

BA Program  
in English

# BA in American Studies

## 2025/2026

Information for Candidates



UNIVERSITY  
OF WARSAW



American  
Studies  
Center



## ABOUT US

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### Welcome to the ASC!

The American Studies Center at the University of Warsaw is the second largest American Studies department in Europe, celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2026! Its research and teaching profile spans five disciplines of cultural and literary studies, history, sociology, and political science. This interdisciplinary perspective equips our students with intellectual tools to truly understand the United States, Americas, and the world in all their complexity. Committed to fostering analytical and critical thinking, ASC prepares graduates to successfully pursue diverse careers, including academic research, journalism, creative industries, and politics-adjacent roles as analysts or advisers.

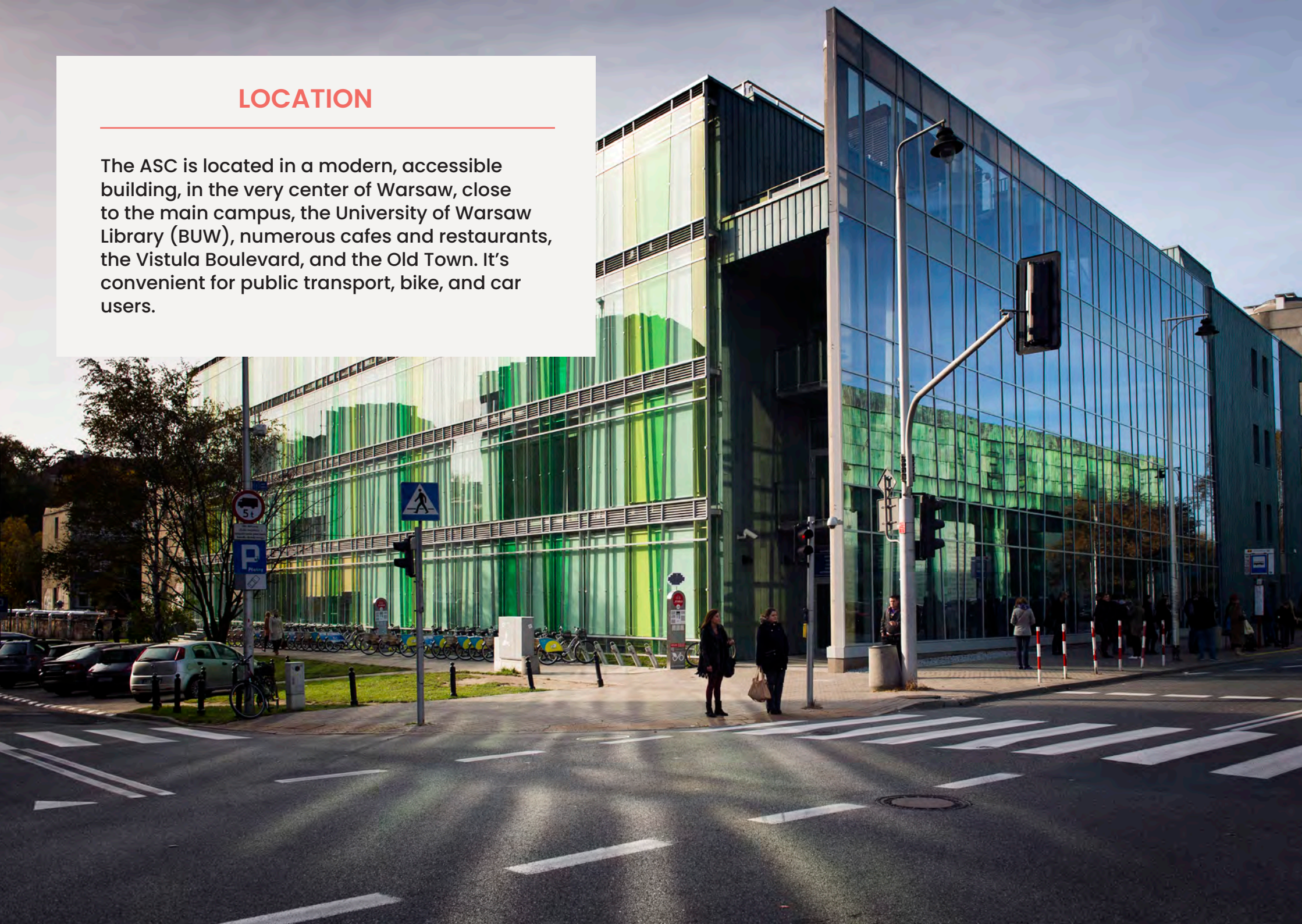
### Follow us!

