

# St. Petersburg State University

russian language / russian studies



## program snapshot

- Experience the longest running study abroad program in Russia in spectacular St. Petersburg, where the entire downtown is a protected UNESCO heritage site
- Improve your Russian through intensive Russian language training for intermediate and advanced students
- Live in a homestay with a Russian family for cultural and linguistic immersion
- Explore Russian culture on excursions in and outside the city and participate in a rich program of extracurricular activities

## what you'll learn

The Summer Russian Language program offers intermediate and advanced students of Russian language an opportunity for intensive language study in an immersion setting. The program combines intensive language courses with a cultural program of lectures and local excursions in and around St. Petersburg, one of the world's most historically appealing cities. Students further immerse themselves in Russian cultural and social life by living with a Russian host family and participating in the conversation partner program with other college-aged students.

## thoughts from abroad

Though Dostoevsky's novels are commonly associated with a dark and cold St. Petersburg, one must not forget that *Crime and Punishment* was set in the sweltering heat of the city's white nights. People call it the Venice of the North, the Cultural Capital. The best time for St. Petersburg to prove its status as one of the most beautiful cities in the world is in the summer when it transforms into a city of innumerable rivers and canals, parks and gardens, tulips and lilac, white nights and drawbridges. St. Petersburg truly comes alive in summer: its canals are filled with pleasure boats and the Neva embankment is host to impromptu concerts and parties. The city's numerous parks gush with flowing fountains and the sky remains a pale periwinkle from dusk till dawn. Here you will uncover the genius of Pushkin, spend time strolling along the Romanovs' lanes, and fall in love with the city that will never let you go.

— Irina Makoveeva, Resident Director

### About the Resident Director

A native of Moscow, Irina Makoveeva received her Master's in Russian Philology and Comparative Linguistics from the Moscow Lomonosov State University and her Doctoral degree in Slavic and Film Studies from the University of Pittsburgh. Her dissertation *Visualizing Lev Tolstoy's Anna Karenina* reveals her interest in popular-culture adaptations of canonical literary texts. While her first publications focus on problems of translation and methodology of teaching Russian as a foreign language, her recent articles explore various aspects of Soviet and post-Soviet culture. Throughout her long academic career, she has taught various courses on Russian literature, culture, cinema, and all levels of Russian language at such schools as Moscow State Mining University, the Moscow Lomonosov State University, Virginia Tech, the University of Pittsburgh, and Vanderbilt University.

### About Other CIEE Staff

Student Services Manager Jarlath McGuckin graduated from the University of Rochester in 2002 with a degree in Russian and Political Science. In 2009 he received his M. A. in Russian Studies from the European University at St. Petersburg. In the spring of 2003, he began working for CIEE in the external relations department and moved to Russia in the summer of 2006 to take on the role of Resident Coordinator. He is fluent in Russian and was a former participant in both the CIEE St. Petersburg and Prague programs. In his free time, Jarlath can be found performing with his rock band in St. Petersburg.

Student Services Assistant Katya Rubtsova joined the CIEE Study Center in 2009. A graduate from the Tula Lev Tolstoy State Pedagogical University with the major in teaching foreign languages, she assists CIEE students in their everyday endeavors. Katya participated twice in the CIEE USA Work and Travel Program.

## about st. petersburg

Envisioned by Peter the Great as the "Window to the West" and created by French and Italian architects, St. Petersburg became a testimony to opulence with golden palaces, pastel-colored mansions, and landscaped parks, gardens, and canals. Having endured the horrors of World War II and Stalinist repression, the people now cope with a new political and economic reality. Known as Leningrad from 1924 to 1991, the city of nearly five million is easily navigated by foot, bus, trolley, and an efficient metro system.

## academics

### Academic Program

2012 marks the 45th year of the CIEE Study Center in St. Petersburg. CIEE began its close relationship with St. Petersburg State University when the Summer Russian Language Program began there in 1967.

The program includes seven weeks of language study at the School of Political Science, St. Petersburg State University. The curriculum includes courses in grammar, phonetics, and conversation. In addition, students take classes focusing on such aspects of Russian culture as literature, film, current press, and music. During the program, students visit places of historical and cultural significance in and around St. Petersburg.

