



**Guidebook for study  
at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine  
Warsaw University of Life Sciences**

by  
Romuald Zabielski, Ludmiła Kot, Michał M. Godlewski (Mick)

Dean's Office for International Veterinary Medicine Studies

2014

## **Introduction**

Living abroad for the extended period of time is not easy, particularly for the first semester. At first it is exciting, everything is new and sometimes very different from that at home, different people, different culture, different cuisine, different prices and currency, different shops. Often a homesickness grows, usually within 2-3 months of arrival, but when you recover from it, you are already well accommodated in a new place, now your place. We, the staff of Dean's Office, have all experienced it many times in all new places on different continents we stayed for a longer time. What really helps to survive the first months abroad is the information gathered from friendly people, internet or guides. We offer you a second, updated edition of a short Guidebook which we hope will help you to find useful info regarding the country, city and University hosting you for a 5.5 years of veterinary medicine studies. The second part of the Guidebook gives you very basic information regarding study rules at SGGW and in particular at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. We hope that it will help you to avoid problems and make living and studying here easier.

## Living in Poland, Warsaw, Ursynów, SGGW campus

The most important info before coming to Poland is the moderate climate: the average summer temperature ranges from 20 to 30°C. Winters are cold and usually snowy – the average ranges from 3°C in the northwest to –8°C in the northeast, but the cold spells of down to –20°C are not uncommon. October is the beginning of autumn, at that time the weather is highly changeable, we can expect both warm, sunny (c.a. 20°C) and cold (c.a. 6°C) and rainy days.

The electricity in Poland is 230 V, 50 Hz, EU standard plug.

The Polish zloty (PLN) is tied to the Euro (€); In May 2014 the average exchange rate was 4.2 PLN to 1 EUR, fluctuation is basically limited to ±10%. The banking system is well developed and comparable with that in other EU countries. Most of shops accept credit and cash cards. Though Warsaw is considered the most expensive city in Poland, the overall living costs are modest compared to UK, Scandinavia, France or Germany. This makes Poland an attractive location for studying – see table of estimated monthly minimum costs.

<b>Estimated costs per month</b>	<b>€</b>
Accommodation in student dorm	€110
Course material, books	€30
Food and drinks (student canteen)	€200
Weekly food shop	€20-30
<b>Total costs per month*</b>	<b>€360-380</b>

\* excluding clothing and personal needs

The SGGW campus is located in Ursynów, south district of Warsaw, see maps at:

<http://www.sggw.pl/category/contact/?lang=en>



The campus consists of 47 buildings (total usable space of 200'000 m<sup>2</sup>), including faculty facilities (lecture and lab buildings, green houses, small animal clinic), student dormitories, Sport Centre (sport halls, swimming pool),

SGGW IKAR Hotel, the Main Library, and the conference hall (Crystal Auditorium). More information can be found on the webpage, <http://www.sggw.pl/?lang=en>. Nearby the dorms you will find a small shop, pharmacy and outpatient clinic. In each faculty building, except clinics, you will find canteen with affordable prices. In front of LIMBA dormitory there is a VETURILO bike rent stand. Read <http://en.veturilo.waw.pl/> to know how to enjoy the bikes.

Shops and commercial centres close to the SGGW campus:

- E. Leclerc open from 9 AM till 9 PM (10 min walk from dormitory)
- TESCO open 24h/7d (beside Metro Kabaty – 3 subway (Metro) stations from Stokłosy)
- bus to the IKEA leaves from Centrum (IKEA Janki is the closest IKEA store to the campus) – go by subway to the Centrum station
- Galeria Mokotów (retail/commercial centre) (4 subway stations, towards Centrum)
- Złote Tarasy (another big commercial centre nearby Warsaw Main Railway Station (Warszawa Centralna) – go by subway to the Centrum station
- Multiplex cinema “Multikino” (1 subway station away – Imielin)

