Russian, B.A.

The Russian major leading to the B.A. degree trains students in both written and spoken Russian and in Russian literature, culture, and civilization. The department encourages students to pursue a second major (e.g., global health, history, linguistics, political science) and to develop their interests in related or complementary fields. Students interested in focusing on a broader interdisciplinary understanding of the region may earn a second major in international studies; see the B.A. in international studies in the Catalog.

Learning Outcomes

By graduation, Russian majors will have:

- enhanced their language proficiency and cultural awareness of the Russian-speaking world; and
- attained skills to engage critically with histories, cultures, literatures, and other arts, and gained knowledge of the diversified Russian-speaking world (Russia, former republics of the Soviet Union, and Southern and Western Slavs).

Study Abroad

The Department of Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures offers an Intensive Summer Language Program at Plekhanov Russian University of Economics (PRUE) in Moscow, Russia. Scholarship opportunities are available and students earn University of Iowa credit. By participating in this program, students can complete the requirements for the Russian major in three years and two months.

Students live and study in the historical center of Moscow, within walking distance from famous landmarks such as Red Square, the Kremlin, the Bolshoi Theater, the State Tretyakov Gallery, and Saint Basil's Cathedral. This immersion in Russian language and culture enables students to become fluent in the Russian language faster, enjoy an authentic Russian language and cultural experience, and make friends from around the world.

Contact the academic coordinator of the Russian program or International Programs Study Abroad for more information.

Requirements

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in Russian requires a minimum of 120 s.h., including 32 s.h. of work for the major earned in Russian courses. Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.00 in all courses for the major and in all UI courses for the major. They also must complete the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences GE CLAS Core.

The B.A. with a major in Russian requires the following course work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:3114</td>
<td>Beginning Composition and Conversation II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both of these sequences:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:3111-RUSS:3112</td>
<td>Third-Year Russian I-II</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:4111-RUSS:4112</td>
<td>Fourth-Year Russian I-II</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students are not required to take RUSS:3113 Beginning Composition and Conversation I before RUSS:3114 Beginning Composition and Conversation II.

Russian and East European Culture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:1082</td>
<td>Youth Subcultures After Socialism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:1131</td>
<td>Introduction to Russian Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:1132</td>
<td>Russia Today</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:1500</td>
<td>Ukraine, a Country at the Crossroads: An Interdisciplinary Seminar on Ukrainian History and Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:1531</td>
<td>Slavic Folklore</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:1532</td>
<td>Religion and Culture of Slavs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:2030/CL:2030</td>
<td>Russian Comedy</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:2050/WLLC:2050</td>
<td>Caucasus as a Crossroad of Civilization</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:2100</td>
<td>Russian Mindset: Sex, Business, and Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:2110</td>
<td>Russian Sports: Politics, Scandal, Glory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:2122</td>
<td>Cult Films of the Last Soviet Generation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:2130</td>
<td>Love and Lust in Literature and Art</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:2131</td>
<td>Women in Russian Society</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:2232/CL:2700</td>
<td>Romani (Gypsy) Cultures of Eastern Europe</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:2531</td>
<td>Topics in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>RUSS:2600</td>
<td>Issues in Russian Identity: Nationalism</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RUSS:3100</td>
<td>West and East: Women in the Slavic World</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>RUSS:3122</td>
<td>Tolstoy and Dostoevsky</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:3131/GHS:3131</td>
<td>Health Care and Health Reforms in Russia</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:3200</td>
<td>Advanced Russian Through Music, Literature, and Film</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:3202/CL:3302</td>
<td>Russian Literature in Translation 1860-1917</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Students are urged to choose elective courses in economics, geographical and sustainability sciences, history, political science, global health, and international studies. Nearly every avenue of professional training and employment requires a solid background in Russian area studies. For example,
criteria for U.S. government employment include substantive knowledge in history, economics, political science, sociological disciplines, scientific specialties, demography, military-related skills, and in some cases, cultural and religious background. In-depth knowledge of literature or linguistics without other substantive background may be of limited practical use in finding employment.

