

St. Petersburg State University

fall / spring / academic year



russian language and culture / russian studies



program snapshot

- Study Russian on an intensive language program on the longest running study abroad program in Russia in magnificent St. Petersburg where the entire downtown is a protected UNESCO heritage site
- Live with local Russian host families for maximum linguistic and cultural immersion
- Participate in optional volunteer projects organized through a well-developed network of contacts that facilitate integration into Russian society
- Participate in a cultural program including local excursions, field trips, exclusive tours, and performances

what you'll learn

The goal of the Russian Language program is to offer intermediate and advanced students of Russian a well-balanced program of language study in an immersion setting. This is achieved by combining intensive language courses with an enriching cultural program of lectures and local excursions in and around one of the world's most culturally and historically interesting cities. Students fully participate in Russian cultural and social life by living with a Russian host family, socializing with Russian peers through program activities, and by volunteering.

thoughts from abroad

It seems that St. Petersburg is a perfect locale to comprehend Russia. Unlike Moscow, famous for its overwhelming pace of an urban conglomerate, the Northern capital of Russia allows its guests more time and freedom for an individually-paced investigation. The three hundred year old city and its startling architecture is saturated with Russia's turbulent past and the lives of its historical (Peter the Great and Catherine the Great) and literary (Alexander Pushkin and Fedor Dostoevskii) giants. Your frequent interaction with the young people at St. Petersburg State University and outside it, group visits to the intense games of St. Petersburg's favorite hockey (SKA) and soccer (Zenit) teams, and the concerts of today's talented musicians at the city's numerous venues will allow you to experience St. Petersburg and Russia as a whole, surmounting a potential gap between the old and the new, as well as between the high and the popular culture. Finally, your stay with a Russian family will add the last, but not the least, stroke to a colorful canvas you will want to name your Russian Adventure.

— 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 Doctorate 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 band in St. Petersburg.

Student Services Assistant Katya Rubtsova joined the CIEE Study Center in 2009. A graduate of Tula Lev Tolstoy State Pedagogical University with a degree in teaching foreign languages, and assists CIEE students in their everyday endeavors. She also participated twice on the CIEE Work and Travel USA 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 CIEE semester Russian Language program (RLP) was established in 1970, and the Russian Area Studies program (RAS) in 2000.

The Russian Language program is offered in both the fall and spring semesters and includes 14 weeks of language study at St. Petersburg State University and field trips to other Russian cities. The curriculum for this program includes required courses in grammar, phonetics, and conversation, as well as elective courses in Russian literature, history, politics, and culture. Academic year students in the spring semester take advanced sections of grammar and conversation, advanced translation, and one elective course.

Academic Culture

Students attend classes five days a week with one afternoon reserved for cultural activities. Classes are 90 minutes in length. Grammar and conversation courses meet three times a week; phonetics and the elective courses meet twice each week.

All courses are taught in Russian. Students are grouped by language level based on the results of a placement test. Class size ranges from seven to ten students for core language courses, with larger groups of 7–15 for literature and area studies lectures. 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

Participants take classes with other CIEE students only and do not take classes with Russian students. Upon approval from CIEE Resident Staff and local faculty members, students may audit additional classes (taught in Russian) at the School of Political Science, St. Petersburg State University.

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 in accord with the Russian grading scale of one to five and 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. Attendance is mandatory for all CIEE courses.



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

All students live in Russian homestays. Housing and most meals are included in the program fee. Participants have their own room with a Russian family in a private apartment. Two meals daily are included with the family (three on weekends). Students are responsible for weekday lunches. The University cafeteria offers reasonably priced meals.

Online Pre-Departure and On-Site Orientations

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 Student Services staff share 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 toward their goals.

The on-site orientation lasts three days, although there are additional orientation activities throughout the first two weeks of the program. At the beginning of the program, all students participate in an intensive three-day introduction to everyday Russian culture and customs, health and safety issues, and the academic program. The orientation, held in St. Petersburg, is supported by Russian student assistants in order to facilitate the American students' entry into their new culture. Ongoing support is provided on an individual and group basis throughout the program.

Internet

Limited, but free, wireless Internet is available at the CIEE Study Center for students who bring wireless-enabled laptops. Wireless Internet is also available through local cell phone providers, 4G Internet providers, and many Internet cafés throughout St. Petersburg. Internet access in homestays is not guaranteed. Additionally, there is a fee-for-service Internet classroom maintained by the University.

culture

Cultural Activities and Field Trips

The academic program is supplemented with excursions, study tours, and field trips.

Mandatory excursions in previous semesters have included: a city bus tour, the Hermitage, the Russian Museum, the Peter and Paul Fortress, Pavlovsk, and Peterhof. Optional excursions organized by CIEE Staff include such excursions as Tsarskoe Selo, the Yusupov Palace, a walking tour of Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment, Pushkin's Apartment Museum, the Nabokov Museum, the Russian National Library and the Baltika Brewery. In previous semesters CIEE arranged a night at the ballet, a group cooking class in Russian cuisine, visits to the Russian bathhouse (banya), a retreat with Russian students at the St. Petersburg State University camp on the Gulf of Finland, and group tickets to hockey and soccer games. Weekends are mostly free with the exception of overnight weekend field trips and possible Saturday excursions.

