

Independent University Days

#IndependentScience
#IndependentUniversities

The Warsaw University students and faculty members have started an occupational protest against the new reform of education. They believe the new reform will have a long lasting negative impact on the independence of Polish universities and the scientific research.

Here are their 11 demands:

1. **Democratise universities.** More transparency in electing faculty members and other academic bodies, including more transparent provost elections.
2. **Bar university boards from nominating their own candidates** for the provost positions and setting university strategy.
3. **Maintain the current departmental structure** and guaranteeing it in the legislation.
4. **Universities without political bias.** Stop attacking the autonomy of scientific research and secure the freedom of research from political influence and bias in assigning grants.
5. **Guarantee transparency.** Guarantee open access to public information and information concerning financial and administrative decisions.
6. **Increase funding for science** and higher education to 2% GDP.
7. **Improve living standards.** More accessible maintenance grants and scholarships at all levels of education. Improving infrastructure incl. dormitories and housing for students and faculty members and university employees. All these changes are meant to eliminate social and economic barriers and improve access to education and careers in science.
8. **Strengthen the law of employment** through introduction of a corporate collective labour agreement with a possibility of an industrial strike in response to decisions made by the Ministry of Education or board of provosts.
9. **Guarantee publishing in Polish.** Firm guarantees to conduct and publish scientific research in humanities and social sciences in Polish.
10. **Stop centralisation** of the higher education system, as this will lead to marginalisation of the regional universities and research centres.
11. **Introduce changes to article 124 section 5.** We demand that terminations of employment contracts be done only on the basis of legally binding decisions of the court, and only for intentional offences.