Teacher Licensure

Students interested in teaching in elementary and/or secondary schools should seek admission to the Teacher Education Program (TEP) in the College of Education.

Majors must complete designated pedagogy and linguistics courses in the department in addition to the course work required for their major.

To qualify for licensure in secondary teaching, students in the TEP complete a degree in education as well as a related College of Liberal Arts and Sciences degree. See Teacher Education Program Application and Admission on the College of Education website for details on requirements and deadlines for applying to the College of Education and about TEP choices of majors leading to licensure.

Honors

Honors in the Major

Students have the opportunity to graduate with honors in the major. They must have junior or senior standing, a g.p.a. of at least 3.33 in Russian, and a cumulative University of Iowa g.p.a. of at least 3.33 in order to enroll in the honors program in Russian.

Honors students must register for RUSS:4995 Honors. They must complete an honors project (e.g., thesis, translation, cultural studies, or research) in Russian. Students must present their work to a faculty committee as determined by their honors thesis advisor. Contact the department for more information about requirements for graduation with honors in the Russian major.

University of Iowa Honors Program

In addition to honors in the major, students have opportunities for honors study and activities through membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program. Visit Honors at Iowa to learn about the University’s honors program.

Membership in the UI Honors Program is not required to earn honors in the Russian major.

Academic Plans

Four-Year Graduation Plan

The following checkpoints list the minimum requirements students must complete by certain semesters in order to stay on the University’s Four-Year Graduation Plan. Courses in the major are those required to complete the major; they may be offered by departments other than the major department.

Before the third semester begins: competence in first-year Russian

Before the fifth semester begins: competence in second-year Russian

Before the seventh semester begins: competence in third-year Russian, an additional course in the major, and at least 90 s.h. earned toward the degree

Before the eighth semester: competence in fourth-year Russian and two more courses in the major

During the eighth semester: enrollment in all remaining course work in the major, all remaining GE CLAS Core courses, and a sufficient number of semester hours to graduate

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.
Elective course 3

**Spring**

RUSS:3112 Third-Year Russian II 4

Major: Russian and East European culture course 3

GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues 3

GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab 3

Elective course 1 - 3

**Hours** 15

**Fourth Year**

**Fall**

RUSS:4111 Fourth-Year Russian I 4

Major: Russian and East European culture course 3

GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture 3

Elective course 3

Elective course 3

**Hours** 15

**Spring**

RUSS:4112 Fourth-Year Russian II 4

GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences 3

Elective course 3

Elective course 3

Elective course 2

Degree Application: apply on MyUI before deadline (typically in February for spring, September for fall)

**Hours** 15

**Total Hours** 118-122

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**Financial Support**

Undergraduate students have access to the following financial aid and scholarship resources. Contact the Department of Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures for application information.

**Fairall Scholarship:** Majors who have attended and/or graduated from Iowa elementary or secondary schools may be nominated by the department to receive a Fairall Scholarship. Preference is given to Japanese studies students. Applications are available late spring, with scholarships to be awarded the following fall semester.

**Support for undergraduate study abroad:** Opportunities for undergraduates to study abroad include the Presidential Scholarships for Study Abroad and the Stanley Scholarships for International Research and Study.

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**Career Advancement**

Training in Russian is often an important asset to careers in the natural and physical sciences, engineering, medicine, business, journalism, library and information science, and the social and military sciences. It also may be appropriate preparation for study of law or international relations as well as Russian language and literature, translation, and other humanistic disciplines.

Some governmental agencies are interested in job candidates who have advanced training in Russian; these agencies give preference to applicants who combine strong language proficiency with a well-rounded background in area studies. Students who develop an exceptional facility with the Russian language may pursue careers in literary and technical translation and interpretation.

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.