

University of Gdańsk, our academic friend in Poland.

John P. Dunn, History, VSU.



"Your path is through the sea." UG is very focused on connecting with the greater world.

An interesting article on the history of UG's motto... http://armaria.info/?p=205.

Some UG factoids...

- UG has 1700 teaching personnel.
- Over 25,000 students.
- A large central campus in the Oliwa district, plus several branches in other parts of Gdańsk, Sopot, and Gdynia.
- The History Department is very large, 1150 students in 2021, with options for BA, MA, Ph.D.
- VSU students can join the American Studies program, where all classes are offered in English, and U.S. history is very well covered.

UG's place in History.

- Here is a video on the university's first fifty years, it is mainly images, with brief Polish sub-titles. You'll get most of what is being portrayed even if you can't read Polish.
 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52np5TtSZjE&t=12s
- UG has its own museum...<u>https://muzeauczelniane.pl/en/museum-of-the-university-of-gdansk/</u>.





Anew university with a lot history.

- UG was born in 1970 the year a sharp increase in food prices led to nation-wide protests across Poland.
- Gdańsk was no exception, and within a decade, gave birth to the Solidarity Movement.
- UG students, faculty, and administrators were part of this story.
- Robert Głębocki, the university's second rector, was dismissed for his support of Solidarity in 1982; three years later, another Rector, Karol Taylor, lost his position for demanding an investigation for the police murder of Marcin Antonowicz.
- The student was beaten to death after presenting a UG student ID – considered evidence enough that he was a troublemaker.

https://ug.edu.pl/news/en/808/university-gdansk-remembers-marcin.







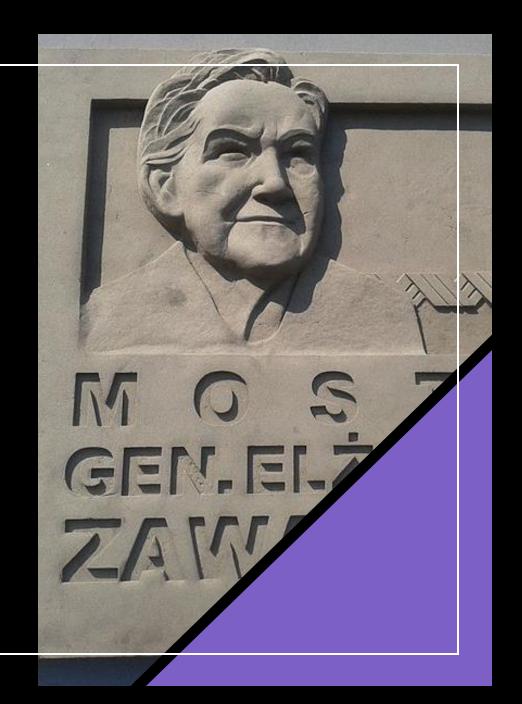
UG produced prominent politicians and retained famous historians.

Trick Question...why not call it *Uniwersytet Bałtycki*?

- When plans were approved for a Gdańsk based university, the first name suggested was University of the Baltic, abbreviated as UB.
- No dice! UB was also the abbreviation for a much-disliked force of security police *Urząd Bezpieczeństwa*.
- To learn more about UG history, see Prof. Marek Andrzejewski's article, translated into English...https://en.ug.edu.pl/university/history.

Famous UG professors include Elżbieta Zawacka (1909-2009).

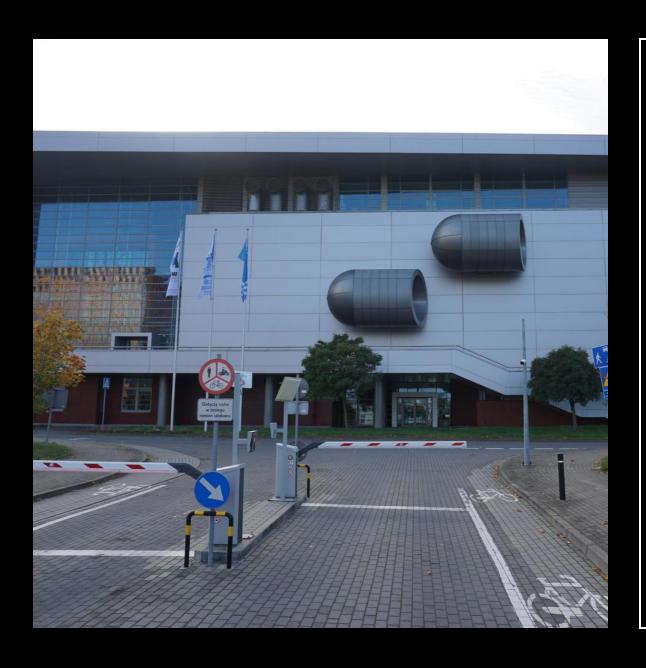
- Professor of Humanities at UG, and second woman to reach general officer status in Poland's military, plus the only woman to become a Cichociemni.
- The latter, precursors of today's special forces, sent her as a courier across Nazi lines over 100 times. She also fought in the Warsaw Rising (1944).
- Communist Poland rewarded her services with jail time and job problems.
- She collected "illegal" history in the 1960s-70s, then worked with Solidarity in the 1980s.



