

THE UNIVERSITY SPORT SYSTEM IN POLAND AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO STAY IN SPORT

New Opportunities for Drop-out Young Athletes
to Continue in Sports – New Opps



1. University Sport Association of Poland – AZS
2. AZS Lodz as an sport organization
3. The university sport system in Poland
4. Dual career programmes
5. University sport as an opportunity to stay in sport in different roles





ABOUT US

Celebrating **115 years of existence**, the University Sports Association of Poland (AZS) boasts **70,000 members** and **180 units**.

With **165 clubs**, **15 regional organizations**, and **3,000 sports sections**, the University Sports Association of Poland offers a wide range of opportunities for its members.

The University Sports Association of Poland operates **three Central Academic Sports Centers**.

The University Sports Association, with its extensive network of clubs, has **70,000 members**.

The University Sports Association offers a variety of cups and competitions, including the **AZS Winter Cup** and **AZS Swimming Cup**.



115 years of tradition

The AZS as the association was established in 1909 in Krakow and from there spread to all academic centers across the country. Thanks to its great and successful history the association is nowadays the biggest students organization in Poland. We associate people for whom sport is primarily a passion thanks to which they are able to fulfill their dreams and achieve sports successes.

Common sports

It is one of pillars of our activity. For more than 60 years we organize Academic Championships of Poland (AMP), which promote sport among students. The best of them receive their opportunities to compete in European Universities Championships.

Professional sports

Our proud is the professional sport. AZS members are sport stars, well-known across the globe. Our athletes win medals at the biggest events (Olympic Games, World and European Championships). We are very active in and successful in World Universities Championships and Universiade.

Olympic sports

Our creme de la crème are athletes from AZS. Polish Olympians, who are the main strength of professional sport in our country, train at AZS Clubs. About 1/3 of the Olympic team of the Polish national team are athletes from clubs of the Academic Sports Association.



STRUCTURE AZS

38 000 ASSOCIATED MEMBERS

165 UNIVERSITY CLUBS AZS

15 ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATIONS AZS

3 000 SPORTS SECTION

500 SPORTS EVENTS IN A YEAR

COMPETITIVE SPORT - OLYMPIC HOPES AND STARS

66



OLYMPIC MEDALS

OF ATHLETES REPRESENTING
THE UNIVERSITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION
OF POLAND

20



OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALS

OF ATHLETES REPRESENTING
THE UNIVERSITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION
OF POLAND

HALINA KONOPACKA

THE FIRST POLISH OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST (1928)
COMPETITIVE SPORT



TOKIO 2020 - 9 OUT OF 14 MEDALS
WERE WON BY ATHLETES UNIVERSITY
SPORTS ASSOCIATION OF POLAND

PARIS 2024 - 3 OUT OF 10 MEDALS
WERE WON BY ATHLETES UNIVERSITY
SPORTS ASSOCIATION OF POLAND



OLYMPIANS FROM THE AZS ARE NATIONAL PRIDE



Otylia Jędrzejczak

swimmer, Olympic champion, two-time world champion, five-time European champion, three-time record holder of the world, elected the best Polish athlete three times



Szymon Ziółkowski

hammer thrower - Olympic and World champion



Justyna Kowalczyk

cross-country skier, Olympic champion and medalist, champion of the World Cup, four-time winner of the World Cup in cross-country skiing



Tomasz Majewski

shot put, two times Olympic champion, he stood on the podium of European and World Championships, and Indoor European and World Championships

SPORTS TRAINING FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

THE NATIONAL YOUTH SPORT SYSTEM

Club competition results in 2023

1. AZS AWF Warszawa
2. AZS AWF Poznań
3. AZS AWFis Gdańsk
4. OŚ AZS Poznań
5. AZS AWF Katowice
6. WKS Śląsk Wrocław
7. AZS UMCS Lublin
8. Posnania Poznań
9. UKS G-8 Bielany Warszawa
10. AZS AWF Kraków

Classified: 4562 clubs



POLISH NATIONAL ACADEMIC TEAM



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POLISH NATIONAL ACADEMIC TEAM



