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 coursework.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Language Courses</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Russian and East European Culture Courses</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>32</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Language

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One of these:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:3113</td>
<td>Beginning Composition and Conversation I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<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>
</tbody>
</table>

Both of these sequences:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:3111-3112</td>
<td>Third-Year Russian I-II</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:4111-4112</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></td>
<td>Four of these (12 s.h.):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:1082</td>
<td>Youth Subcultures After Socialism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:1131/1131</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>Traces of Ancient Russian Culture (IX-XVII Centuries): Vikings, Mongols, and Tsars</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:2050/2050</td>
<td>Women from an Unknown Land: The Fight for Independence</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:2232</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>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:2666/GRMN:2666/WLLC:2666</td>
<td>Pact with the Devil</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:3122/TRNS:3122/WLLC:3122</td>
<td>Tolstoy and Dostoevsky</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:3131/3131</td>
<td>Models of Health Care Delivery in Russia</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:3200</td>
<td>Advanced Russian Through Music, Literature, and Film I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:3201</td>
<td>Advanced Russian Through Music, Literature, and Film II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUSS:3202/3203/WLLC:3202</td>
<td>Russian Literature in Translation 1860-1917</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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 coursework 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 coursework 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.

Russian, B.A.

Course Title Hours
First Year
Fall
RUSS:1111 First-Year Russian a, b, c 5
ENGL:1200 or RHET:1030 The Interpretation of Literature 3 - 4
GE CLAS Core: Diversity and Inclusion d 3
Elective course a 1
CSI:1600 Success at Iowa 2
Hours 14-15
## First Year

### Spring
- **RUSS:1112** First-Year Russian II  
  
- **ENGL:1200** The Interpretation of Literature  
  or **RHET:1030** Rhetoric  
  
- **GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives**  
  
- **Elective course**

### Fall
- **RUSS:2111** Second-Year Russian I  
  
- **Major: Russian and East European culture course**  
  
- **GE CLAS Core: Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts**  
  
- **GE CLAS Core: Quantitative or Formal Reasoning**  
  
- **Elective course**

## Second Year

### Spring
- **RUSS:2112** Second-Year Russian II  
  
- **Major: Russian and East European culture course**  
  
- **GE CLAS Core: Historical Perspectives**  
  
- **Elective course**

### Fall
- **RUSS:3111** Third-Year Russian I  
  
- **RUSS:3114** or **RUSS:3113** Beginning Composition and Conversation II  
  or Beginning Composition and Conversation I  
  
- **GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences with Lab**  
  
- **Elective course**

## Third Year

### Fall
- **RUSS:3112** Third-Year Russian II  
  
- **Major: Russian and East European culture course**  
  
- **GE CLAS Core: International and Global Issues**  
  
- **GE CLAS Core: Natural Sciences without Lab**  
  
- **Elective course**

## Fourth Year

### Fall
- **RUSS:4111** Fourth-Year Russian I  
  
- **Major: Russian and East European culture course**  
  
- **GE CLAS Core: Values and Culture**  
  
- **Elective course**

### Spring
- **RUSS:4112** Fourth-Year Russian II  
  
- **GE CLAS Core: Social Sciences**  
  
- **Elective course**

---

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>118-122</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Notes:
- **a** RUSS:1111, RUSS:1112, RUSS:2111, and RUSS:2112 do not count for credit toward the major. Language level placement will be determined by placement exam score and/or oral interview. Students who place into the 5th semester level of the language will begin major level coursework and not be required to take semesters 1-4 of the language.
- **b** Students who have completed four years of a single language in high school have satisfied the GE CLAS Core World Languages requirement. Enrollment in world languages courses requires a placement exam, unless enrolling in a first-semester-level course.
- **c** Fulfills a major requirement and may fulfill a GE requirement.
- **d** GE CLAS Core courses may be completed in any order unless used as a prerequisite for another course. Students should consult with an advisor about the best sequencing of courses.
- **e** Students may use elective courses to earn credit towards the total s.h. required for graduation or to complete a double major, minors, or certificates.
- **f** RUSS:3113 is not a pre-requisite for RUSS:3114.
- **g** Please see Academic Calendar, Office of the Registrar website for current degree application deadlines. Students should apply for a degree for the session in which all requirements will be met. For any questions on appropriate timing, contact your academic advisor or Graduation Services.