Having fun in Warsaw is cheap! Typical costs: Movie ticket: 30 PLN (€7); Theatre/opera ticket: 60-140 PLN (€14–32); Museum entrance fee: 8-20 PLN (€2-5); Swimming pool (SGGW): 10 PLN/hour (€2.50); Tennis court rental (SGGW): 50 PLN/hour (€12); Fitness Centre (SGGW): 10 PLN (€2.5); Horse riding (SGGW) 30 PLN/hour (€7). The university campus has its own modern sport facilities including a swimming pool, tennis, volleyball, football, basketball, aerobics, fitness centre, and sauna. It is only 100 meters from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine buildings! A horse riding school is located 50 m from the Faculty Horse Clinic in Wolica (c.a. 2 km from SGGW campus). During

the first year there are 2 hours per week of obligatory sport exercises in the education program, meaning this time you can use the facilities for free 😊. Any further activities are charged with a reduced price for all SGGW students. There is also the Cumann Warszawa GAA Gaelic football team, who many of our international students play for. Non-SGGW sports facilities e.g. 5-a-side football pitches are available to hire and are located near the campus. There are plenty of paths for cyclists, runners and roller skaters around the SGGW campus, Ursynów. Three subway stations away (Kabaty) or c.a. 20 minutes by bike is a real woodland reserve (Las Kabacki) with cycling and walking paths, sport fields, grill/open fire areas (Park Kultury w Powsinie). You will also have a chance to meet local wildlife there.

## **Academic Services**

### ***Library***

Address: The Władysław Grabski Library; 166 Nowoursynowska St., 02-787 Warsaw

Phone: (+48) 22 593 55 20

E-mail: <http://www.bg.sggw.pl/ang/index.html>



The University has an agricultural and general libraries on the campus. There is a computer catalogue, 30 PCs and 6 photocopiers. Students have free access to all computer services including the internet and free Wi-Fi access point. The library contains over 300'000 volumes, 700 titles of current periodicals and microfilms in Polish and foreign languages. In August, the Library is closed.

### ***Veterinary Reading Room***

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine has its own reading room in building 24. This reading room contains many books and journals dedicated for veterinary

medicine and life science studies. All necessary books for the course are there, in English and Polish. It is a good place to study or make photocopies of the most wanted pages, and use Wi-Fi access point. During the academic year it is open Mon-Fri from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm.

### ***University Medical Clinic***

Address: 161 Nowoursynowska St., 02-787 Warsaw  
phone: (+48 22) 5931430  
e-mail: zoz@sggw.pl



Our students have access to free medical health care. We have general medicine doctors who speak English. The Health Clinic is open from Monday to Friday (7:00 am – 6:00 pm). For free healthcare, the student must present the EHIC health card or a proof of non-EU medical coverage. The Health Clinic is situated in the linked-building with LIMBA dormitory.

### ***Useful links***

<http://www.studyinpoland.pl/en/> to get some first, general info concerning the country and studying in Poland.

<http://www.nauka.gov.pl/en/> official webpage of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

[http://www.studyinwarsaw.pl/index.php?option=com\\_frontpage&Itemid=1](http://www.studyinwarsaw.pl/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1)  
more info about Warsaw and studying in the capitol city.

[http://polandpoland.com/education\\_study\\_poland.html](http://polandpoland.com/education_study_poland.html)

<http://www.studyfun.pl/>

[http://www.educations.com/Study\\_in\\_Poland\\_\\_d4312.html](http://www.educations.com/Study_in_Poland__d4312.html)

### ***SGGW dormitories – important messages***

The University provides students with self-catered accommodation in the dormitories, in double rooms (2 people per room) for around €110 per month (price includes costs of water, heating, electricity and internet connection). Rooms are equipped with a hob/stove, table, and refrigerator/freezer. No pets are allowed. The dormitories are located on the SGGW campus, at a distance of 200 to 300 meters from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and sport facilities. In the dormitories, there is a central kitchen and dining room where it is possible to prepare dinner. Internet is wired – an Ethernet cable is required. Link to information about rooms: <http://adiss.sggw.pl/> – Click on “Domy studenckie” a link to photos and the addresses dormitories are given. Read the regulations concerning student dormitories to avoid problems:

[http://adiss.sggw.pl/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/reg\\_EN.pdf](http://adiss.sggw.pl/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/reg_EN.pdf)



Changing the room is possible, but for the security reasons each change has to be registered in the system by dormitory manager, not the receptionist. Please mind, that the deadline for reserving of the room for the next academic year is on the end of the summer semester.

It is also possible to rent an apartment in the city for about €300-€700 per month (excluding costs of electricity, gas, phone, cable TV, and internet), however, it is our general advice to stay on SGGW campus for the first semester. Please be advised that the checkout from the dormitory is obligatory. Please ask for the special form from the reception.

## ***Organization of the academic year***

The academic year in Poland starts October 1<sup>st</sup>, and ends before the end of June. It is divided into 2 semesters (winter and summer) each lasting for 15 weeks, and four exam sessions (winter + retake session in February, summer in June, and autumn in September – only for retakes). The organization of the new academic year is announced by the University Rector usually at the end of June, 3 months before the academic year begins. At the same time all the free days (holidays) and exam session dates are announced. At any time Rector might extend the free time issuing so called “Rector’s hours”. Dean of Faculty of Veterinary Medicine may announce “Dean’s hours” just for vet students.

## ***SGGW regulations***

General rules on studying at SGGW are given in SGGW Statute and Study regulations for detailed and up-to date study regulations please check the webpage:  
<http://wmw.sggw.pl/wp-content/uploads/Statute-SGGW-eng.pdf>



The general outlines of the particular study modules (subjects) are presented in the syllabuses and details concerning plan and specific needs are given during the first class or lecture. Veterinary medicine studies cover altogether 11 semesters, 5100 teaching hours (330 ECTS) including obligatory and elective modules. Within a module students participate in classes (practicals), seminars and lectures. Each module (subject) is characterized in the syllabus which can be find at the Faculty webpage: <http://wmw.sggw.pl/en/> (Study Programme)



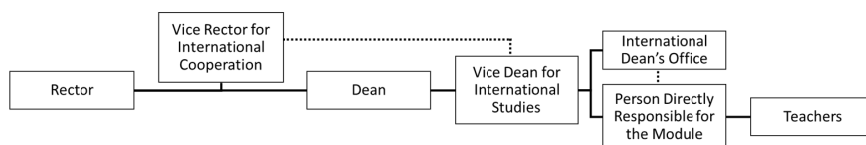
In semester 10 and 11 there are obligatory rotations – clinical modules performed either in Faculty clinics or in cooperating farms and other facilities



outside Warsaw. Obligatory student summer practices are done during summer vacations outside the academic year timeframe – see page 8.

### ***University hierarchy***

The head of the University is the Rector. He issues the general rules regarding functioning of the University, academic year and knowledge verification process. It is also the final instance in for the conflicts between student and the Faculty. The head of the Faculty is the Dean. He is responsible for programme and organization of the progress of the studies. He accepts all the plans of subjects and modules and is responsible for enforcing the University regulations and promotion of the students to the new semester. He also resolves all the issues and conflicts between students and teachers. Person directly responsible for the subject (module) is an academic teacher nominated by the Dean to organize the didactic process. He prepares detail plan and time-schedule of the subject, the detailed rules for the verification of the knowledge and, usually, is the main lecturer. He prepares the module syllabus and is responsible for organization, nominating teachers and fulfilment of lectures and classes. He also performs and schedules verification of the knowledge in tests, colloquia and exams. Conflicts and issues regarding didactic process should be resolved by petition to the person directly responsible for the module, then via him to the Dean, then via Dean's office to the Rector.



Teacher's contact can be found at:  
<http://wmw.sggw.pl/en/category/current-studies/teacher%E2%80%99s-contact/>



### ***International Dean's Office***

Address: Nowoursynowska 159 c, 02-776 Warsaw, Poland

Opening hours:

Monday to Thursday, 9:00 – 12:00 am, 1:00 – 3:30 pm

Phones: (22 59) 360 09; (22 59) 360 12;

e-mail: fvm@sggw.pl



Website: <http://wmw.sggw.pl/en/>



The Dean's office provides you Wi-Fi access point (password is on the information board nearby).

### ***Financial Matters***

For the financial administration or confirmation of tuition payments students are asked to contact directly with Ms Katarina Szikhartová from IMS:

e-mail: [szikhartova@intradegroup.sk](mailto:szikhartova@intradegroup.sk)

Tel: +421 905 20 10 40

Fax: +421 2 58 2476 51



Address:

International Medicine Studies, s.r.o.

Mlynskie Niwy 73

821-05 Bratislava

Slovak Republic

Website: [http://www.ims-medstudy.com/\\_Veterinary\\_School\\_Fees\\_Warsaw](http://www.ims-medstudy.com/_Veterinary_School_Fees_Warsaw)



### ***Student ID Card***

Every student receives ID student card from University. Cost of first card is 17 PLN. Personal number account is given by Dean's office. This card is valid for one semester:

- for winter semester, card is valid until the end of March
- for summer semester, card is valid until the end of October.

To prolong student ID card, student must fulfil the following obligations:

- pass all subjects from previous semester
- pay tuition fee
- have valid medical insurance
- other obligation according to University regulation

The student ID card can be used as transport ticket in Warsaw (subway, bus, tramway) with 50% discount, students who are less 26 year have discount in Polish trains. Some discounts are possible in cinemas, theatres, pubs, expositions, museums.

The card can be used as an internal credit card. Students can upload money on it in order to make copies in reading rooms and main library.

In case a ID card is lost student has to notify Dean's office and apply for replacement in written form. Cost of replacement card is 25 PLN. Replacement procedure starts 3 weeks after the loss.

### ***Subjects and modules – general info***

Modules (e.g., Animal Anatomy, Pharmacology, General Surgery) consist of practical classes, seminars and lectures. For practical and seminars classes students must be prepared in advance according to the study program (read the respective parts in textbooks and/or materials suggested by the teachers).

Student can be absent only on 20% of module hours to conclude the module. Progress in gaining knowledge can be checked during the semester in tests (colloquia, usually no more than 3 per semester) or during short (c.a. 15 min) introductory tests on the beginning of the class. Colloquium, is not to be confused with the exam. It only tests the proficiency in the part of knowledge required to pass a final exam. Some subjects i.e. Animal Physiology, Patomorphology or Large/Small Animal Diseases are divided into several modules. Each module has to be successfully completed before acceptance to the next and all requirements of the module have to be completed before acceptance to the final exam.

### ***Safety issues***

During practical classes students must pay special attention to safety rules regarding handling hazardous chemicals, biological material, and animals. All incidents must be immediately reported to teachers/instructors. It is the obligation of a student to inform teacher about all medical issues and conditions in advance, as they may affect class security.

### ***Knowledge verification and retakes***

Knowledge can be verified in several forms: oral examination, practical or clinical examination (essential for clinical subjects), test (either single or multiple choice, or true/false questions) or written test consisting of open questions. Some subjects require student to prepare a written essay on given or chosen topic. For the details regarding verification forms please see the syllabuses. All the colloquia have to be passed before the end of the semester in order to be accepted for the exam, which is scheduled during an examination session. Students have a right to repeat the colloquium or exam only once if they fail or are unable to sit the first term (due to the absence). It is unprecedented to retake the short introductory tests. If student fails the second term of colloquium or does not accumulate enough points from the short tests he may apply to the person responsible for the module for the

special (last chance) term of the colloquium. This tests the knowledge from the whole extent of the module (whole semester). If student fails the retake of exam or disagrees with the received mark he is entitled to petition the Dean for the special examination term taken in front of the commission consisting of the Dean, teacher(s) of the subject and representative of the students.

### ***The general grade scale at SGGW***

5.0 – excellent

4.5 – very good

4.0 – good

3.5 – sufficient +

3.0 – sufficient

2.0 – failed

To obtain the lowest positive grade (sufficient) student needs to achieve minimum 51% points during the colloquium/exam. However, in number of modules the limits are higher, e.g. in Animal Anatomy, Histology and Embryology, Internal Medicine. The specific requirements for each module are given at the beginning of semester and are written in module syllabus.

### ***The examination system***

There are four examination sessions: winter session at the end of January/ beginning of February; winter retake session, before the start of summer semester in February; summer session in June; and formal autumn retake session in September just before the new academic year. Retake sessions are always scheduled, and need to be completed before the new semester starts.

As mentioned above, two terms of an exam, first and second term, are allowed, plus one additional retake (third/special term) evaluated by the

commission (commission exam). All exams must be completed before the beginning of the subsequent semester.

Students must pass all required exams before they can be accepted for the new semester.

### ***Conditional acceptance***

If, for whatever reason student failed the subject, he may petition to the Dean for conditional acceptance. It is given strictly on the individual basis, depending on the previous academic progress of the student. If given, it is on the strict condition of the catch-up of the failed subject by the set date. If the student failed more than one subject he is required to repeat the whole semester next year.

### ***Rotations***

Rotation is a special form of practical class that takes place at the end of studies (semesters 10 and 11). It is programmed as complex review and application of learned skills in real-life situations in the preparation for clinical practice of future vets. The knowledge required to start rotation encompasses all previous subjects and modules, which means that students who do not pass all obligatory clinical modules cannot enter rotations.

Rotation in Small Animal Diseases is organized by the Department of Small Animal Diseases with Clinics by the designated coordinator. Likewise, the rotation in Large Animal Diseases is organized by the Department of Large Animal Diseases with Clinics. Detailed info on rotation schedule is given c.a. 2 weeks before it starts. Students are informed by the coordinator on special requirements, equipment and protection means needed for the rotation in small and large animals.

### ***Summer practices***

Veterinary student has 5 obligatory summer practices.

- After the second year: 2 week husbandry practice (80 h).
- After the fourth year: 4 week clinical practice (160 h), and 2 week slaughter house practice (80 h).
- After the fifth year: 4 week clinical practice (160 h), and 2 week meat hygiene practice (80 h).

Students are obliged to keep record of their practice in the Student's Daybook of Summer Practice and Clinical Training (which should be purchased in Spinacz – student's shop in building 23). At the very beginning of a new academic year students have to pass the exam regarding summer practices. Summer practices can be arranged by the Faculty or the students themselves. In some countries (e.g. in France) an agreement between University, employer and student have to be signed – the agreements are signed by the Dean's Office upon request. Please note that the aim of husbandry practice is to be acquainted with the practices regarding animal husbandry (functioning of farms, breeding facilities, zoo-gardens, breeding programs, etc.). It is not the aim of this practice to study the veterinary-related activities. The veterinary-related activities are the focus of the practices after later years.

### ***Day One Skills***

From the year three onwards, students are required to document their progress in acquiring the practical veterinary skills in the Day One Skills booklet (which should be purchased in Spinacz – student's shop in building 23). Day One Skills can be confirmed during classes, summer practices, rotations and during voluntary practice (by Dean's permission). The filled booklets are collected by the Dean's Office at the end of 11<sup>th</sup> semester.

### ***Transfer students***

Definition: students transferred from other veterinary medicine courses or life sciences universities (e.g. biology or animal science) on an individual basis. The

same rules regarding participation in courses, absences, grading system, etc., apply to transfer as well as regular students.

Transfer, including list of exempted modules, have to be approved by vice-Dean for international studies based on validated university transcripts of achievements or university certificates as well as detailed description of modules (syllabus).

Accepted transfer students have to set up the individual study curriculum in written form for acceptance by the Dean. Priority has to be given to the modules from present and earlier semesters/years. If this requirement is fulfilled students are permitted to attend modules from higher years upon Dean's approval. Mind the limitations prescribed in syllabuses.

### ***Campus regulations of SGGW***

From 6:00 am till 10:00 pm, campus is open for everybody. After 10:00 pm, only SGGW's employees, students and restaurant's guests can stay. Everyone staying at the campus, regardless of time, must behave safely and respectfully to the environment and others.

In the SGGW campus, it is prohibited to:

- drink alcohol
- be drunk or under influence of any drugs
- smoke or use e-cigarettes in the facilities and outside of designated areas
- organise BBQ outside of dedicated areas
- walk the dog or other animal without restraint
- damage the property of the university
- park the car in not designated or restricted areas



- use mobile phones during classes and lectures (please turn them off or leave them on airplane mode)
- use mobile phones or other electronic devices during colloquia, tests, and examinations
- drink, eat or use cosmetics in the classrooms, clinics and laboratory facilities

According to the general copyright rules taking photographs or use of any form of recording device during lectures and classes requires direct permission from the teacher.

If students observe someone, not respecting the above rules, they are asked to contact campus security: 22 59 33900 or 697 901 012.

## **University events**

### ***WULS-SGGW Days***

Every year in mid-May thousands of Warsaw inhabitants visit our University during WULS-SGGW Days. There is a lot of attractions for the visitors which are prepared by students and staff members of the University. WULS-SGGW Days are organized to memorize the first lecture for students in the post-war Warsaw. This lecture was given at our University on 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1945.

### ***Ursynalia, end of May***

One of the biggest students' festivals in Poland takes place in the WULS-SGGW grounds every year at the end of May. For detailed information please visit the webpage.

### ***National Holidays***

For the list and of Polish National Holidays, their symbolism and significance please visit:

<http://www.officeholidays.com/countries/poland/index.php>



### ***Other useful numbers and links***

Warsaw public transportation information: 22 94 84  
<http://warszawa.jakdojade.pl/?locale=en>



Cracow public transportation information: 12 91 50  
<http://krakow.jakdojade.pl/?locale=en>



International flight departure information: 22 650 39 43

International flight arrival information: 22 650 42 20 (both from Warsaw)

## **Emergency phones in Poland**

From land lines:

- 999: Ambulance
- 998: Fire Brigade
- 997: Police
- 981: Road Assistance
- 986: Municipal Police

Emergency calls from phone boxes and land lines are free of charge.

When dialling the above numbers from mobile phones remember to add the local code (22 for Warsaw) before the number, for example: 22 997 to call the police.

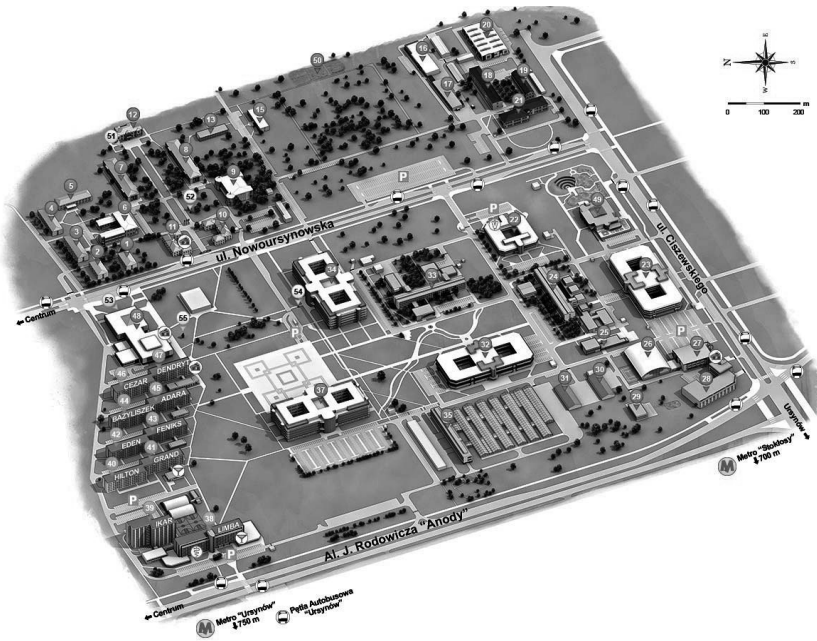
Emergency mobile number:

- 112

The operator will request the appropriate emergency unit.

We recommend using direct emergency numbers in the case of danger (997, 999, 998) because in some cases the general emergency number (112) may be overloaded.

# WULS - SGGW CAMPUS



- Warsaw Metro Station
- Bus stop
- ATM
- Student's clubs
- Drugstore, Clinic
- Veterinary clinic
- Free parking
- Parking, entry fee
- Underground parking, entry fee
- Entry fee
- Entry only for employees
- No entry gateway

Projekt wykonany przez [martyplan.com](http://martyplan.com)

## EXPLANATIONS:

1. Computer Centre
2. Centre for Research and Training Management WULS Press
3. Faculty of Economic Sciences
4. Faculty of Social Sciences
- 5, 6, 7. Faculty of Economic Sciences
8. University Administration:  
Students Affairs Office, Registration, Science Office,  
International Relations Office, European Programmes' Centre
9. "Kryształowa" Hall (Crystal Hall)
10. Students Organizations
11. Financial Department, Cash Desk, Bank
12. Rectorate (Rector, Chancellor)
13. Faculty of Horticulture, Biotechnology and Landscape Architecture
- 14, 15. University Administration
16. Machines Hall of FWT
- 17-19, 21. Faculty of Production Engineering (FPE)
20. Machines Hall of FPE
22. Clinic for Small Animals
23. Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,  
Faculty of Animal Sciences
24. Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
25. Breeding Animals Laboratory
26. Sport Hall
27. Swimming Pool
28. Foreign Language Center and Sport Center
29. Water Treatment Station
- 30, 31. University Administration
32. Faculty of Food Science (FFS)  
Faculty of Human Nutrition and Consumer Sciences
33. Faculty of Engineering and Environmental Sciences
34. Faculty of Forestry,  
Faculty of Wood Technology (FWT)
- 35-36. Faculty of Horticulture, Biotechnology and Landscape Architecture
37. Faculty of Horticulture, Biotechnology and Landscape Architecture  
Faculty of Agriculture and Biology
38. "Limba" Dormitory, Ambulatory
39. "KAR" Hotel
- 40-47. Dormitories
48. Main Library, Museum and Archive
49. Water Center
50. Stadium (plan phase)
51. Congress Center (plan phase)