-  @ascwarsaw
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-  American Studies Center, University of Warsaw



## LOCATION

The ASC is located in a modern, accessible building, in the very center of Warsaw, close to the main campus, the University of Warsaw Library (BUW), numerous cafes and restaurants, the Vistula Boulevard, and the Old Town. It's convenient for public transport, bike, and car users.





## BA IN AMERICAN STUDIES

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### Why Study with Us

Do you want to understand the United States? Many people feel they know the country well, but very few do, actually. At ASC, we offer a unique, interdisciplinary American Studies program that weaves together cultural studies, literature, history, social sciences, and political science. Our courses are taught entirely in English and attract both Polish and international students, creating a vibrant learning environment. You'll have a chance to study everything from current events in the U.S. to the historical forces that shaped them. Our best students can also expand their horizons studying abroad at universities across Europe and the United States.

### What We Offer

From American wars and histories of tariffs and embargoes, to social movements and transformations of political parties in the U.S., to film and literature criticism, our class selection has it all and much more! Beyond classes, our Students' Union runs events such as the annual Oscars' Movie Night,

## BA IN AMERICAN STUDIES

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Thanksgiving celebrations, and ASC Picnics. Whether you're into research, activism, or just making new friends, we support students in launching their own academic, social, or cultural projects. You can join groups like the Weird Fictions Research Group or the Student Chapter of the Gender/Sexuality Research Group to dive deeper into what you're already passionate about! Our diverse faculty, including professors from the U.S. and Mexico, as well as world-class visiting scholars, keeps you connected to cutting-edge global research.

### What You Get

ASC nurtures in its students both critical thinking and critical skills that will give you — yes! — critical advantage for both further education and job market. Our graduates pursue careers in academia and education, journalism and media, diplomatic service, and creative industries. And the tools we give you to truly understand the United States will serve you equally well in understanding the rest of the world in its complexity.



## COURSES

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### **Power and Its Discontents in the Contemporary United States**

**Prof. Elżbieta  
Korolczuk**



This course focuses on the history of civil disobedience and social movements in the post-World War II United States. In this course, our students will have the opportunity to become acquainted with key concepts and theoretical traditions in social movement research through cases such as the Civil Rights Movement, the women's movement, racist and conservative movements, Occupy, Black Lives Matter, and online mobilizations, including the alt-right and the #metoo campaign.

## COURSES

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### **Politics in the Age of Social Media, Fake News, and Conspiracy Theories**

**Dr. Jan Smoleński**



Free flow of information is a bloodstream of democracy. However, as recent events in the US and around the world demonstrate, it can be abused and facilitate the spread of fake news and conspiracy theories. The aim of this class is to explore the very topical issue and the critical role of social media in political mobilization, political polarization, and political decisions on individual and collective levels. By looking at various theories and case studies, students will investigate the potentials and limitations of the political use of social media as well as their multifaceted and ambivalent impact on democratic politics.

## COURSES

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### **American Graphic Memoir**

**Dr. Aleksandra  
Kamińska**



What can autobiographical comics tell us about how we narrate our lives? Alison Bechdel, the author of the graphic memoir *Fun Home*, famously stated that “there is something inherently autobiographical about cartooning.” The course examines what makes comics such a fitting medium for the most personal and intimate narratives. Analyzing both the format and the content of selected graphic memoirs, we study how gender, class, and race function within selected narratives and how those narratives operate within the broader American cultural context

## COURSES

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### **American Science Fiction in the 20th and 21st Century**

**Prof. Paweł Frelik**



Don't believe those who look down on it — there is no other genre that helps understand the now-and-here better than science fiction. In this course we learn how to decode fantastic figures, motifs and scenarios and discover what *The Expanse*, *Blade Runner 2049*, and *Cyberpunk 2077* say about our world. (We also mention *Transformers*, but — sadly — not in a good way.)