### Academic Culture

Students attend classes five days a week with one afternoon reserved for cultural activities. Classes are 90 minutes in length.

All courses are taught in Russian. Students are grouped by language level based on the results of a placement test. Students are expected to be prepared for class. Much of the material used in language classes is written by the teachers themselves, and exercises are often taken directly from their texts. In-class participation often accounts for a large percentage of students' grades as Russian teaching methodology emphasizes in-class learning.

### Nature of Classes

CIEE participants take classes with CIEE students only.

### CIEE Community Language Commitment

Students take part in the CIEE Community Language Commitment by speaking Russian at all times (except in emergencies). This fosters a learning community that contributes to both Russian language proficiency and understanding of Russian society.

### Grading System

Grades are assigned using the Russian grading scale of 1 to 5, which are converted to U.S. letter grade equivalents. Plus and minus grades are also assigned. Grades are determined by a combination of in-class participation, short quizzes, written assignments, and exams.



## where you'll study

Founded in the 18th century, St. Petersburg State University is one of Russia's leading institutions of higher education. The campus has expanded from its original site on the Neva River, and now includes over 400 buildings around the city center. CIEE students study at the University's stunning Smolny campus—on the territory of the renowned school for noble ladies founded in 1764—in a quiet neighborhood on the east side of downtown St. Petersburg.

## living

### Housing and Meals

Housing and most meals are included in the program fee. Students live with a Russian family in a private apartment and have their own room. On weekdays breakfast and dinner are provided by the family and lunches as well on weekends. Students are responsible for weekday lunches.

### Online Pre-Departure and On-Site Orientation

Students begin their study abroad experience in St. Petersburg before leaving home—by participating in a CIEE Online Pre-Departure Orientation. Meeting with students online, the Resident Director shares information about the program and site, highlighting issues that alumni have said are important, and giving students time to ask questions before leaving home. The online orientation allows students to connect with others in the group, reflect on what they want to get out of the program, and learn what others in the group would like to accomplish. The CIEE goal for the pre-departure orientation is simple: to help students understand more about the program and site, as well as their goals for the program, so that they arrive to the program well-informed and return home having made significant progress towards their goals.

At the beginning of the program, all students participate in an intensive three-day introduction to Russian everyday culture and customs, health and safety issues, and the academic program. The orientation, held in a St. Petersburg hotel, is supported by Russian student assistants in order to facilitate the American students' entry into their new culture. After the initial two days of orientation, CIEE students move to their homestays. For the remainder of the orientation, students take part in a variety of exercises, excursions, and meetings as they become familiar with their new home.

### Internet

Limited, but free, wireless is available at the CIEE Study Center for students who bring wireless-enabled laptops. Wireless Internet is also available through local cell phone and Internet providers, and there are many Internet cafés located throughout St. Petersburg. Internet access in homestays is not guaranteed.

## culture

### Cultural Activities and Field Trips

The academic program is supplemented with excursions, study tours, and field trips. Although the schedule changes somewhat from year to year, typical excursions include a city bus tour, the Hermitage, the Peter and Paul Fortress, Pavlovsk, Peterhof, the Yusupov Palace, a walking tour of Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment, Pushkin's Apartment Museum, and the Baltika Brewery. Additionally, CIEE staff arranges boat tours, a group cooking class in Russian cuisine, visits to the Russian bathhouse, and tickets to soccer games. Weekends are mostly free with the exception of overnight weekend field trips and possible Saturday excursions.

The program offers two overnight field trips each summer: Moscow, Russia's vibrant capital, and Novgorod, Russia's oldest city. Both trips include excursions to places of educational, cultural, and historic significance, while still allowing some time for students to explore the sites on their own. Some group meals are included during these group excursions.



## eligibility

- Overall GPA 2.75
- 4 semesters of college-level Russian or equivalent

## duration

8 weeks: mid-June–mid-August

## engagement

### Sobesedniki—Peer Language Partners

CIEE students who choose to take part in the *Sobesedniki* program are paired with local students for a variety of language and cultural exchange activities. This partner program provides CIEE participants additional language support, as well as gives them a firsthand look at the lifestyle of their Russian peers.

### Film and Music

CIEE students can enjoy Russian cinema individually by checking out films from the Study Center DVD library or collectively in group screenings through the CIEE Film Club. The choir practice is included in the course on Russian culture.

