. First, its name was changed to the Higher Militia School of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, then to the Public Order Department of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and finally in 1990 to the Police Academy in Szczytno.

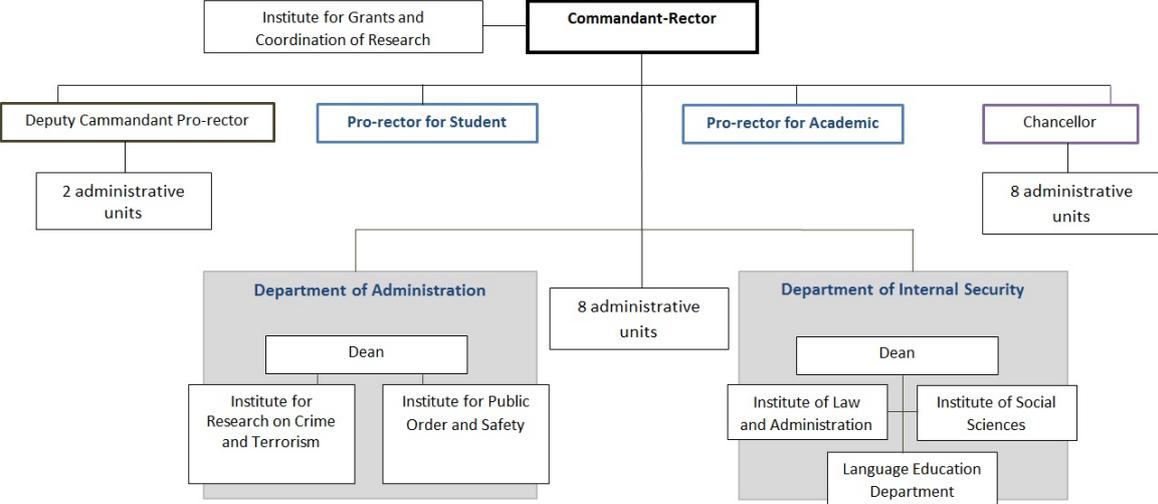


Organisational structure

The Police Academy in Szczytno is part of the Polish police education system. It performs a significant role in training police executive and commanding staff. The Academy is headed by the Commandant-Rector, who has a representative function and who directly supervises such administrative units as the Rector's Office, Personnel Department, Control Unit and Legal Assistance Unit. The Deputy Commandant Pro-rector exercises direct control over the Command Unit and the Department of Professional Development and Training Management. The Chancellor is responsible for financial affairs.

The Police Academy offers two fields of studies: the Department of Administration and Internal Security, both of which are headed by a Dean.

The chart below shows the Academy organizational structure in detail.



Campus

The Academy facilities are situated in the protected area of more than 33ha, among which there are the following: teaching, administrative and utility facilities, student hostels, a hotel for visitors, a conference centre with a cinema hall, library, shooting range and sports facilities (sports fields, tennis courts, a swimming pool and a gym).



The Academy possesses over 90 teaching halls with modern audiovisual and specialist equipment. Among others these are:

- simulator for driving priority vehicles in non-emergency and emergency situations,
- simulator of police operations in emergency situations
- specialist laboratories including criminal analysis laboratory, foreign languages lab and cyber-crime laboratory,
- conference hall with full equipment for simultaneous translation,
- Police Academy Simulation Centre (a facility for attending road traffic incidents and providing first aid to accident casualties, a shop, a bar and a flat).



Education

The Police Academy has a 60-year experience in teaching law enforcement officers in Poland. It is the only Polish educational institution of the kind which offers training to police executives and high-class commissioned-officers. Its students acquire knowledge and develop skills in legal sciences (e.g. constitutional, administrative, criminal and civil law, and criminology), humanities and social sciences (e.g. psychology, sociology, professional ethics), as well as police-related subjects (such as: uniform police tactics, crime control tactics, road traffic safety).

Every year, the Police Academy organizes numerous and popular conferences, seminars, symposia and workshops, which are a significant forum for exchange of experience and knowledge between representatives of national and foreign institutions of higher education.