The program offers three overnight field trips that take place each semester. Although excursion destinations vary, previous semesters have included overnight trips to Moscow, Novgorod, the Pskov region, and Tallinn, Estonia. These 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.

There is also an independent Russian Travel Week each semester. Students are encouraged to visit areas outside of St. Petersburg on their own. Students travel independently and the cost of this travel is not included in the program fee. In past semesters students have visited the lovely towns of old Russia in the Golden Ring surrounding Moscow, camped on Lake Baikal, explored Vladivostok, taken in the sites of the Tatar Republic, and relaxed on the shores of the Black Sea.

Volunteering

CIEE students may take advantage of a range of volunteer projects in St. Petersburg. CIEE students have the opportunity to conduct English conversation lessons with students from St. Petersburg State University and private language schools. Although volunteer opportunities change somewhat from semester to semester, it is generally possible for CIEE students to spend their free time assisting at the Hermitage, the International Red Cross, the Salvation Army, non-governmental organizations, and orphanages.



duration

Fall

16 weeks: late August—mid-December

Spring

16 weeks: late January—mid-May

Academic Year

32 weeks: late August—mid-May

eligibility

- Overall GPA 2.75
- 4 semesters of college-level Russian or equivalent
- Oral Proficiency Interview score of Intermediate Low or better recommended

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. These students help provide CIEE participants with additional language support and a firsthand look at the lifestyle of their Russian peers. *Sobesedniki* take part in many events organized by CIEE.

CIEE St. Petersburg Signature Cultural Events

Each semester, CIEE students organize a special event held at the end of the semester. This event is a chance for CIEE students to delve into a specific topic of Russian history and experience that epoch in a fun and entertaining way with other students from the School of Political Science or their *Sobesedniki*. In past semesters, students have organized a Spring Ball (the period of Catherine the Great) and a *Stilyagi* (Retro Hipsters style of the 1950s) party.

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. In addition, they can participate in the CIEE Choir once a week. The CIEE Choir has become a tradition in recent years, and the group has been invited to perform on national radio in past semesters. Some students choose to audition for the St. Petersburg State University choir or orchestra, which perform world class musical concerts for the public, while other students prefer to privately study a musical instrument, such as the balalaika or accordion.

costs

CIEE Fees

Fall 2011: \$12,700

Spring 2012: available 8/15/11

Academic Year 2011–12: \$24,200

The CIEE program fees for 2011–12 include an optional on-site airport meet and greet, departure shuttle, full-time leadership and support, tuition, housing and most meals, orientation, field trips, local excursions, pre-departure advising, visa fees, and a CIEE iNext travel card which provides insurance and other travel benefits.

Estimated Additional Costs (Fall 2011)

Transportation	\$ 1,350
(round-trip based on U.S. East Coast departure)	
Personal Expenses	\$1,600
Additional Meals	\$ 750
Books and Supplies	\$ 100
Local Transportation	\$ 250
Total Estimated Additional Costs	\$ 4,050

Check our website for current fees.

coursework

Program Requirements

All students take Russian Grammar, Phonetics, and Conversation, and two elective courses. Participants are placed at the appropriate language level based on language testing conducted at the beginning of the program. Academic year students take Russian Grammar, Conversation, Translation and one elective in their second semester.

Credit

Recommended credit for the semester is 17 semester/25.5 quarter hours and 31 semester/46.5 quarter hours for the academic year.

Course contact hours are 56 hours and recommended credit is 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours per course, unless otherwise indicated.

Recommendations for credit hours take into consideration not only actual class time, but also five mandatory excursions. Organized excursions are conducted in Russian.

Language of Instruction

Russian

Faculty

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

courses

Required CIEE Semester Courses

RUSI 3011 RLPR, Grammar, Advanced I

RUSI 3012 RLPR, Grammar, Advanced II

RUSI 3013 RLPR, Grammar, Advanced III

These courses activate students' knowledge of modern Russian. This is accomplished through oral and written exercises in class, written homework assignments, and short compositions. Topics of study include: verbs of existence, verbs of motion, the imperative, reflexive verbs, verbal aspect, impersonal and passive constructions, and participles. Contact hours: 84. Recommended credit: 4 semester/6 quarter hours.

RUSI 3021 RLPR, Phonetics, Advanced I

RUSI 3022 RLPR, Phonetics, Advanced II

RUSI 3023 RLPR, Phonetics, Advanced III

These courses are a systematic exploration and analysis of the Russian sound system including separate phonemes, sound combinations, modifications in normal speech, as well as intonation patterns. Introductory discussions of pronunciation norms prepare the student for practical reading exercises, which comprise the bulk of class work. Contact hours: 84. Recommended credit: 4 semester/6 quarter hours.

RUSI 3031 RLPR, Conversation, Advanced I

RUSI 3032 RLPR, Conversation, Advanced II

RUSI 3033 RLPR, Conversation, Advanced III

These courses are designed to increase active vocabulary, further the students' control of idiomatic Russian, and develop all the basic skills of oral expression. The focus is directed conversation organized thematically, with attention given to speech situations of special practical use to the foreigner in Russia. Contact hours: 84. Recommended credit: 4 semester/6 quarter hours.