## COURSES

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### **America Goes to Ballot Box: the US 2024 elections**

**Prof. Bohdan  
Szklański**



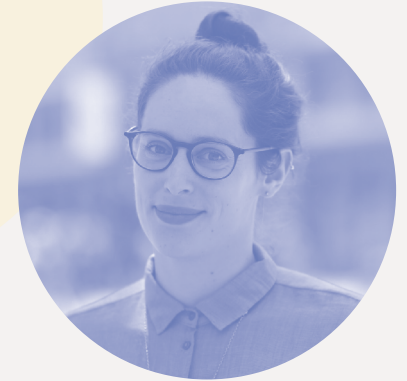
During the course, we examine one of the most important elements of American political and social life – elections. There are over half a million elective positions in American democracy, so elections are naturally controversial. If you want to know who wins American elections, how, by what means, when, and why, this is the class for you.

## COURSES

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### **Politics of Hollywood Cinema**

**Dr. Marta  
Usiekniewicz**



Hollywood may be the place where dreams come true, but it's also a powerful industry and a center for cinematic innovation and entertainment. In a course that combines scholarly analysis, great films, and exciting conversations students learn about Hollywood history, politics, and cultural theories relevant in its discussion.

## TRAVEL AND STUDENT EXCHANGES

### Study abroad

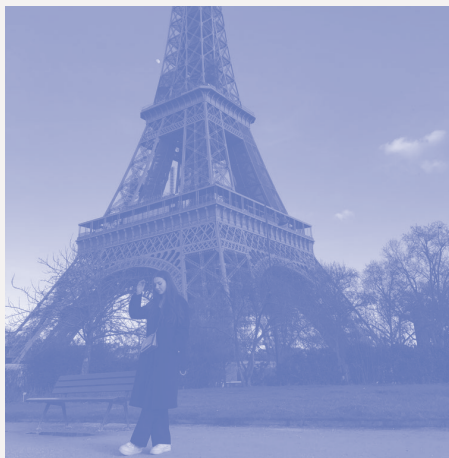
Our Center has Erasmus+ agreements with numerous universities in Europe. You can spend up to two semesters studying in Great Britain, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, Turkey, France, Bulgaria, and Greece.

### Is Europe too close for you?

Apply for short-term exchange studies at foreign universities outside Europe within bilateral agreements. Among these, you'll find McGill University in Canada, Northeastern Illinois University in the U.S., Universidad Jesuita de Guadalajara in Mexico, and many more.

### Go to the US!

Thanks to a special bilateral agreement between the ASC and University of Florida, Gainesville, BA students can apply for stipends for semester-long-stay at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.



The exchange semester I spent in Paris changed my life. I met some incredible people who I am still in close contact with, I travelled a lot and for a few months I lived a life I never thought I would. The experience taught me a lot and allowed me to grow in many ways.

**Gabriela**, exchange student at Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris, France, 2022

## TRAVEL AND STUDENT EXCHANGES



During my time at UF, I had the incredible opportunity to immerse myself in a variety of academic disciplines, including politics, literature, art, media studies, and even Spanish courses. This provided me with a well-rounded educational experience. The vibrant student life was also a highlight. I attended football games and cheered on the Gators together with the whole student body and the two mascots, Albert and Alberta. Campus life was like stepping into a movie: I experienced everything from frat parties to lively class discussions. American students' friendly attitude made me feel right at home, and I made friends for life. Overall, my exchange experience at UF left a lasting impression on me because apparently "once a gator, always a gator." I will carry the Florida experience in my heart wherever I go. GO GATORS!