Meeting of the Senate on UG's 45th birthday.



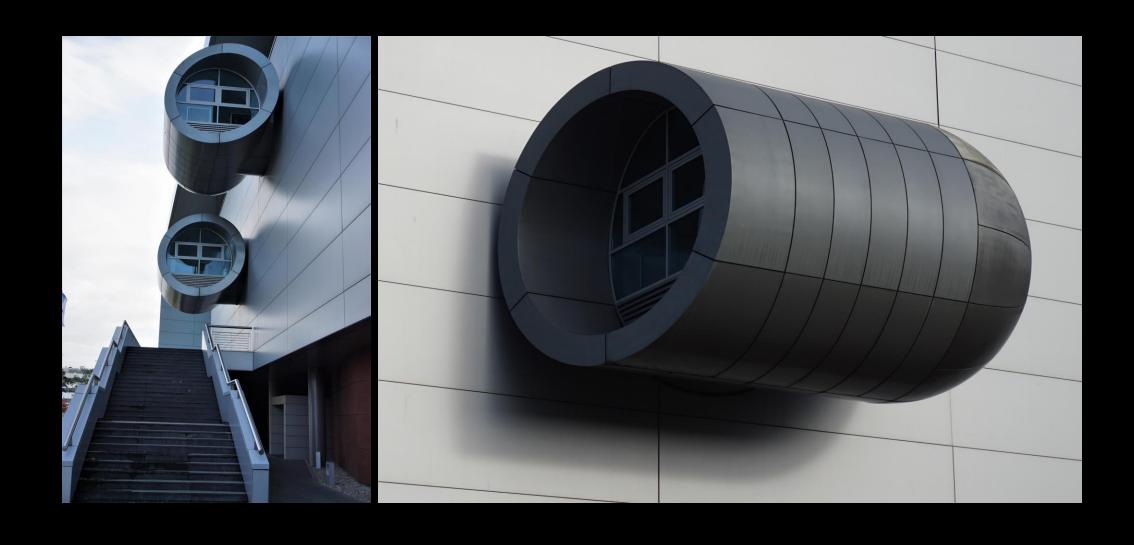
- Seven years later I attended first day of classes for UG History Department, where faculty wore these robes.
- The rector used his mace to "knight" newly graduated PhDs.
- Many students attended, and a paper was delivered on megalithic stone circles in Central Europe – nearly 2 hours for all, and only one person left!



Let's take a stroll from the main entrance.

 Useful place to remember if you have an apartment on campus and are coming home after 10:00 PM – the only way to easily get back in!

Did you notice the study pods?







UG main library, completed in 2006, designed to radiate "tech" aesthetic.

- You can request one of the six "study pods," but I was warned their steam punk coolness can be offset by less than perfect insulation on cold days.
- Rest assured UG does respect the BUG (Library) Director...

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Near the library, many enjoy a walk through the Eko Park.











ŚCIEŻKA GEOLOGICZNA – GŁAZY NARZUTOWE 5 tablica 1



















...which allows profs to create teaching moments.



...and
watering
stations for
birds.

Large numbers of sea gulls, crows, and pigeons appear every day.



As you walk, you'll note lots of glass...



...which creates plenty of reflection.



You also see good promotion.
Let's look at Biology.





Some departments even have their own museums!







Check out *Oceanograf II*, which explores the Arctic, but also takes UG students to visit Baltic Seals near Hel. A short video...https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PhKOJSRtQI.





Our favorite department, History, is also very cool.

- They have 1150 majors, 85 teachers, and are large enough to merit a Dean -Arkadiusz Janicki – a specialist in 18th Century Poland and Russia.
- Not just an admin type, he publishes, presents, and attends faculty productions.
- An official link...https://en.ug.edu.pl/faculties/4124 7.



The walls are festooned with class notices, conference options, and publications.

One office may look a bit familiar, belonging to our first Polish Louis Brown scholar.





Practicalities.

- Getting around via public transport.
- Accommodations.
- Polish money.
- Where to eat.
- Things to do.

Accommodations on or near UG.

- In 2021, I was on campus, in a one-bedroom, 1.5 bath university apartment. It was less than five minutes from the History Department or the library.
- My only disappointment was lack of washer and dryer in the building.
- Students live next to the campus in dorms.
- During our 2017 study abroad, we stayed in one set of dorms near Old Town – these were efficiency apartments – older, but clean and very nice location. These had a washer/dryer for clothing.
- Also, near main campus, several hotel options, and Villa Lena – which housed the 2018 study abroad group and offered nice rooms plus a wonderful breakfast.





