



About the congress

The Congress of Polish Student Societies in the United Kingdom is the largest annual initiative uniting Polish students in the UK. The event principally aims to bring together Polish students to discuss current matters pertinent to Polish politics, business, economics, culture and education. The Congress is however equally known for its social dimension of networking and serving as a forum for exchanging experiences and ideas for the future development of Polish student societies in the UK. The principle at the heart of our work – to forge the leaders of tomorrow and promote Polish culture – makes the Congress a unique cultural experience for both Polish and foreign guests.

Previous guests

Over the years we have had the pleasure of hosting speakers such as former President of Poland Aleksander Kwasniewski, Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs Radosław Sikorski, European Commissioner Danuta Hubner, Oxford professor of political philosophy Zbigniew Pelczynski and historian Timothy Garton Ash.

History

Since its launch in 2007, the annual Congress has in turn been hosted by students at the universities of Oxford (2008, 2014), London (2009), Glasgow (2010), Cambridge (2011), Edinburgh (2012), Warwick (2013). The Congress has been organised under the indispensable patronage of institutions such as the Office of the President of Poland, the European Commission, and the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Group photo of participants of the VII Congress in Oxford.

The delegates

The delegates present at the Congress are the brightest of Polish students from various areas and with different interests, such as politics, philosophy, economy, science and arts, and at different stages of education.



Ruskin Library, Lancaster University.

The Lancaster University Polish Student Society,

established in 2011, has become one of the fastest growing Polish Societies in the UK. Amongst its achievements are organisation of the "Education, Employability, Empowerment" Summit in 2013, for which the society was awarded "Student Project of the Year" by Lancaster University, and pursuing several community projects in Northern England. For its whole activity the society was also nominated for "society of the year" award.

The VIII Congress

The 8th edition of the Congress of the Polish Student Societies in the United Kingdom will take place in Lancaster and Manchester – for the first time the Congress will be held in the North of England. The Congress will last from 19th to 22nd February 2015. Most of the conference will be taking place in Lancaster, while on Saturday delegates will be transported to Manchester.

The congresses usually attract up to 300 delegates and we wish to uphold this tradition.

Theme

The overarching theme of the Congress will be "European leaders – facing global challenges". We wish to evaluate the issues of European security, future of the European Union, demographic challenges to the economy, as well as role of science and innovation. We would like the guest of the Congress, being leading authorities in different areas of public life, to pass on valuable knowledge to the delegates — the leaders of the future.



Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland, Radosław Sikorski, giving a keynote speech at the VII Congress in Oxford.

The University of Manchester Polish Student Society

was established in 2004 after the merger of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology and the Victoria University of Manchester to support the growth of interest in Polish culture. The society unites Polish students studying at The University of Manchester and also engages with non-Polish members. It collaborates with the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Manchester. The society is also currently involved in a project aiming to unite Polish academic community in the North of England.

Summary of aims

- *To enhance collaboration of students assembled in the Federation of Polish Student Societies in the United Kingdom.*
- *To initiate collaboration between Polish students and organizations (NGO, think tanks) and companies running their business in the UK and Poland.*
- *To promote positive image of Poland and Polish citizens abroad.*
- *To help students understand the crucial problems and challenges of modern Europe.*
- *To discuss the problems of Poles in the UK and the role Polish students in solving these issues.*
- *To highlight achievements of Poles in areas such as science, technology, culture and sport.*
- *To promote the University of Manchester and Lancaster University.*