590 MEDALS
OF WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES
(400 OF SUMMER,
190 OF WINTER)



714 MEDALS
OF FISU WORLD UNIVERSITY
CHAMPIONSHIPS

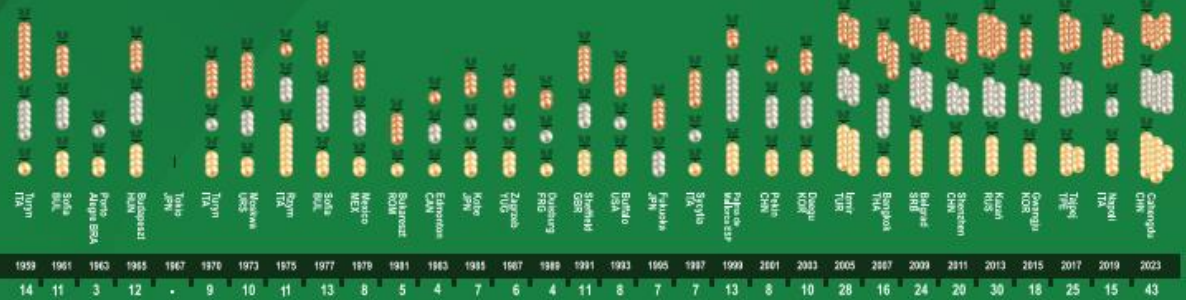


561 MEDALS
OF EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY
CHAMPIONSHIPS



WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES MEDALS

SUMMER



WINTER



400 MEDALS OF SUMMER
190 MEDALS OF WINTER



AZS has been recognized by the European University Sports Association. We have received the title of "**Best Federation of the Year**" three times (2012, 2015, 2017). Twice we were awarded the title of "**Most Active Federation of the Season**" (2009, 2010). In 2018, we were honored as the most successful national federation of the academic sport. We were also awarded the title of "**Federation of the EUSA decade**". In 2017, the International University Sports Federation recognized us as the best student sports federation in the 2016/2017 season.



INTERNATIONAL SPORT



ORGANIZATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY COMPETITION IN POLAND:

- FISU WINTER WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES (1993, 2001) - ZAKOPANE
- EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES GAMES (2022) - ŁÓDŹ
- FISU WORLD UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS CANOE SPRINT (2022) - BYDGOSZCZ
- FISU WORLD UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS TRIATHLON (2024) - GDAŃSK



Thanks to a developed network of clubs and environmental organizations, the University Sports Association of Poland has **70,000 members**.

Our main activities are in an academic environment with **1,200,000 students**.

However, our target group is much wider as it is offered to different age groups and to local communities.

ERASMUS+



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For the last few years, University Sports Association of Poland is participating and coordinating multiple Erasmus+ projects. They are focused on various aspects of university sport and more – volunteering in sport, inclusion in sport, dual career.

At the moment, three projects are implemented by University Sports Association of Poland:

- ESOM - The project coordinated by EUSA – the European University Sports Association, focuses on strengthening the organization and management of sports at the academic level. The project involves 7 European countries.
- The DiscoverU project aims to support dual careers and increase opportunities in sports and physical activity for university students. It also plans to increase their participation in these activities.
- ACON – main goal of the project is to enable the European sports ecosystem to develop the implementation of dual careers and a digital environment for dual careers by improving visibility and interactivity between existing and newly established service providers for dual careers and athletes.

Please contact erasmus@azs.pl in case you wish to discuss potential cooperation in this field.



About us

Akademicki Związek Sportowy Organizacja Środowiskowa w Łodzi (AZS Łódź) is a sports association, a multidisciplinary sport club based in Lodz. AZS Lodz is the main institution responsible for the university sport in Lodz but is also involved in development of the competitive sport or sport for children. AZS Lodz has 1900 members (225 members in competitive sport and 1675 members of AZS clubs at universities).