## costs

### CIEE Fees

Summer 2011: \$6,300  
Summer 2012: available 12/15/11

The CIEE program fees for 2012 include an on-site airport meet and greet and departure shuttle, full-time leadership and support, tuition, housing and most meals, orientation, cultural activities, local excursions and trips outside St. Petersburg, pre-departure advising, visa fees, most course materials, and a CIEE iNext travel card which provides insurance and other travel benefits.

### Estimated Additional Costs (Summer 2011)

Transportation (round-trip based on U.S. East Coast departure)	\$ 1,300
Personal Expenses	\$ 600
Additional Meals	\$ 125
Books and Supplies	\$ 50
Local Transportation	\$ 150
<b>Total Estimated Additional Costs</b>	<b>\$ 2,225</b>

Check our website for current fees.



## coursework

### Program Requirements

Students are required to take the three required language courses (Russian Grammar, Russian Phonetics, and Russian Conversation) and the two required content courses.

### Credit

This program averages 24 hours per week of language instruction. Russian language instruction covers grammar, phonetics, conversation, contemporary Russian press, Russian film, Russian music, and Russian culture.

Total recommended credit for the summer is 9 semester/13.5 quarter hours and the number of contact hours is 172.

Recommendations for contact hours not only take into consideration actual class time, but also required excursions and trips.

### Language of Instruction

Russian

### Faculty

All courses are taught by faculty from St. Petersburg State University.



## courses

### Required CIEE Language Courses

#### RUSI 3011 RLPU Russian Grammar Advanced I

#### RUSI 3012 RLPU Russian Grammar Advanced II

The purpose of this course is to activate students' knowledge of modern Russian. This is accomplished through oral and written exercises in class and written homework assignments. Topics of study include verbs of motion, verbal aspect, reflexive verbs, impersonal and passive constructions, as well as word formation. Contact hours: 42. Recommended credit: 2 semester/3 quarter hours.

#### RUSI 3021 RLPU Russian Phonetics Advanced I

#### RUSI 3022 RLPU Russian Phonetics Advanced II

This course is a systematic exploration and analysis of the Russian sound system, including separate phonemes, sound combinations, and modifications in normal speech, as well as intonation patterns. Introductory discussions of pronunciation norms prepare the student for the practical reading exercises, which comprise the bulk of class work. Listening comprehension constitutes a part of this course. Contact hours: 28. Recommended credit: 1 semester/1.5 quarter hours.

#### RUSI 3031 RLPU Russian Conversation Advanced I

#### RUSI 3032 RLPU Russian Conversation Advanced II

This course is designed to help students increase their active vocabulary, improve their control of idiomatic Russian, and develop all of the basic skills necessary for oral expression. Its focus is on initiating and maintaining conversation. Organized thematically, course discussions cover family life, student life, getting around the city, field trips, Russian culture, art, and current events. Contact hours: 42. Recommended credit: 2 semester/3 quarter hours.

### Required CIEE Content Courses

#### AREA 3001 RLPU

##### Russian Culture: Lectures and Excursions

This weekly lecture series explores Russian history, literature, art, and contemporary Russian life. Topics include the role of Russian literature in 19th and 20th centuries, a survey of major 19th and 20th century Russian writers, Russian women writers, major events in Russian history, Russian art and architecture, contemporary Russian politics, economics, and emerging social problems. Lectures are complemented by weekly excursions in and around St. Petersburg. Contact hours: 15. Recommended credit: 1 semester/1.5 quarter hours.

#### RUSI 3002 RLPU

##### Discovering Russia: Film, Music, and Current Press

This course examines various aspects of Russian culture through a close analysis of its verbal and visual texts that represent Russian cinema, music, and mass media. While focusing on two or three Russian films, the students examine the films' transcripts and vocabulary lists, which are later used in class discussions and written home assignments. A similar approach is employed in the work with the articles from Russian newspapers and journals. It allows the students to broaden their knowledge of the specific language of the current press and the socio-political problems of today's Russia. The emphasis of the course's musical component falls on various types of Russian song, the study (and performance) of which leads to a better understanding of Russian culture. Contact hours: 45. Recommended credit: 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours.