

LEARNING RUSSIAN

A critical language - Russian is spoken by 280 million people in one of the most rapidly growing economies in the world, and is the key to accessing one of the globe's largest economies. Because it is considered a critical language by the U.S. State Department, there are scholarships available for its study.

Getting started is easy - Getting started in Russian is easier than you might think. The first hurdle is the alphabet. Most are familiar with the strangeness of the Russian alphabet, in which some letters are recognizable, but others are not. However, the alphabet is easy to learn, and suddenly hundreds

of words come into sharp focus, as the language shares many loan words with English, French, and German.



We will help you along the way - Our teaching approach emphasizes classroom practice of communicative tasks -- that is, how you would speak in everyday situations. The in-class activities are designed to accommodate different learning styles and build on each student's individual strengths.

RUSSIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

Macalester College - Humanities 206
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RUSSIAN STUDIES

AT MACALESTER COLLEGE



Explore a culture that is as rich in tradition as it is in experimentation and innovation

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EXPLORE

Explore One Sixth of the Globe - Russia and the other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (the former Soviet Union) are dynamic nations with rapidly growing economies. Because of their natural resources, technological expertise, and proud heritage, their influence is felt across the globe. At the same time, the region has produced some of the most enduring and beautiful works of music, literature, and art. At Macalester, we provide many pathways into discovering this region, its people, and its culture.

Read the classics in our courses on Russian Literature in translation. Many of the authors we teach - such as Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Chekov, and Nabokov - produced classics of world literature that broadened the definition of their genres. All students are welcome -- the readings are in translation in most of our courses.

Discover the avant garde by taking a course in Russian culture. The twentieth century brought not only revolution and turmoil, but also dazzling experimentation with form, content, and new ways of thinking. Yet a closer look at Russia's history reveals centuries of such innovation. Our culture courses explore Russia's folklore, mythology, mass culture, visual arts, theater, music, and cinema.

DISCOVER

Start learning Russian this fall and you can study abroad next fall by taking two semesters of first-year Russian and an intensive second-year course over the summer. Students that start in their freshman year are typically on track to study in Russia in their junior year.

Choose the Russian major and you will have many options, whether your interests lean toward literature and culture or areas studies (history, politics, and economics). Our majors have gone on to careers in academia, business, and journalism.

CHALLENGE

Challenge yourself with upper level coursework, the senior seminar, special one-off topics courses, and opportunities for independent study.

Building Leaders - Russian majors play an important leadership role in the Russian program's mission of advancing Russian studies. Majors organize an annual conference, network with academics and prominent thinkers in the field, and develop and promote cultural events.

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