

Job Shadowing Visit Diary: Kontakt Language School, -Poznań, Poland

By Esther González

Dates: November 24–28, 2025

DIARY

DAY 1: Arrival in Poznań

- Arrived at Poznań Airport.
- Transferred by bus to the city center.
- Checked in at the B&B Hotel Poznań Old Town.
- Lunch.
- Visited the Christmas Market.

PHOTOS



Poznan airport



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Christmas market

PHOTOS



Second-hand German tram bought by the city of Poznan



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DAY 2: School Overview and Special Needs Teaching

- **Morning Meeting:** Met with **Aleksandra Dukat** and was introduced to the rest of the staff.
- **School Presentation: Wiktoria Bzowska** (Marketing and Erasmus Internships Coordinator) presented an overview of Kontakt.
 - Kontakt is a private language school with **25 years of experience**. (Poland has no public language schools.)
 - Learning a language in Poland is considered a luxury, primarily accessible to the upper-middle class.
 - Main languages taught: English, Spanish, German, French, and Polish for foreigners.
 - The school hosts conversation classes run by **Erasmus interns**.
- **Meeting with Klaudia (English Teacher):** Discussion focused on teaching **special needs students** (ADHD, Autism) and **Ukrainian refugee groups**.
 - Klaudia sought training in this area due to the challenges involved.
 - She showed me some of the strategies she uses for students with Special Needs
 - **Teaching Ukrainian Refugees:**

PHOTOS



The staff at Kontakt school



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- The school received an **EU grant** to help with integration (children into Polish schools, adults obtaining work certificates).
- Observed psychological impacts: children often remained in **'fight or flight' mode**, evidenced by reluctance to remove jackets.
- For adults, the school became a crucial **social center** for community support, as many had no one else to talk to.
- **Polish Lunch:** Enjoyed a traditional Polish dish, **Pyry z gzikiem** (potatoes with cottage cheese, onion...).
- **Class Observation (C1 English with Gerard):**
 - Small class (max 10 adults).
 - Topic: **Upbringing** (focus on vocabulary and speaking).

PHOTOS



Pyry z gzikiem



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DAY 3: Cultural Exchange and Spanish Class

- **City Tour:** Guided by **Michael**, a 76-year-old student, visiting key sites (Baroque churches, Old Market, Town Hall, Cultural Centre).
- **Lunch:** Ate at a town council-run restaurant serving affordable, traditional Polish food.
- **Class Observation (C1 Spanish with Gosha):**
 - Small group of high-level students; high interaction with the teacher.
 - Topic: **Fake News**, focusing on related vocabulary, phrases, and collocations.
 - **Cultural Discussion:** Compared the Spanish *EOI* (public language schools) system with the Polish private model. Students were surprised by the **30-student class size** in Spanish public schools.
 - Discussed regional differences in Spain, specifically real life in Catalonia and origin of the **Catalan language**.

PHOTOS



Michał (tour guide) and Esther



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Old Market Square at night (*Stary Rynek*)

PHOTOS



Merchant houses



Town Hall



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PHOTOS



Old Market Square (*Stary Rynek*)

DAY 4: Focus on Erasmus Internships

- **Class Observation (English with Gerard):** The class theme was **Cultural Differences**
- **Meeting with Aleksandra and Wiktoria (Erasmus Interns):**
 - Kontakt currently hosts **25 interns**. Met with 5 from Italy, Greece, Spain, Croatia, and Turkey.



First day of real snow



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- **Intern Activities:** Primarily conducting **one-to-one conversation classes** (face-to-face and online) in their native languages or English. They also observe classes and attend/organize events (e.g., career days).

DAY 5: Exhibition about post-war Poznan /German Class Observation /Chat with Spanish teacher

- **Galeria Sluza: an exhibition about life in post-war Poznan.**
Through the story of one family, we learn about daily life during the first months after the war—marked by anxiety and shortages, but also by a strong desire to rebuild and adapt to a new reality. The exhibition features photos, objects, children’s drawings, and other items from that difficult period in the city’s history.

PHOTOS





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PHOTOS



New books for learning to read had to be created in a hurry



Children's drawings about their memories from the war.

- **Class observation (German):** a B2 class with 4 other students, with a strong focus on speaking and vocabulary. This time, they talked about ways of living a greener life and worked on different German expressions related to colours.



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- **Chat with Gosia (Spanish teacher)**

- I had an interesting conversation with Gosha about the working conditions of teachers in Poland. There is a **shortage of teachers** in public schools because they are not well paid and the working conditions are not good.
- She also says **Spanish** is nowadays the second most popular language to learn in Poland, after English. There are about 400 students of Spanish at Kontakt. Another reason for the growing interest in Spanish is that, after the war between Ukraine and Russia started, many Poles began buying houses in Spain, especially Alacant.

PHOTOS



Gosia (Spanish teacher) and Esther

DAY 6: Fort VII Concentration Camp / St Martin's Croissants / Farewell

- **Visit to Fort VII , the first German concentration camp in Poland with Michael.** The first concentration camp Nazi Germany established in Poland. The site includes, well-preserved spaces and objects and it provides gruesome stories about life in the camp through an audio guide in English



Fort VII concentration camp



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Some devastating images from the camp



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- **Farewell to the city: you can't leave Poznan without trying its famous St. Martin's croissants**



St. Martin's croissant (Rogal świętomarciński)

DAY 7: Return to Barcelona

Flight Poznan-Munich

Munich-Barcelona

It was a positive cultural exchange experience within a welcoming community with valuable Erasmus expertise. Thank you so much for having me at Kontakt!!!