**Penelopa**, exchange student at University of Florida, United States, 2023/2024



My adventure in Heidelberg, although it lasted only a few months, enriched me on many levels. Of course, in addition to the very friendly academic atmosphere, the city charmed me above all with its unique architecture, which could be admired at every turn, walking around the Old Town area. The exchange also helped me break the language barrier - I had been learning German for some time, but never before had I had so many opportunities to practice it in practice. But Erasmus is all about community, new friendships and memories that, despite the fact that the trip is over, will stay with me for years to come!

**Aleksandra**, exchange student at Heidelberg University, Germany, 2024





## STUDENT LIFE

### ASC Students' Union and Student Initiatives


The ASC Students' Union organizes many fantastic events, such as Thanksgiving Dinner, ASC Picnic, Super Bowl Watch Party and Oscars' Movie Night, giving our students opportunities to integrate, support their grassroots initiatives and learn more about American culture. You can also throw your cap at the annual graduation ceremony!

Joining ASC's Students' Union is one of the best decisions you can make during the course of your studies. The Student's Union organizes many of ASC's iconic events, such as the Oscars' Night or Super Bowl Watch Party, but we also help our students on a day-to-day basis. It's a commitment, a really big one, to be honest, but also one that makes our community much, much better - because of your involvement!

**Kuba**, Union Vice President 2023-2024

At the ASC, student life is all about good times, great people, and traditions that make this place feel like home—whether you're playing games during a rooftop picnic on the 4th of July, sharing a Thanksgiving meal with plenty of vegan options, or gathering for a festive Christmas party. Here, celebrations aren't just events—they're moments that bring us together.

Joining a student organization can be a life-changing experience!  
Follow the ASC Students' Union on social media:

 @RSS\_IAiE  
 @zss.osa



## SPECIAL EVENTS

Classes not enough? The ASC offers a robust selection of academic and non-academic events and forms of engagement, including special events, lectures, and workshops.

If you want to expand knowledge of Americanist topics, we have the monthly **American Studies Colloquium Series** with its slew of international scholars sharing their top-notch research on politics in social media, science fiction, or the role of aviation in international politics. That's not all! The ASC runs lectures, book launches, and panel discussions featuring diplomats, authors, and journalists in conversation with our faculty and students.

You want a more hands-on experience? Consider participating in events organized by ASC's research groups: **Weird Fictions**, **Leadership**, and **Gender/Sexuality** offer an array of opportunities to pursue topics you love.

Already set on becoming an academic? We have you covered with student and regular conferences organized at the ASC, including past events such as **the Senses of Science Fiction: Visions, Sounds, Spaces** (2019), **Gender/Sexuality Student Conferences** of 2022 and 2024, and **Forgotten, Misplaced, Marginalized: Speculations We Don't See** (2025).



STATUS **QUO QUEER**

"Statuts quo / status quo" konferencja studentów  
Ośrodka Studiów Amerykańskich  
i Instytutu Stosowanych Socjologii

**26-27 kwietnia 2024**



**AMERICAN STUDIES COLLOQUIUM SERIES**

FALL 2024/2025

UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW



WEIRD FICTIONS RESEARCH GROUP  
LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS 2024/2025

3 OZN

**WEIRD TV**

FOLLOW US AND CHECK FOR EVENTS AT:  
@THEWEIRDRGROUP

UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW



PRACOWNIA **GENDER SEXUALITY** RESEARCH GROUP

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**POSTFEMINIZM, BIMBO FEMINIZM I FILM „BARBIE”**

O FEMINISTYCZNYCH PRAKTYKACH W ERZE NEOLIBERALIZMU KULTUROWEGO



## MEET THE ALUMNI

### Once you Graduate

Our focus on culture and society helps our graduates build strong communication skills, cultural awareness, and critical thinking—key assets for careers in business, nonprofits, museums, government, research, and education. By elevating students' English skills and fostering their curiosity about the world, our program can be a gateway to exciting fields, including film, journalism, arts, tourism, international business, and much more.