Elective CIEE Courses

LITT 3001 RLPR

Analytical Readings, 19th Century Russian Literature

(fall only)

With the focus on 19th century literature, this course is devoted to writers' biographies, major works, and place in the development of Russian literature and culture. Participants analyze texts of such authors as Alexander Pushkin, Iurii Lermontov, Nikolai Gogol, Ivan Turgenev, Fedor Dostoevsky, and Lev Tolstoy. While examining their characteristic stylistic peculiarities, students learn about 19th century Russia, its problems and concerns, as well as penetrate the contradictory essence of the Russian mentality. *Instructor: Anastasia Grosheva*

LITT 3102 RLPR

Analytical Readings, 20th Century Russian Literature

(spring only)

With the focus on 20th century literature, this course is devoted to writers' biographies, major works, and place in the development of Russian literature and culture. Participants analyze texts of such authors as Alexander Blok, Anna Akhmatova, Vladimir Maiakovsky, Marina Tsvetaeva, Boris Pasternak, Osip Mandelshtam, Ivan Bunin, and Mikhail Bulgakov. Tragically trapped in the turmoil of the first decades of the 20th century, they express their visions, feelings, and delusions in a new poetic language that powerfully captures the era's complex nature. *Instructor: Anastasia Grosheva*

POLI 3001 RLPR/RAST 3001 RLPR

Comparative Cultural Studies: The United States and Russia

Through the introduction of key cultural, social, and political issues and discussions based on texts and documentaries this course gives CIEE students the opportunity to learn more about the contemporary Russian political sphere. Topics include citizen and state, values and norms, political and social processes, and cultural aspects of political life. Texts are primarily by Russian authors and include both academic secondary sources and articles from the mass media. Classes are conducted in Russian, though English is used for explanatory purposes as well as discussions which are bilingual. *Instructor: Dr. Aleksander Sherstobitov*

RUSI 3006 RLPR

Russian Social and Political Life

(fall only)

This course explores Russian civilization through analysis of assigned readings in the Russian press and a lecture series on topical current events oriented toward the social and political life in Russian society. Topics such as the Soviet/Russian family, people and politics in Russia, and institutions and organizations are covered. Class discussion of the assigned reading acquaints participants with specialized language and Russian journalistic style.



RUSI 3008 RLPR

Russian Traditional Visual and Performing Arts

(fall only)

This class explores traditional Russian performing, visual, and applied arts in an historical and geographical context. Students are introduced to Russian folk arts and traditions (especially vocal and visual) and the regional differences in Russia's vast territory. The course consists of lectures, local field trips, and hands-on experience. Part of the course is devoted to learning Russian songs to further their understanding of Russian. *Instructor Dr. Irina Guliakova*

RUSI 3009 RLPR

Petersburg and the 'New' in Russian Culture

(spring only)

This class explores post-Petrine Russian performing, visual, and applied arts. The course consists of lectures, local field trips, and hands-on experience. Russian architectural movements, the visual arts, especially 'academic' painting, and classical musical traditions are given particular attention. The various architectural styles represented in the city, the multitude of museums, and the wealth of cultural/musical events make St. Petersburg itself an integral part of the course material. *Instructor Dr. Irina Guliakova*

RUSI 3010 RLPR

Mentality, Social Behavior, and the Representation of Russia

(spring only)

This course analyzes issues of intellectual background and social behavior as they emerge in the representation of contemporary Russia. The course introduces an overview of the popular concepts which shaped the mentality of the Russians. Topics covered include intellectual life, religion, gender, Russian youth, living conditions, work, and employment. Texts discussed in class are related to current events and help students to explore the language of the press. *Instructors: Dr. Nina Filippova and Dr. Leonid Loshenkov*

RUSI 3106 RLPR

Advanced Translation

(For academic year students only in spring semester)

This course attempts to systemize previously acquired knowledge of Russian grammar (morphology and syntax), lexis, and stylistics. The emphasis falls on the grammatical phenomena that rarely have absolute equivalents in Russian and English languages (gerund, indefinite pronouns, and adverbs). Special attention is given to the structure of Russian sentence and mobility of its components' order, which is governed by the variety of its communicative functions. The ample corpus of sentences, paragraphs, and unabridged texts in English constitutes the core of a thorough study of the specifics of translation from English into Russian. *Instructor Dr. Ekaterina Sokolova*



a student's story

You learn something different each day in St. Petersburg. It may be the history of the vast Russian land, as you turn the corner to find a Nevsky Prospect parade, or how to make *pirojki* from your *babushka*. At the Russian Museum, you discover the brush strokes of Vasily Surikov, while the resounding noise from plucked guitar strings reverberates at Club Mod, informing you of Russian rock. This learning is effortless. A city so rich with activity and so foreign to the visitor's eye is a smorgasbord of opportunities; merely waking up in your wonderful homestay apartment, so different than any place you will live outside of Piter, is an experience. That said, I would still recommend going outside.

— Cornelia Moore, The University of Southern California

