

Russian

Russian is the sixth most spoken language in the world, with 164 million native speakers and 114 million second-language speakers in Russia, other countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and in immigration. It is the language of one of the world's leading cultures, whose achievements in literature, art, music, science, technology, and sports have won worldwide acclaim, and whose history, internal politics, and foreign policy have a large impact on global events. For this reason, Russian is classified as a critical needs language by the U.S. government.

The Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures offers an undergraduate major in Russian with two tracks—**Russian language** and **Russian literature, culture, and film**. Both tracks offer students training in skills to communicate in Russian, to foster an understanding of Russian culture and society, and to develop critical reasoning, reading, and writing skills.

Pursuing Russian at Ohio State

All Ohio State freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus. The primary criteria for admission are the completion of the applicant's high school college preparatory program, performance in that program as indicated by class rank and/or grade-point average, and performance on either the ACT or SAT. Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in Russian within the Arts and Humanities. Interested students should contact the undergraduate coordinating advisor in the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures and the Arts and Sciences.

The program offers five years of Russian language plus a large variety of electives (many taught in English) in Russian culture, literature, film, and linguistics. Additionally, study abroad, internships, and individual research projects all can be counted toward the Russian major. Students can also draw on the many courses in Russian art, geography, history, music, and politics as well as courses in other regional languages and cultures.

Aside from the Russian major curriculum, the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Literatures sets no additional criteria for a major in Russian other than the general requirements established by College of Arts and Sciences.

Russian Requirements

The only prerequisites for the program are first-year Russian (101–104) and one additional class on Russian literature, culture, or film; all these prerequisites fulfill requirements of the General Education Curriculum of the College of the Arts and Sciences (see gec.osu.edu).

The major requires 50 credit hours of course work—ordinarily 10 courses—in Russian language, literature, and culture. All students take second-year Russian (401 and 402 or 405 and 407), third-year Russian (with different courses required in the two tracks), a capstone course (Russian 675), and electives drawn from the large array of courses in advanced Russian language, culture, literature, film, and linguistics.

Students in the **Russian language track** take advanced language classes, plus one additional elective in literature, culture, or film. Students in the **Russian literature, culture, and film track** choose two courses in literature, two in culture, and one in film for their electives. In both tracks, substitutions may be made in the course work with permission of the advisor.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

Students of Russian can enhance their learning experience outside the classroom with numerous Russian-related activities at Ohio State. The Russian Club stages “diskoteki” and hosts film screenings, celebrations of Russian holidays, Tetris contests, and Cuisine Nights. The Center of Slavic and East European Studies sponsors screenings of Russian and Eastern European films every quarter, as well as guest speakers, conferences, and other events focusing on Russia. At the weekly Russian Table, students of all levels can practice their conversational skills and get free tutoring. Students who enjoy singing can join the “Rusalka” Folk Choir. Russian TV programs are broadcast twice a week in the Crane Cafe on the first floor of Hagerty Hall.

University Libraries owns hundreds of thousands of Russian books and periodicals, while the Center for Slavic and East European Studies offers students free rentals of over one thousand Russian films and documentaries. There is a growing community of Russians on campus and in the Columbus area, so students of Russian have many opportunities to practice their language and learn about Russian culture in informal settings.

Internships focusing on Russia and Eastern Europe, individual student research projects, and study abroad experiences can be counted toward the Russian major. The Slavic Department offers an eight-week summer program in Tomsk, Russia, as well as short-term study abroad trips focusing on Russian society and culture, NGOs in Ukraine, and Russian opera and society (with the School of Music). Ohio State students can also study in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and other cities through the American Council of Teachers of Russian.

All of these experiences help Russian students increase their proficiency in Russian language and culture, enhance their marketability, and gain valuable professional experience that they can use in wide-ranging careers in government, education, and the private sector.

For more information, check these web sites:

Slavic & East European Languages and Literatures:
slavic.osu.edu

Arts and Humanities: artsandhumanities.osu.edu

Ohio State: osu.edu

Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu

Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu

Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student may take to pursue a degree in Russian on the Russian language track. Since university students need more than specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC). The GEC will allow students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GEC often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GEC toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in Russian. Consult the Slavic Department's Undergraduate Handbook (available in 400 Hagerty) or visit slavic.osu.edu for details on each specific track.

Freshman Year:

First-Year Russian I, II, and III	15
GEC (English composition)	5
GEC courses	25
Arts and Humanities Survey	1
Freshman Seminar	1
Total hours	47

Sophomore Year:

First-Year Russian VI	5
Second-Year Russian I and II	10
Russian Film/VPA GEC (360)	5
GEC courses	25
Total hours	45

Junior Year:

Third-Year Russian I, II, and III	15
Golden Age of Russian Literature: Pushkin to Turgenev	5
Practical Russian Pronunciation	5
GEC courses and electives	25
Total hours	50

Senior Year:

Major Capstone Course	5
Fourth-Year Russian	10
GEC courses and electives	35
Total hours	50

Honors & Scholars Programs

Ohio State offers the Honors and Scholars programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate students. Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling, and unique housing options.

Honors and Scholars programs represent great opportunities to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Good candidates for these programs will receive additional information after admission to the university. Learn more about the Honors and Scholars program at honors-scholars.osu.edu.

Career Counseling and Job Placement

Students can explore career options by utilizing Career Connection as well as the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office. Providing complimentary services, Career Connection focuses on helping students establish a career direction, while the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office assists students with finding internships—experiences that are essential to testing out the suitability of career fields they are considering. Located in 48 Townshend Hall, the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office also assists seniors and recent graduates with finding entry-level career employment. More information about both offices is found at ascareerservices.osu.edu and careerconnection.osu.edu.

Career Prospects in Russian

A G8 country, Russia has rich natural resources and one of the world's largest economies. Over the past decade, Russia has been undergoing a wave of resurgent nationalism; its government continues to exert considerable influence in international affairs and often pursues policies that differ from those of the United States. For this reason, the U.S. government has classified Russian as a critical needs language vital for national security interests and stresses the need for professionals with Russian expertise.

Recently, Ohio State graduates with Russian degrees have gained rewarding employment in federal agencies. Students can find out about government opportunities at the federal Career Fairs that are held periodically at Ohio State or by visiting ourpublicservice.org/OPS. Graduates in Russian have also pursued careers in fields such as international business, secondary and postsecondary education, economics, law enforcement, and translating/interpreting. In addition, qualified graduates have had opportunities to teach English in Russia and Eastern Europe.

In general, upward mobility for foreign language alumni is promising. Corporate representatives who visit our campus to recruit graduating students continue to emphasize the importance of a strong liberal arts education. Indeed, their most successful hires, they state, are those who communicate well with others, have international or cultural expertise, and seek creative solutions to situations with marketable skills that are enriched by a humanistic education.

Revised September 2009. For the most up-to-date information on the Russian program, please visit slavic.osu.edu.

Contact information:

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