

# Faculty of Philology, University of Lodz

Investing in smart building access control



## Name

The Faculty of Philology at the University of Lodz

## Industries

Higher Education

## Location

Lodz, Poland

## Products

Genetec Security Center, Synergis, Omnicast

## Partners

Arpol



## The Faculty of Philology at the University of Lodz kicks off smart building initiative by launching access control using Genetec Security Center

At the University of Lodz in Poland, the building that houses the Faculty of Philology stands out. The cube-like structure was built in 2014 with paneled glass walls and distinct aluminum features, creating a modern, high-end design. Since then, faculty authorities have been working hard to upgrade operational systems. Their goal is to transform the building into a smart campus hub. This would create easier, more secure access for students, staff, and visitors and drive huge operational efficiencies.

### Modernizing faculty access control with one platform

The first step toward this smart building goal was implementing an electronic access control system. The team responsible for access control spent almost a year testing solutions tailored for the building. After much consideration, they chose Genetec™ Security Center.

The platform combines advanced access control, video surveillance, intrusion and other systems in one solution, giving the Faculty a unified view of the academic environment. The Security Center platform also offers an open architecture and strong integration capabilities, ensuring the team can easily adapt and make changes as needs arise.

Today, the team uses the Security Center platform to manage access control across the lecture halls and specialized rooms. They have also unified access control with video monitoring. Seeing video alongside access control events helps operators quickly handle incidents and identify security threats. The result is a safer, smarter, and more efficient learning and working environment for everyone on campus.

“The Genetec platform facilitates access for both staff and students to various rooms. Electronic readers are installed in all lecture halls, auditoriums, language laboratories, and speech therapy rooms. We also have them in special areas with restricted access, such as the television studio, radio studio, and the translator lab with interpreter booths. In total, we currently have over 200 access points,” explained Aneta Sadach, Manager of the Department of Administrative and IT Services at the Faculty of Philology in Lodz.

### Automating access control from classrooms to conferences

Using the Security Center platform, the team can easily grant access rights for both staff and students. They also issue guest cards to visitors, which give them access to a specific room or auditorium.

To streamline operations further, the Faculty has linked the Genetec platform to the university's human resource and student databases. This allows for quick role-based permissions to be assigned to faculty members who need access to the building. In other words, the Genetec system will use different cardholder attributes such as roles, faculty, employee ID, or class schedules to automatically assign the correct privileges. This helps automate the credentialing process and keep the building secure.

Cardholders can also complete access request forms on the faculty's website to request specific access permissions. For example, students can apply for access to a room for individual work using their student ID. Once approved, the access rights are automatically assigned.

By setting up custom door schedules in Security Center, the team is always ready for big school events. When a conference is scheduled, for example, doors will remain unlocked for the event duration. This ensures everyone can easily flow into and out of the auditorium.

The Genetec system also plays a critical role in securing the building after hours. Since the building closes at 9 pm, all zones equipped with alarm systems are automatically armed at that time. The system will then detect and notify operators if any individuals remain inside the building after closing time. This supports both safety protocols and efficient building management.

## Adapting door security to academic needs

Managing personalized access is only part of the equation — the system is also built to handle everyday hiccups like lost cards. When a staff member, student, or visitor misplaces their access card, they can easily report it using a form on the faculty website. This automatically alerts the operators within Security Center and promptly deactivates the card to prevent misuse. A temporary card is then issued for up to two weeks, ensuring minimal disruption. If the original card is found, it can be quickly reactivated. If not, the team will issue a new one.

Additionally, if there are any denied access attempts, the Security Center platform sends an instant alert to the team. They can then quickly view live videos and address the situation.

The system also features two door-opening modes: standard and office. Office mode, specifically tailored to the university's needs, keeps lecture rooms open for 15 minutes after an authorized card is read. This eliminates any unnecessary delays and ensures classes start on time.

"The system helps maintain discipline among students. The days of the academic quarter-hour, which sometimes lasted even up to an

hour, are over," commented PhD Sebastian Zacharow, an academic from the Institute of Roman Studies.

## Taking steps toward a smarter, secure future

Today, modern universities are evolving quickly. They are often spread across multiple buildings, each with complex operational needs. To meet these demands, security teams need unified and flexible systems. This helps them manage dispersed and growing infrastructure while also gaining centralized control and oversight of their environment.

"What distinguishes the Genetec Security Center from other systems is not only the modern access control and advanced building security features, but also the integration with a subsystem that enhances building automation. By leveraging IoT devices, in addition to the standard security functions, users can optimize the consumption costs of electricity, water, and thermal energy. This system is not just about securing the building but also about enhancing its operational intelligence," explained Jakub Kozak, Area Sales Director for Eastern and Central Europe at Genetec.

With this smart building vision in mind, the Faculty of Philology plans to expand its Genetec system. This will include full video monitoring and greater building automation. They are also looking to set up detailed reporting on alarms, fire incidents (via the fire control center), water leak detection, energy usage, and the scheduling of ventilation systems — all contributing to smarter, more efficient campus management.

"For us, investing in the Genetec platform was never meant to be a one-time replacement of standard keys with cards. Rather, we're looking to complete a series of upgrades that will optimize automation and enhance everyday life across the faculty. This project is pioneering among universities in Poland. We want our faculty to have the first fully smart building in the country. Perhaps other faculties—not only at our university but also at other institutions—will want to adopt a similar system," summarized Dorota Cieślak, Administrative Director of the Faculty of Philology at the University of Lodz.

**"The Genetec system also plays a critical role in securing the building after hours. Since the building closes at 9 pm, all zones equipped with alarm systems are automatically armed at that time. The system will then detect and notify operators if any individuals remain inside the building after closing time."**