



International Scientific and Practical Conference
***Academic Diplomacy and the Role of Honorary Consuls
in Strengthening International Cooperation***

WSG University, Bydgoszcz, Poland

26 October 2026

Hybrid format (onsite + online)

CONFERENCE CONCEPT

The conference on **academic diplomacy** will provide an international platform for dialogue among representatives of higher education institutions, diplomatic missions, honorary consuls of various countries, Polish diaspora organizations, and economic and social partners.

Today, academic diplomacy increasingly extends beyond traditional inter-university cooperation, becoming an important instrument for building international relations, strengthening countries' soft power, supporting the mobility of students and researchers, and creating sustainable networks of cooperation among national diasporas.

A special focus of the conference will be placed on the role of **honorary consuls** as practical ambassadors of educational, scientific, cultural, and economic cooperation. Operating at the intersection of local communities, business, and international relations, honorary consuls can serve as an important bridge connecting universities, local governments, diaspora organizations, and international partners.

The conference will have an **international, interdisciplinary, hybrid (onsite and online), expert-oriented, and networking-focused** character.

Thematic Panels

Panel I. Academic Diplomacy as a Tool for Building International Relations

Topics include:

- soft power in higher education;
- university internationalization;

- inter-university cooperation;
- science and cultural diplomacy;
- the role of universities in fostering international relations.

Panel II. Honorary Consuls as Partners in Academic and Social Cooperation

Topics include:

- experiences of honorary consuls representing different countries;
- supporting student and academic mobility;
- building educational partnerships;
- cooperation with business and local authorities;
- promotion of culture and education.

Panel III. Diasporas as Partners in Educational and Community Engagement with Local Communities

Topics include:

- the potential of national diasporas worldwide;
- younger generations of diaspora communities;
- education within diaspora communities;
- building bridges between diasporas and universities;
- civic and community-based projects.

Panel IV. Future Competences and Global Leadership

Topics include:

- intercultural education;
- diplomatic competences;
- science diplomacy;
- leadership among younger generations;
- international networking;
- digital and hybrid cooperation.

Expected Outcomes

- peer-reviewed post-conference publication (eISBN + DOI);
- cooperation declarations and partnership agreements;
- recommendations for higher education institutions and public administration;
- establishment of an international cooperation network;
- initiation of new international projects.

Participation Formats

Participants may choose one of the following options:

- **Online or onsite attendance** (without a presentation);
- **Online or onsite presentation** (maximum 15 minutes), with an optional opportunity to publish a book chapter based on the presentation in the peer-reviewed post-conference monograph.

Participation Fees

The following optional fees will apply:

- Lunch and conference package (onsite participants): EUR 25.00
- Publication of a presentation-based chapter in the monograph: EUR 25.00

Online participation with a presentation is free of charge for all international participants!

Registration form – deadline 30.09.2026: <https://forms.office.com/e/10d0NbHgsc>