Polish money.

- Polish money is a combination of coins and banknotes.
- There are 100 grosz in 1 złoty (zł.)
- In Fall 2021, a złoty was worth 25 cents.
- Coins range from tiny 1 grosz to 5 zł.
 Banknotes come in 10 zł., 20 zł., 50 zł.,
 100 zł, 200 zł, and 500 zł. The current
 finance minister is talking about a 1000 zł!
- A history of Polish currency...https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QRPiY77XkEo.



Spending money...

- It is useful to have small change in coin and notes, as not all shops will be able to break a 200 or 500 zł. Banknote.
- Almost every restaurant and store is set up to take credit cards ("karta").
- For small purchases some shops will charge a few cents for your bag.
- You might contact your bank to see if they need notification of your trip in order to successfully use your "karta" in Poland.
- You'll also get asked if you would like your bill charged in złoty or dollars. Going with złoty saves unnecessary conversion fees.
- UG has an on-campus ATM, which provided all the cash I needed. Again, check with your bank to see if they need notification of travel.
- If you bring US dollars, you can exchange these at a Kantor, the one depicted is in the Forum Mall.







Many possibilities for getting to and from UG.

- Lots of walking options, plus dedicated bike paths on all major roads, and ubiquitous electric scooters to rent.
- Compared to America, taxis are very reasonable. Uber is also an option.
- A tri-city train stop is five-minutes by walking. A fare was slightly less than \$2 in 2021.
- Best deal is a pass for the tram and bus service. One month was under \$60 in 2021.
- University has two tram stops with covered waiting area and maps.
- The tram has a monitor that shows you each stop.





Next to campus, a good place to eat, or get a coffee, then a few more very close.





Food options...

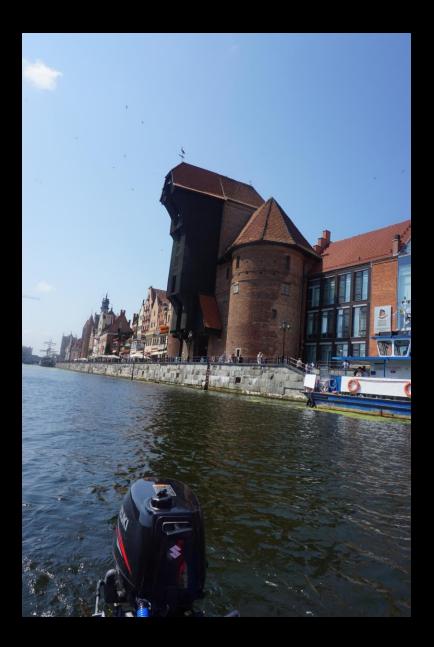
- There are many restaurant options, ranging from 5 star to hamburger joints. VSU students claimed the best hamburgers they ever consumed were in nearby Oliwa – which also has a Cat Café!
- Cost can be reasonable I had a very good thin crust chesse pizza, a bottle of mineral water and complimentary olives for \$8 in touristy Old Town. For a short tram ride, Akademicki Bar Mieczny maintains the milk bar tradition of good food and low prices
- There is a very friendly restaurant, Manekin, right next to campus students and faculty eat there often.
- In less than a ten-minute walk, there is a large grocery store, several bakeries, and of course, two of the 5,000 Żabka convenience stores across Poland. These are more expensive than the grocery stores, but the selection is superior to what you would expect from 7-11.



Things to see!

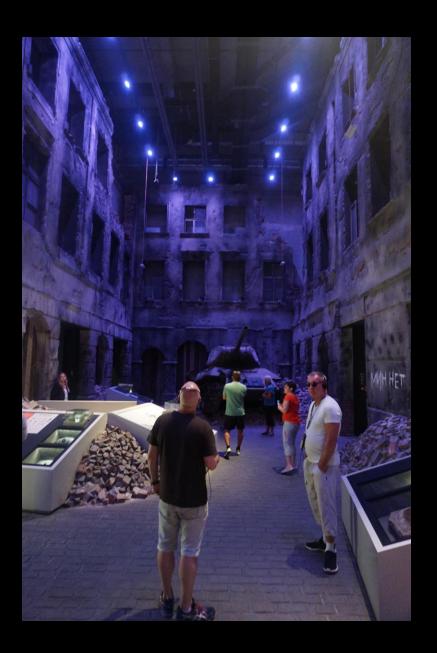
- In a city packed with history dating back to 900 AD, you almost have too many choices.
- Most are close to UG by public transport, and once at your destination, lots of walking options.
- I'll follow this slide with a few photos, but suggest you think of what you'd like to do and search out possibilities.
- I was often invited to participate in UG functions, and our friends in the History were always offering interesting opportunities.
- Come see me if you have questions.





































UG is a gateway to interesting opportunities... think about it!