RESIDENCE LEGALISATION GDAŃSK / PERMANENT RESIDENCE / 2026

Permanent residence in Gdańsk: who can apply and which documents to prepare

A permanent residence permit is indefinite, but it is available only to categories of foreigners specified in the Act. Long residence in Poland alone is not enough. This guide helps you identify the right basis and prepare the documents.

Layer 1. In brief

- A permanent residence permit is granted by the voivode competent for the place of stay (in Gdańsk: the Pomeranian voivode). The appellate authority is the Head of the Office for Foreigners.
- The application is filed through MOS, during legal stay in Poland. Filing from abroad is not permitted.
- The stamp duty for granting the permit is PLN 640. It is not charged to foreigners who were granted asylum in Poland, holders of a valid Pole's Card, or UK citizens who are so-called Brexit beneficiaries (posted workers).
- After the permit is granted, a residence card is issued for 10 years; the next one on application, also for 10 years. The permit itself remains valid indefinitely.
- Time limit for deciding the application: up to 6 months from filing a complete application with annexes and documents.

Locally in Gdańsk. Residence cases are handled by the Foreigners Department of the Pomeranian Voivodeship Office, ul. Okopowa 21/27, 80-810 Gdańsk. Office helpline: 222 500 134 (working days, 7:45–15:45 Tuesday to Friday, until 18:00 on Mondays). Current information: Foreigners' affairs at the Voivodeship Office and wsc.gdansk.uw.gov.pl.

Layer 2. Who can apply for permanent residence

According to the MOS portal, the permit is available to foreigners belonging to one of the categories listed in the Act. The most common ones are below.

Spouse of a Polish citizen	A marriage recognised by Polish law lasting at least 3 years before the application, and directly before the application at least 2 years of uninterrupted stay in Poland on the basis of a temporary residence permit granted in connection with that marriage (or in connection with refugee status, subsidiary protection or consent to stay on humanitarian grounds). The authority also determines whether the marriage was not entered into to circumvent the rules.
Polish origin	A declaration of Polish nationality, at least one parent or grandparent or two great-grandparents of Polish nationality, proof of a link with Polishness and an intention to settle in Poland permanently.
Holder of a Pole's Card	A valid Pole's Card and an intention to settle in Poland permanently. No stamp duty is charged.
Child of a Polish citizen	A minor child under the parental authority of a Polish citizen.

Child of a foreigner with a permanent or EU long-term resident permit	A child under the parental authority of such a foreigner, born after the parent was granted the permit or during the validity of the parent's temporary residence permit (and other cases indicated on MOS).
International protection and national forms of protection	Uninterrupted stay of at least 5 years in connection with refugee status, subsidiary protection or consent to stay on humanitarian grounds; 10 years on the basis of consent to tolerated stay (Art. 351 points 1 or 3 of the Act on Foreigners).
Victim of human trafficking	At least 1 year of stay on the basis of a permit for victims of human trafficking, cooperation with law enforcement and a well-founded fear of return.
Asylee	A foreigner who has been granted asylum in Poland.

Permanent residence vs EU resident
A permanent residence permit is not the same as an EU long-term resident permit. The latter is based on EU law and requires, among other things, 5 years of stay, income, insurance and knowledge of Polish (see the "EU Resident" document). A permanent residence permit expires on the day EU long-term resident status or Polish citizenship is acquired.

What "uninterrupted stay" means

- No single break in stay may be longer than 6 months, and all breaks together may not exceed 10 months in the period forming the basis of the permit (e.g. in 2 years for a spouse).
- Justified breaks that do not interrupt stay: work outside Poland under a contract with an employer whose registered office is in Poland (also accompanying spouse or minor child), a particular personal situation of up to 6 months, internships or classes provided for in studies at a Polish university (e.g. Erasmus).
- Leaving Poland for more than 6 years is one of the grounds for revoking a permanent residence permit.

Layer 3. Documents and procedure

The application in MOS

- The permanent residence application form completed in Polish and signed via login.gov.pl (trusted profile, personal signature or qualified signature). A representative does not sign the application.
- A scan of all pages of a valid travel document (PDF) and a current digital photograph (JPG).
- You can attach proof of stamp duty right away; if not, the voivode will summon you to pay within 7–14 days, otherwise the application will be returned.
- After sending, download the UPO. The application is not filed without the confirmation of receipt.

Evidence depending on the basis

Spouse of a Polish citizen	A current marriage certificate (in case of doubt the voivode may require an apostille or legalisation), a copy of the spouse's ID card, documents confirming uninterrupted stay or the reasons for breaks.
Polish origin	A declaration of intention to settle permanently and documents under Art. 5(1) and Art. 6(1) and (2) of the Repatriation Act (e.g. Polish identity documents, civil status records, baptismal certificates, documents on military service or deportation with an entry of Polish nationality).

Pole's Card	A copy of the valid Pole's Card (original to be shown) and a declaration of intention to settle permanently.
Child	The child's birth certificate and the parent's documents: a copy of the ID card (parent is a Polish citizen) or a copy of the permanent residence or EU resident decision (parent is a foreigner).
Protection	The decision granting status or consent, and documents confirming uninterrupted stay.

Documents are submitted as originals or as copies certified by a notary or by a representative who is an advocate or legal adviser; certification can also be made by an authorised employee of the voivodeship office after the original is shown. Foreign-language documents require a sworn translation into Polish. They must be current on the date the decision is issued. The voivode's summons sets a deadline of at least 14 days for delivering them.

The visit to the office

After the application is sent, the voivode summons you to a visit (no earlier than 7 days after the summons is delivered). You show the original travel document and give fingerprints and a specimen signature. Exempt, among others, are children under 6 (visit and fingerprints; a parent or guardian presents the child's travel document) and, from the specimen signature, children under 13. If illness or disability prevents you from appearing, a medical certificate from a specialist issued no earlier than 3 months before filing is required.

Stamp duty for the permit	For permanent residence it is PLN 640 (exemptions: asylees, holders of a valid Pole's Card, Brexit beneficiaries). Account according to the Voivodeship Office: Urząd Miejski w Gdańsku, 31 1240 1268 1111 0010 3877 3935. Payment title (in Polish): "opłata za zezwolenie na pobyt czasowy/stały/rezydenta długoterminowego UE oraz imię i nazwisko wnioskodawcy".
Fee for issuing the residence card	Payable only after you receive the permit decision (there is no obligation to pay earlier). Account according to the Voivodeship Office: Pomorski Urząd Wojewódzki w Gdańsku, 07 1010 1140 0169 1322 3100 0000. Payment title (in Polish): "opłata za wydanie karty pobytu oraz imię i nazwisko wnioskodawcy".
Before you pay	Take account numbers and payment titles only from the current Voivodeship Office page: Fees for applications. The data may change.

Layer 4. Refusal, appeal and official sources

- Refusal to initiate proceedings occurs, among other cases, where the foreigner stays in Poland illegally or is outside Poland on the day of filing. It takes the form of a decision against which a complaint can be lodged.
- A refusal decision can be appealed to the Head of UdSC within 14 days, in writing, through the voivode (not via MOS). The appeal should be decided within 90 days.
- After a refusal decision, if you have no other basis of stay, you have 30 days to leave Poland from the day the decision became final.

- MOS: permanent residence permit (requirements, documents, fee)
- MOS portal
- MOS: questions and answers
- Pomeranian Voivodeship Office: foreigners' affairs

- Pomeranian Voivodeship Office: fees for applications
- Foreigners Department in Gdańsk (wsc.gdansk.uw.gov.pl)
- MOS: residence card
- Office for Foreigners: new version of the MOS portal

> Questions about your case: **wniosek@legalizacja-pobytu-gdansk.pl**. The legalizacja-pobytu-gdansk.pl service is an independent support team, not a state website.

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