University of Manchester

Preliminary agenda — *subject to changes*

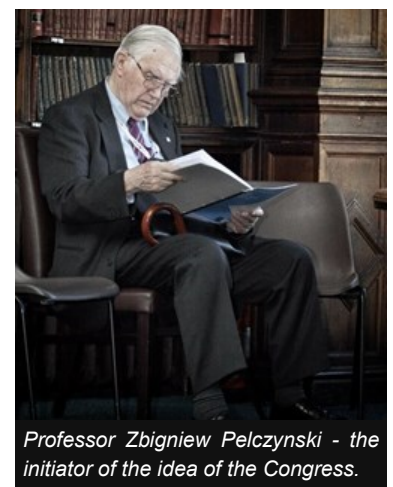
Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Morning Coffee + Registration	Assembly	
	9:00-9:45 a.m.	8:30	
	Opening Ceremony	Transfer to Manchester	
	10:00-10:30 a.m.	9:00	
	Economic Panel	Morning coffee and breakfast in Manchester	Morning Coffee
	10:30-11:30	10:20-11:00	10:00-10:30
	Sponsor's presentation	Opening Ceremony	Morning Panel
	11:30-11:45	11:00-11:15	10:30-11:30
	Lunch Break	Keynote address — Future of EU	Debating Panel
	11:45-13:15	11:15-12:15	11:30-12:15
	Keynote address- security	Debating panel- Future of EU	Lunch
	13:15-14:15	12:15-13:00	12:15-13:00
	Debating panel- security	Lunch Break	VIII Congress - White Paper Debate
	14:15-15:15	13:00-14:15	13:00-15:00
	Coffee Break	Sponsor's presentation	Break
	15:15-16:00	14:15-14:30	15:00-16:00
Registration	Debating Panel- innovations	Debating panel- science	Federation of Polish Student Societies - organisational meeting
16:00-20:00	16:00-17:00	14:30-15:30	16:00-16:20
Workshop	Break	Debating panel- culture	Presenting the host of the IX Congress (2016)
18:00-20:00	17:00-19:00	15:30-16:30	16:20-16:30
Opening	Banquet for sponsors, speakers and pre-selected delegates	Break	Closing Ceremony
Social event	17:30-19:00	16:30-17:00	16:30-16:40
20:00-24:00	Social event	Banquet and jazz concert	
	19:00-23:00	17:00-19:00	
		Return to Lancaster	
		19:30	
		Evening social event	
		23:00-late	

Media Coverage

The Congress has had extensive media coverage. Apart from local media, e.g. university radio and television, we are in contact with Polish newspapers. Due to the high profile of keynote speakers, each year the Congress is mentioned in Polish TV news bulletins that can reach millions of viewers.



Democracy in action — presentation of the Congress host candidates before the elections



Professor Zbigniew Pelczynski - the initiator of the idea of the Congress.

Previous Congresses



I Congress, Oxford 2008



III Congress, Glasgow 2010



IV Congress, Cambridge 2011



V Congress, Edinburgh 2012



VI Congress, Warwick 2013



VII Congress, Oxford 2014



The Federation of Polish Student Societies in the UK

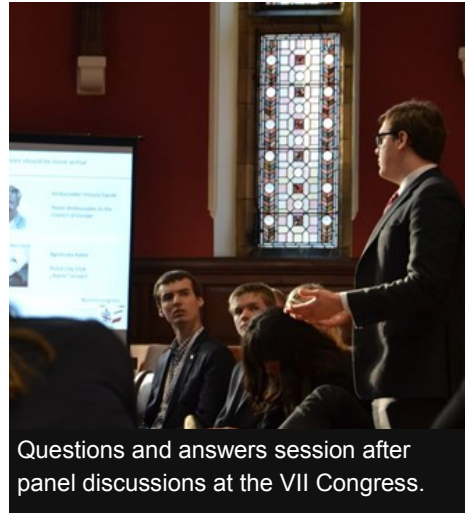
The Federation of Polish Student Societies is a non-profit organisation that assembles over 30 Polish Student Societies and over two thousand Polish students at universities in the UK. The main aim of the Federation is to foster cooperation between Polish Student Societies in the UK by providing guidance to local and nationwide initiatives and representing the interest of Polish students in the UK on the national and international level. The Federation was established at the VI Congress of Polish



Map showing Polish Societies assembled in the Federation of Polish Student Societies



President of the Republic of Poland Bronisław Komorowski presents the President of the Federation of Polish Student Societies in the United Kingdom Krzysztof Bar with a flag during the celebrations of the Flag Day, 2nd May 2014



Questions and answers session after panel discussions at the VII Congress.

LETTER from the organisation committee

We appreciate that you took time to read our information booklet. We are going to do our best to make the VIII Congress of Polish Student Societies an unforgettable experience for the delegates, guests and partners.

We hope that our booklet convinced you that the project is worth your interest.

Your support will help our initiative to thrive, as it has for the last few years, which is best reflected by the growing number of participants at each year's edition of the Congress.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at: info@polishcongress.com. We also encourage to visit our website: www.polishcongress.org.

Yours sincerely

The Organising Committee

Tobiasz Jankowski

Lancaster University
Polish Society

Ksawery Lisinski

Federation of Polish
Student Societies in the UK

Wojciech Zawodny

Manchester University
Polish Society



lancaster university polish society



Contact Us

*The Organising
Committee*

Lancaster, Manchester
United Kingdom

info@polishcongress.com

visit us on the web at
www.polishcongress.org.