

Frequently Asked Questions

2026

1. Who can apply?

1.1. I am under 18 years of age. Can I apply?

Unfortunately, you need to be over 18. However, do not worry, there will be next editions of VSS ☺

1.2. Should I be an enrolled student?

You do not need. You may be as well already working or in transition between jobs.

2. What are the entry requirements for applicant?

2.1. What is the application deadline?

5 April 2026, midnight, 23:59 CET.

2.2. What documents do I need to submit with my application?

We strongly recommend adding CV and recommendation(s), but the content in the application is the most important part. You can add your CV and recommendations directly to the application form by logging in to it from your Google account.

If you do not have a Google account, complete the application form without attachments and then send us attachments (CV and recommendations) by e-mail: summerschool@villa.org.pl.

Please note that recommendation letters must be either professional, issued by a current or former employer or internship supervisor, and or academic, issued by a university professor or academic advisor. Each letter should be signed and include the referee's full name, position, institutional affiliation.

There is no mandatory CV template. You may submit your CV in your preferred format, including Europass. However, it should not exceed two pages and should clearly present your educational background, professional experience and relevant competencies. We recommend to provide no more than 10 pages of such attachment.

2.3. Is there an application fee?

There is a recruitment fee which is paid after acceptance to VSS. It is also a means of confirmation of your participation. After results are published, any accepted person should make a transfer in the **amount 155 EURO**.

If your nationality is not included in the list of eligible countries, the recruitment fee amounts to **350 EUR**. The list of eligible countries is available here: <https://visegradsummerschool.org/how-to-apply-2024>)

2.4. What are the English language requirements?

We expect a very good command of spoken and written language. That is the guaranty you will be able to benefit with the programme.

2.5. Do I need to take a language test?

No. We believe, that You will be responsible person and will not lie in the application. You need to feel comfortable on VSS, that is why you need to speak English very well.

3. Post-application period

3.1. How long will it take until I know if I've been accepted?

1st round of results will be published no later than 1st week of May. Then, depending on the confirmation from accepted participants and resignations (or lack of reply), we will be publishing next lists (each week).

3.2. How will I be notified about the outcome of my application?

You will receive an email to address you used while applying, and two additional notifications on the third and fifth day from results.

4. Fees

***Ukrainian citizens are exempt from paying the participation fee.**

4.1. Is there any fee and when should I pay it?

Recruitment fee in the amount of 150 euro should be paid as soon as possible after getting the acceptance information. First list will be published at the beginning of May, and then updated each week.

4.2. May I apply for the refund?

Recruitment fee can be invoiced to your employer or home university. If such solution cannot be applied and you need support, put it as an additional information in cover letter. VSS is life changing project and VDA and VSS team are trying to provide you with as many opportunities as possible. In such situation it is possible to get a refund basing on your application, motivation and personal situation (usually 1 person gets such benefit).

4.3. Can I pay by credit card?

Unfortunately, no. You can do it via bank transfer. However, if for some reason it is not possible – contact with us, we will manage to find fitting solution.

4.4. Will I get a refund if I withdraw from the programme?

That depends on time of withdrawal and reason. We cannot afford for resignations being made few days before VSS starts. Fee is a guaranty of your arrival.

5. Questions regarding visa

5.1. Do I need a visa to participate in the Summer School?

That depends on your nationality and bilateral regulations between your country and Poland. Check it on <https://www.onlinevisa.com/visa-policy/poland/> If you require a visa, make an appointment in closest consular office as soon as possible. We will issue an invitation letter to support your application.

5.2. What if my visa application is refused?

Usually there is no refusal, however it may be tough to make an appointment in an embassy or consulate. Be prepared to contact with respective section as soon as you will get acceptance information. Also, check the procedure while applying, so you are aware of requirements.

5.3. If my visa is refused can I get a refund on my fee?

Yes, we will refund it, based on provided refusal documents.

5.4. When should I apply for a Visa Letter?

As soon as you will get acceptance information – let us know about invitation letter via summerschool@villa.org.pl

5.5. Who provides me with a Summer School Visa Letter?

Letter will be signed by board of Villa Decius Association. You will get it by contacting VSS team via summerschool@villa.org.pl

5.6. Are there any other requirements upon arrival?

You need to provide us with copy of your insurance – just in case if anything happens and travel plan so we know how to plan welcoming session.

6. Accommodation & Board

6.1. Where can I stay?

You will be staying in accommodation provided by Organizer (Krakowiak Hostel at Armii Krajowej street no9. In double rooms - <https://krakowiak.up.krakow.pl/krakowiak,eng>) – cost is covered by Organizer.

6.2. What about meals?

Meals are provided by Organizer. If you have special food requirements (diet type, intolerances), you should put it in the application.

6.3 Is it possible to have a single room? Yes. However, due to the limited budget of the programme, an additional payment of **400 EUR** is required to cover the additional cost.

6.4 How do we commute for classes?

Each day you will commute from the hostel to Villa Decius using public transportation, in line with the project's commitment to environmentally responsible and sustainable mobility practices. Tickets are provided by the organizer.

7. Arrival and Summer School

7.1. Should I organise my arrival from my country to residence in Kraków on my own?

Yes, you need to arrive to Krakow on Sunday 5th July, preferably before 4.00 pm. You can check in at the hotel starting with 12am. On Sunday we are having kick off meeting, and welcome dinner in Villa Decius at 6pm. If you plan to arrive before Sunday, 5 July, or depart later due to flight availability, you should inform us in advance. Early arrival or extended stay may be possible depending on room availability; however, any additional nights and related costs, including early check in or late check out, will need to be covered by the participant unless explicitly confirmed otherwise by the VSS organizers.

7.2. Are there any activities regarding the sightseeing and culture in the city?

Yes, weekend is for sightseeing – You can take part in planned activities by the Organizer or spend your time on your own.

7.3. What is the exact programme of the VSS? What will my timetable look like?

The final programme & schedule will be published no later than on 20th June. You will be getting the information on panellists. Usually each day contains 3-4 lectures/sessions, except for the weekend and one day dedicated to memory session which is a field trip.

7.4. Completion of the programme.

Participation in the programme events is a mandatory condition for the successful completion of the project. Participants may miss a maximum of two programme units, for example two lectures. Attendance at workshops is strongly expected, as project groups will be formed within the workshops and you will work in these groups throughout the programme. Your individual contribution will be essential for the development of the final project, which will be jointly presented on 15 July. In the case of unexcused and unauthorised absence, this may be considered as withdrawal from

the programme. In such a situation, we will not be able to cover the costs of your accommodation.

Upon successful completion of the Summer School and fulfillment of the attendance requirements, participants will receive an official certificate confirming participation.

7.5 When can we depart from Krakow?

Departure should be scheduled no earlier than 1 p.m. on 15 July.

7.6 Participants with special needs are kindly encouraged to indicate them at the application stage so that we can take appropriate measures to ensure accessibility and provide adequate support. Personal assistants are welcome to accompany participants if needed. No additional programme fee is required for personal assistance, and accommodation will be arranged together with the participant.

7.7. In the event of force majeure requiring withdrawal from the programme, participants must provide appropriate supporting documentation. As this project is co-financed from public funds, duly documented force majeure cases entitle the participant to a refund of the recruitment fee. In cases of voluntary withdrawal without justified and documented force majeure, the recruitment fee is non-refundable.