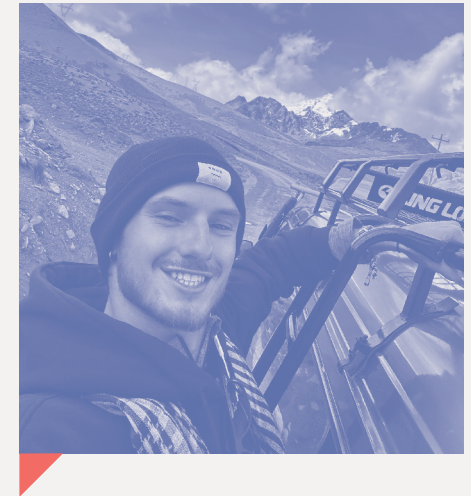
## MEET THE ALUMNI



### Kamila Klavia Bagińska

BA graduate of 2023

Choosing the BA program at the ASC has been the best decision in my academic journey! Every day I got to learn from scholars who are truly passionate about their fields and were able to notice the uniqueness of every student. During my studies, I always had guidance in turning my knowledge into practice, which opened many doors in both my professional and academic career. American Studies Center is a place unlike any other faculties for its openness to new ideas and student-focused approach that will shape you into the best version of your academic self.



### Wiktor Dydyński


BA graduate of 2024

Studying at the American Studies Center has been the best decision I could have made. Due to its broad catalog of electives you can study what interests you the most. ASC is not only an academic institution but also a close-knit community where faculty and like-minded students can come together and make this experience truly unforgettable. Graduating with a BA gave me numerous tools, which helped me to immediately find a job in South America. Our center fosters individuals' interpersonal skills, which are essential in any environment. Cheers from Peru!

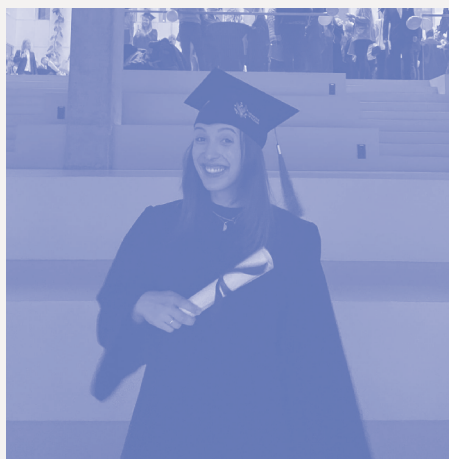
## MEET THE ALUMNI




### Maurycy Jędrzejewski

 BA graduate of 2019

Studying at the ASC has literally changed my life. Apart from meeting amazing people, the studies have broadened my interest in literature, which has now become a massive part of my life. Ultimately I wrote my BA thesis on American literature, and I am grateful for being able to learn about things that actually interest me. My knowledge of English skyrocketed and I feel much more comfortable using it now. I can't recommend the ASC enough!



### Julia Wajdziak

 BA graduate of 2023

The time I spent as a BA student at the ASC was one of the most valuable experiences of my life. The program helped me develop invaluable skills like critical thinking and teamwork. I was able to work with passionate scholars thanks to whom I grew academically. Thanks to the program I had the opportunity to spend a semester at the University of Florida where I had a chance to work with top class scholars and meet many people from all around the world. The ASC is an eye-opening place with a student-focused mindset thanks to which you can develop your interests!