A significant contribution to these undertakings is also made by experienced teachers, instructors and officers from other uniformed services responsible for the state security and cooperating with the police on day-to-day basis.

Internal Security Department

Internal Security Department offers first and second degree studies as well as postgraduate studies in the field of 'Internal security'. The department is entitled to confer a doctoral degree in security sciences.

The department includes:

- Institute for Public Order and Safety, which covers, among others, such educational issues as basic police powers, crime prevention, security in public communication, road traffic safety, information technology, communications systems, crisis management, protection of persons, property, facilities and premises, self-defence and first aid.
- Institute for Research on Crime and Terrorism, which covers, among others, such educational issues as tactics for combatting organised crime, corruption, terrorism and cybercrime, criminal analysis, investigative techniques, forensic science, medicine and psychiatry.

The department's chief asset is its well-experienced academic and teaching staff. The department employs a considerably big number of independent academics with significant scientific achievements in security sciences and teachers with unique, on the national level, long-standing experience in the police. Moreover, the institutes regularly cooperate with national police units, National Police Headquarters, Police Central Bureau of Investigation, Border Guard, Customs Offices, Internal Security Agency, Central Anti-Corruption Bureau and other services and universities in Poland and abroad.

Department of Administration

Department of Administration offers first degree studies in the field of 'Administration' and 'Criminology'.

The department includes:

- Institute of Law and Administration, whose aim is to prepare police officers comprehensively to their work at the police units. Employees of the institute conduct numerous trainings and courses for police managerial staff, for officers conducting preparatory proceedings, for officers of operational and reckon service, and officers dealing with organized crime. They also give legal advice to the residents of Szczytno. Since 2008 'The Legal Sciences Club' functioned at the Institute and its aim is to acquire and expand the knowledge of its members. Employees of Institute of Law and Administration are active in the publishing area and their articles and course books are published in both, Polish and foreign literature.
- Institute of Social Sciences, whose priority is to educate police managerial staff and to promote and implement modern methods of management in the police, including quality management. The institute's offer includes: postgraduate studies in the field of unit management in public administration; a professional development course for commandants of regional police headquarters in the area of selected aspects of police unit management, as well as professional development courses for commandants of city/town police headquarters, county police headquarters and district police headquarters. Rich in knowledge and experience Institute of Social Sciences serves as an analytic and consulting supply base for National Police Headquarters, as well as for all police units in the country.

Specialist training courses for police officers

The organization and implementation of vocational training and specialist courses are the responsibility of the Department of Professional Development and Training Management. In its educational offer, the Police Academy has almost 100 various courses addressed to police officers from different branches, e.g. criminal investigation, uniformed branch and traffic department.

Cooperation with universities and police units in Poland

The Police Academy in Szczytno is a highly regarded training centre for police officers from Poland and abroad. It cooperates on regular basis with other Polish higher education civilian institutions, e.g.: Warsaw University or University of Warmia and Mazury, as well as with institutions run by other uniformed services, e.g. National Defence Academy, Naval Academy

in Gdynia, or Academy of Air Forces in Demblin. This cooperation enables exchange of knowledge and experience between the Schools' academics.

Another function of the Academy is performed by its Police Information Centre, which gives comprehensive advice and assistance to various police units and other state institutions and local authorities in specialist branches of knowledge relevant to police work, as well as promotes information essential for solving specific problems in police units. The PIC closely cooperates with the Legal Advice Bureau and other bureaus at the National Police Headquarters, as well as with all the teaching and support units at the Academy.

International cooperation

An important aspect of the Academy's operation is establishing and maintaining contacts with foreign police schools and academies. Nowadays, the Academy cooperates with police forces from such countries as Germany, France, Hungary, Russia, Ukraine, the USA or the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

As the only police school in Poland, since 2003 it has been a member of The Association of European Police Colleges (AEPC) and has been actively involved in numerous undertakings as part of the College of European Police (CEPOL). The Academy has also joined the European Police Learning Net (EPLN).

If you want to find out more information about the Police Academy in Szczytno, you are welcome to visit our internet website <http://www.wspol.eu/en/>.