

EDUCATION & ECONOMIC INCLUSION / EN

# Learning without barriers: free UNHCR and Coursera courses for eligible people in Poland

Who can access Coursera Social Impact, how to apply through UNHCR and how to turn an online course into a practical career development plan. A guide for learners and support organisations.

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Information feature prepared after Just Do It received an announcement from UNHCR Poland's economic inclusion team and checked public sources on 29 October 2026. TRUTH shares the opportunity; eligibility and access are managed by the organiser. Images are editorial illustrations. Study-planning suggestions are editorial guidance.

## At a glance

|                |                                |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Age            | 16+                            |
| Residence      | Poland                         |
| Programme cost | Free for eligible participants |
| Application    | Official UNHCR form            |

## Learning as a next step, rather than another hurdle

Starting again in a new place involves many decisions. Between work, housing and family responsibilities, finding time to learn can be difficult. Paying for an unfamiliar course introduces another obstacle: committing money before knowing whether the material will be useful. The announcement shared with Just Do It by UNHCR Poland's economic inclusion team addresses access to education and skills development. Coursera Social Impact gives eligible people an opportunity to study online without a programme participation fee. The useful question is how this opportunity fits an individual goal. A manageable learning plan can turn an interesting announcement into a practical next step, while leaving room for the responsibilities that already shape everyday life.

## What UNHCR confirms

UNHCR's Poland information page describes free access to online courses and specialisations, with certificates available upon completion of eligible learning programmes. It mentions flexible study, multiple languages and fields including business, data analysis, marketing and political science. A personal email address and internet access are needed. A computer, tablet or smartphone can be used. [1] Before choosing, it is sensible to read the individual course requirements: level, language, assignments and software. A promising title alone does not establish whether the material suits a learner's current skills. Comparing the syllabus with a specific learning objective is a useful first exercise. It also helps distinguish an accessible starting point from a course that assumes substantial prior knowledge.

## Who can apply in Poland

The application identifies people aged 16 or above who hold qualifying protection or statelessness-related statuses in Poland. It includes applicants for international protection, recognised refugees, beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, temporary protection beneficiaries including PESEL UKR holders, and stateless people able to document their circumstances. Other qualifying grounds include asylum, tolerated stay and humanitarian residence, subject to programme eligibility. Applicants are asked for a copy of an official document confirming the relevant status. [2] Any lawful residence should therefore not be treated as automatic eligibility. An individual case should be checked against the current form and the organiser's instructions. Community organisations can help readers understand the wording without substituting their own assumptions for the programme's decision.

## Applying step by step

1. Read UNHCR Poland's information page and open the official form at [enketo.unhcr.org/x/s03oxqOz](https://enketo.unhcr.org/x/s03oxqOz). 2. Read the eligibility requirements and current data-processing information. 3. Prepare a personal email address that you can continue to access, together with the document specified in the form. 4. Complete the required fields accurately and submit the application to the organiser. 5. Check incoming messages, including spam, and follow UNHCR's instructions for activating or joining a Coursera account. [1] [2] Our practical suggestion is to record the application date and email address used. This makes it easier to explain an access problem without hurriedly submitting duplicate applications. Keep control of account passwords, including when someone assists with the registration process.

## Choose an objective before a catalogue

The following method is an editorial suggestion. Before browsing, write one sentence describing a task you want to perform after learning. That could mean building a clear spreadsheet, preparing a communication plan or understanding information used at work. Then list the skills needed to complete that task. Choose a course addressing the first gap, rather than enrolling in several demanding pathways at once. A clear objective also provides a reason to leave a course that proves too advanced or too general. Changing direction after reading the syllabus is a sensible adjustment. It is not a personal failure. A smaller course completed thoughtfully can be more useful than an impressive list of unfinished registrations with no connection to a practical purpose.

## A possible plan for the first month

A suggested plan has four stages. In week one, check access and requirements, complete an introductory lesson and estimate the time needed for exercises as well as videos. In week two, establish short regular study periods and take notes in your own words. In week three, use one new skill in a small independent task. In week four, review what you can explain and do without replaying the instructions. This is an example of organising study, rather than an official programme timetable. A shift worker may need a different routine from a school student. What matters is a schedule that acknowledges existing commitments and provides a way back after interruptions, rather than assuming every week will unfold perfectly.

## A certificate alongside evidence of ability

Completing a course, receiving a university degree and holding a regulated professional qualification are different things. Readers should not assume that every university-created course awards an academic title, or that a certificate guarantees employment. For a particular course, read the description of the credential and the conditions for receiving it. Alongside formal completion, our editorial suggestion is to build a small portfolio: an original project, the problem it addresses, the tools used and a short reflection on the result. A CV can then describe both the learning and an example of applying it. Be precise about what was independent practice and what was professional experience. Honest detail makes progress easier for another person to understand and assess.

## How community organisations can help

An organisation sharing the opportunity might help someone understand the instructions, provide a quiet place to register or discuss a realistic learning objective. The participant should retain control of their account and documents. A simple support checklist can ask whether the person understands the course language, has suitable equipment, can receive email and knows where to raise an access problem. This does not require an organisation to deliver the teaching itself. It can simply remove obstacles between receiving a link and completing a first lesson. When sharing the announcement further, retaining direct links to the source and application helps people find current rules. It also reduces confusion caused by successive copies of an announcement losing the original context.

## Applications from organisations are a separate route

Coursera's general Social Impact page says its application cycle for new organisations is closed, with another cycle anticipated in early 2027. That page sets out institutional partner requirements. It is separate from UNHCR Poland's individual learner application. [3] A headline aimed at prospective partner organisations should therefore not be interpreted as automatically cancelling the opportunity communicated by UNHCR Poland. For an individual request, use UNHCR's current information and instructions. We do not state a guaranteed response time or number of places because these were not confirmed in the materials checked. Keeping the two routes distinct is especially useful for support workers who may encounter both pages while helping a prospective participant find the correct starting point.

## From an announcement to a first lesson

The most useful next action is small: check eligibility, prepare the requested information and apply through the official route. After access is granted, choose one achievable objective and a suitable course instead of treating an entire catalogue as a new set of obligations. For a community organisation, sharing this opportunity can open a conversation about professional independence. For an individual, it can provide a structure for deciding what to learn next. The offer does not replace a personal assessment of needs, but it gives a reason to begin one. Direct links below lead to UNHCR's information page, its application form and Coursera Social Impact. Always check the organiser's current rules before supplying documents or making plans around a particular course.

## Sources and further information

1. UNHCR Polska — informacje o programie / programme information  
<https://help.unhcr.org/poland/coursera-unhcr-free-educational-opportunities/>
  2. UNHCR Polska — formularz i kryteria kwalifikacji / application and eligibility  
<https://enketo.unhcr.org/x/s03oxqOz>
  3. Coursera — Social Impact: informacje dla organizacji / information for organisations  
<https://www.coursera.org/social-impact>
- Online version: <https://truthmagazine.eu/publikacje/unhcr-coursera-social-impact-poland/>