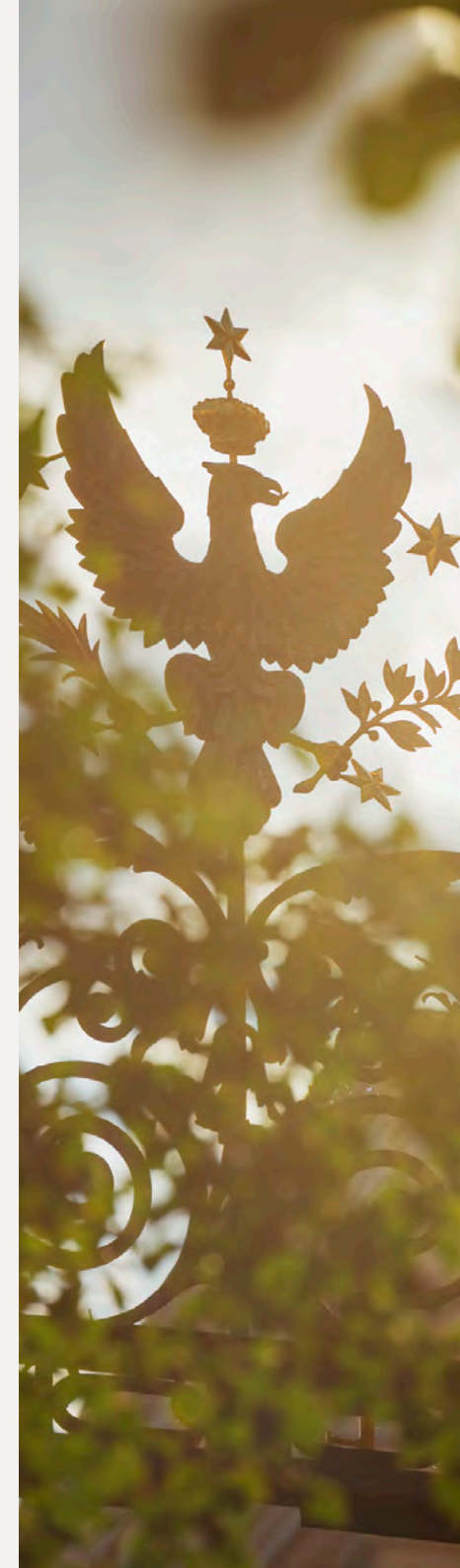
## STUDENT RESOURCES

### Scholarships and Financial and Social Aid

Every year several ASC students are awarded the Rector's Scholarship for high GPA, significant scientific or artistic achievements, or achievements in sport. Warsaw University offers a wide array of social services to aid students financially. These include awards, stipends, one-time financial assistance, health insurance, **university accommodation**. We sponsor students' best research projects by awarding them research grants. Students who need assistance due to disabilities or chronic illnesses are supported by the Office for Persons with Disabilities (BON).

### ASC Writing Lab

If you ever find yourself in need of extra help with your written assignments you can visit our Writing Lab! We will give you constructive feedback on how to strengthen arguments, refine writing style, enhance research techniques, implement academic conventions and citation styles, and generally improve writing practices. Mindful of your individual needs, **we will provide feedback on your written work and guide you through the revision process** before you turn in your paper to be graded.





# RECRUITMENT 2025

## Admissions to the BA Program

Admission requirements for the BA program in American Studies include, but are not limited to, a high school diploma and an appropriate grade in “extended level” English on the High School Leaving Examination. These criteria vary depending on the type of exam taken. **Detailed admission requirements and application instructions can be found on the University of Warsaw’s Internet Recruitment System (IRK) <https://irk.uw.edu.pl/en-gb/home/>.** To apply for our program, you need to set up an account in the IRK system, follow the instructions, and pay an application fee by the required deadline.

**Information about deadlines for the admissions process is published on the ASC website** in the “Admissions Overview” section: Admissions | American Studies Center, University of Warsaw.



Scan the code to learn more about 2025 recruitment!



If you have any questions about the admission requirements for this program, please get in touch with the Head of the Admissions Committee, **Joanna Mąkowska** at [rekrutacja.osa@uw.edu.pl](mailto:rekrutacja.osa@uw.edu.pl).



# CONTACT

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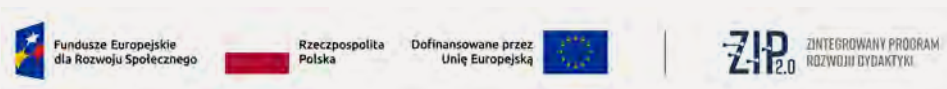
## The ASC Prospectus 2025

### CONCEPT AND PREPARATION:

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[www.asc.uw.edu.pl](http://www.asc.uw.edu.pl)

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