Our structure – student and competitive sport

There are six AZS university sport clubs at the Higher Education Institutions in Lodz – Lodz University of Technology, University of Lodz, Medical University of Lodz, University of Humanities and Economics in Lodz, Stefan Batory Academy of Applied Sciences in Skierniewice, Filmschool in Lodz. Each one of them is a separate body while AZS Lodz provides the overall control and support to those clubs.

AZS is also involved in professional training of children, youth, students and older generations. AZS Lodz has six sports units - badminton, judo, athletics, swimming, tennis and alpine skiing. The biggest and most successful unit is athletics. In conclusion, AZS is involved in both student and competitive sport. It supports the development of children and then students from HEI's in Lodz.

AZS is our umbrella organization

AZS is an umbrella organization for AZS Lodz. We are a part of a wider network of university sport clubs. Being in such network gives AZS Lodz an opportunity to cooperate with experts and develop in terms of sport and education. In relation to competitive sport our club cooperates with Polish sports federations.

Main tasks of AZS Lodz

- student sport: coordination of the Lodz Universities Championships in more than 30 sports, organization of the Lodz Games for the First-Year Students, cooperation with universities and AZS clubs, handling subsidies for tasks in the field of student sport
- competitive sport: providing training in competitive sports units - employing coaches, organising training camps and participation in competitions, renting sports facilities, cooperation with universities, granting awards, scholarships and signing contracts with athletes, handling subsidies in the field of competitive sports
- sports activities: organization of sports activities for children, youth and adults in athletics, judo and tennis
- organization of sport events: Polish University Championships, Polish Championships, annual gala, training sessions for managers of AZS universities clubs
- management of the sport facilities: maintenance of the sports complex (athletics hall, athletics stadium, warm-up stadium with pitches, outdoor tennis courts, tennis hall), ongoing renovations, rental of a sports facility

ABOUT AZS LODZ – OLYMPIANS ARE OUR PRIDE



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EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES CHAMPIONSHIPS

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES GAMES

UNIVERSITY SPORT IN POLAND

POLISH ACADEMIC CHAMPIONSHIPS



AZS

PROVINCIAL LEAGUES



REGIONAL AZS

SPORT SECTIONS AT UNIVERSITIES



AZS CLUBS

SPORT EVENTS AT UNIVERSITIES

DUAL CAREER PROGRAMMES

POLISH ACADEMIC CHAMPIONSHIPS AND OTHER UNIVERSITY SPORTS COMPETITION



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POLISH ACADEMIC CHAMPIONSHIPS - UNIVERSITY SPORTS COMPETITION



- 18 000 STUDENT-PLAYERS,
- REPRESENTATION OF 150 UNIVERSITIES
- 35 DISCIPLINES
- 77 EVENTS
- WINNING UNIVERSITIES AND RECTORS RECEIVE AWARDS DURING THE ACADEMIC SPORTS GALA



AKADEMICKIE MISTRZOSTWA POLSKI

STUDENT SPORTS UNIVERSAL -SPORTS FOR EVERY LEVEL OF COMPETITION



PROVINCIAL
LEAGUES



UNIVERSITY SPORTS
ASSOCIATION CUP



FIRST-YEAR
STUDENT GAMES



17 PROVINCIAL LEAGUES
35 SPORTS
20 000 PARTICIPANTS

AZS WINTER CUP, AZS SWIMMING
CUP AND MANY MORE
30 000 PARTICIPANTS
30 SPORTS

8 QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS
1 BIG FINAL
6 SPORTS
5000 PARTICIPANTS

Polish University Sport Championships (AMP) have been organized since 1960 - for over 60 years. From the very beginning, the aim was to promote sport among students and present them with an opportunity to compete on the national level. AMP as a series of sport events gathers over 150 universities, more than 40 disciplines and close to 80 nationwide tournaments, with over 15 000 competing students. They are managed by the University Sport Association of Poland. Each year, tournaments are organized in different cities in Poland - giving different regional and local AZS sections a chance to improve and develop their organizing skills. The best teams and athletes in various disciplines have an opportunity to compete in European and World University Championships.

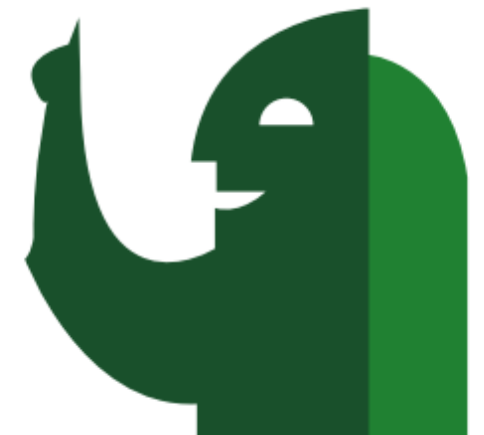
The biggest championships are in swimming and athletics, attracting each year over 1000 participants from over 100 different higher educational institutions.

AT THE MOMENT, THE FOLLOWING SPORT DISCIPLINES ARE PART OF THE AMP PROGRAMME:

- 3x3 Basketball
- Aerobics
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Beach volleyball
- Bridge
- Chess
- Climbing
- Cross-Country
- Equestrian
- Fencing
- Floorball.
- Football
- Futsal
- Handball
- Indoor rowing
- Judo
- Karate
- Mountain biking
- Powerlifting
- Rowing
- Sailing
- Skiing
- Snowboard
- Sport shooting
- Swimming
- Table tennis
- Tennis
- Volleyball

MOREOVER, FOLLOWING DISCIPLINES ARE PART OF THE AZS POLISH UNIVERSITY CUPS PROGRAMME:

- Beach handball
- Beach soccer
- Beach volleyball
- Bench press
- Bike orienteering
- Dart
- Half-marathon
- Inline alpine
- Kickboxing
- Mountain biking - enduro
- Orienteering
- Road cycling
- Rugby 7
- Skiing.
- Squash
- Stand-up Paddling (SUP)
- Team indoor rowing
- Triathlon



- ✓ the largest system of academic sports competitions in Poland
- ✓ 77 sports events (finals and semi-finals) in each academic year (January - June) in 35 disciplines
- ✓ 18 000 participants from 150 universities in Poland
- ✓ 3,000 sports sections at universities throughout Poland
- ✓ Olympians, competitive athletes as well as students from sport sections at universities participate in Polish Academic Championships – competition both for professionals and non-professionals
- ✓ the main supporter of Polish Academic Championships Ministry of Sport and Tourism



Organizational costs: 3 500 000 PLN (920 000 \$)

Section maintenance costs: 3000 sections x 15000 – 45 000 000 PLN (12 000 000 \$)

Participation fees: 16000 persons x 3 days = 7 200 000 PLN (1 900 000 \$)

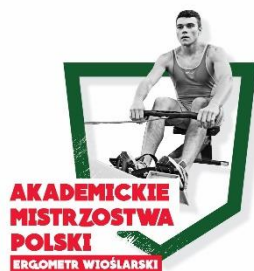
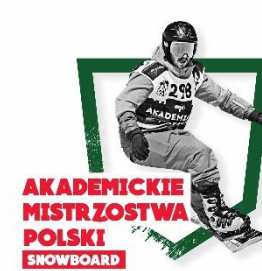
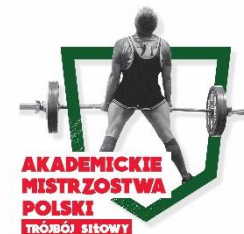
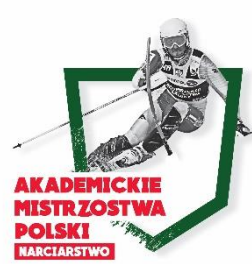
TOTAL

55 000 000 PLN annually (14 500 000 \$)

POLISH ACADEMIC CHAMPIONSHIPS



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POLISH ACADEMIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

- ✓ provincial leagues are the basic system of sports competition run by administrative organizations of AZS in every province in every academic center
- ✓ competition in close to 35 sports disciplines
- ✓ every year, a group of over 35,000 students and workers participate in leagues
- ✓ qualifications for some of Polish Academic Championships (futsal, basketball, volleyball, football, beach volleyball)
- ✓ AZS Lodz is the coordinator of the league in the central province

PROVINCIAL LEAGUES



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- ✓ **University Sports Association Cups** – AZS Winter Cup (skiing), AZS Swimming Cup
- ✓ **First-Year Students Games** – regional qualifications, 6 sports, a series of tournaments for first and only first-year students
- ✓ **Academic Leagues** – new project, competition in basketball, handball, volleyball, swimming and ice hockey
- ✓ **The Integration Polish Championships** - a series of integration events for the disabled, the project is aimed at students, doctoral students and university staff, the program of the competition currently includes 10 disciplines, it concentrates annually 600 participants



- ✓ **STATE AND GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES**
 - Ministry of Sport and Tourism
 - Ministry of Education and Science

- ✓ **LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES**
 - Municipal Departments of Sport and Recreation
 - Voivodship/Marshall's Departments of Sport and Recreation

- ✓ **SUBSIDIES OF THE UNIVERSITIES**
 - Funds to support the activities of student organizations
 - Promotional measures for sport

- ✓ **MEMBERSHIP FEE in AZS**
 - AZS card

- ✓ **REVENUE OWN**
 - Income from operations and activities of AZS

- ✓ **OTHER REVENUE AND GRANTS**
 - Sponsors

✓ **STATE AND GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES**

- Ministry of Sport and Tourism:
 - competitive sport – ACSS Programme for students-athletes, support for competitive sport sections
 - student sport – sport sections at universities, provincial league, Lodz First-Year Students Games, training sessions for the board members at universities AZS club
- Ministry of Education and Science
 - sport activities for all

✓ **LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES**

- Municipal Departments of Sport and Recreation
 - competitive sport – sport sections (coaches, organising training camps and participation in competitions, renting sports facilities)
 - organising sport events
- Voivodship/Marshall's Departments of Sport and Recreation
 - student sport – sport sections at universities in Lodz, provincial league, Lodz First-Year Students Games, annual gala

✓ **SUBSIDIES OF THE UNIVERSITIES**

- Funds to support the activities of student organizations
 - competitive sport – scholarships for students – competitive athletes, training camps and participation in competitions
 - student sport – sport sections (coaches, organising trainings and participation in competitions, renting sports facilities)
- Promotional measures for sport

✓ **MEMBERSHIP FEE in AZS**

✓ **REVENUE OWN**

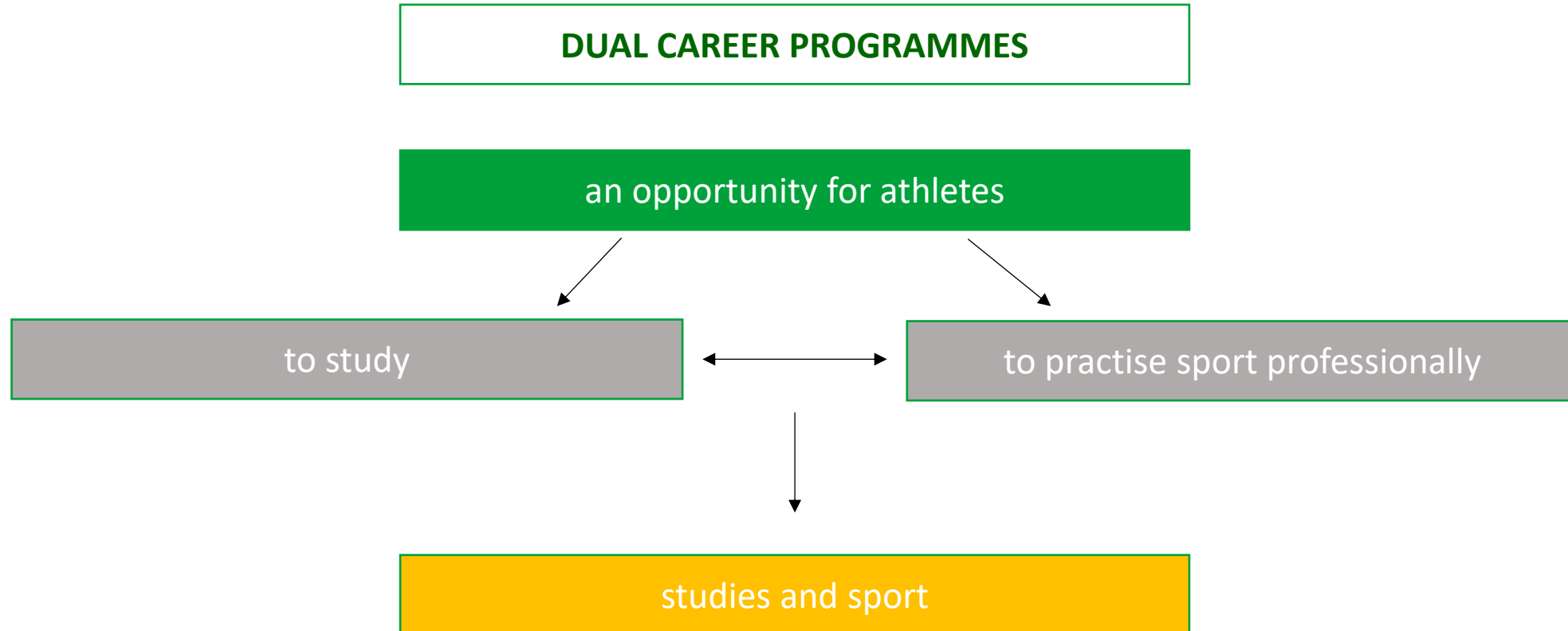
✓ **OTHER REVENUE AND GRANTS**

- competitive sport – sport sections (coaches, organising training camps and participation in competitions, renting sports facilities)
- organising sport events
- student sport – sport sections at universities in Lodz, provincial league, Lodz First-Year Students Games, annual gala

DUAL CAREER PROGRAMMES AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO STAY IN SPORT



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✓ NATIONAL ACADEMIC TEAM

- nationwide programme
- founded by Ministry of Education and Science (14 000 000 PLN – 3 255 800 Euro in edition 2023/2024)
- grants given directly to universities to organize additional classes for students-athletes in the form of individual organization of studies
- 663 students – athletes from 31 universities
- for athletes under 30 years of age on the highest level – with master international and master sport class
- 5th edition has just started



NARODOWA
REPREZENTACJA
AKADEMICKA



Ministry of Science and Higher Education
Republic of Poland

✓ LOCAL PROGRAMMES – STUDIES AND SPORT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LODZ

- University of Lodz has introduced a dual career programme for the athletes who study at university in 2022
- it provides athletes - students from University of Lodz with greater flexibility in planning classes, which allows them to develop their sports career without compromising the didactic process
- for athletes with at least first sport class
- students gain the right to individual organisation of studies, can also take advantage of free (or partly reimbursed) accommodation in the dormitory, athletes are also entitled to cash benefits, including scholarships
- the athletes are included in the programme throughout the entire period of education (provided that formalities are completed)
- currently 41 students - athletes are in the programme

UNIVERSITY SPORT

PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE

DUAL CAREER PROGRAMMES

ACADEMIC SPORT CLUB SUPPORT

AZS CLUB COACH

STUDENT ATHLETE

SPORT SECTION AT UNIVERSITY

PARTICIPATION IN UNIVERSITY
SPORT EVENTS

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF AZS CLUB

MANAGEMENT OF AZS CLUB AT UNIVERSITY

ORGANIZER OF UNIVERSITY SPORT EVENTS

VOLUNTEER

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS (EUSA
GAMES, EUC, STUDENT GAMES)

POLISH ACADEMIC
CHAMPIONSHIPS

PROVINCIAL LEAGUES

OTHER EVENTS (ANNUAL GALA, AZS
CUPS, EVENTS AT UNIVERSITY)