Russian

Russian is the sixth most spoken language in the world, with 164 million native speakers and 114 million second-language speakers in Russia, in other countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and in communities across the globe. 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 significant impact on global events. For these reasons, Russian is classified as a critical needs language by the U.S. government.

The Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures 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 freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus; find admissions criteria at go.osu.edu/admissions.

Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in Russian within the College of Arts and Sciences. Interested students should contact the undergraduate coordinating advisor in the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures 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 Cultures 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 prerequisite for the program is completing Russian 1101 through 1103, which also fulfills the General Education requirements of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The major requires course work in Russian language, literature and culture. All students take second-year Russian, third-year Russian (with different courses required in the two tracks), a capstone course, and electives drawn from the many courses offered 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 hosts celebrations of Russian holidays, Tetris contests and cuisine nights. The Center for Slavic and East European Studies sponsors guest speakers, conferences and other events focusing on Russia. The Slavic Department organizes screenings of Russian and Eastern European films each semester. At the weekly Russian Table, students of all levels can practice their conversational skills and get free tutoring. 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. Students may choose to study abroad as a continuation of Russian 2335, Russian Culture. Ohio State students can also study in Moscow and other cities through the American Council of Teachers of Russian.

All of these experiences help students increase their proficiency in Russian language and culture, enhance their marketability, and gain 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 and East European Languages and Cultures: slavic.osu.edu
Arts and Sciences: artsandsciences.osu.edu
Ohio State: osu.edu

Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu
Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu
First Year Experience: fye.osu.edu
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. Learn more 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. 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 students 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 asccareerservices.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 has recently pursued policies that have put it in contention with the United States and Europe. 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.

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 and who have marketable skills that are enriched by a humanistic education.

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 General Education (GE) requirements. Because GE courses come from a variety of academic areas of study, this course work helps students develop fundamental skills essential to collegiate success and allows them to tailor these courses toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in Russian. Consult the undergraduate studies chair or staff in the Slavic Department or visit slavic.osu.edu for details on each specific track.

Freshman Year:
- Survey course 1
- First-Year Russian 8
- Freshman Seminar 1
- GE courses 21
**Total Hours** 31

Sophomore Year:
- Second-Year Russian 8
- Russian Film 3
- GE courses 19
**Total Hours** 30

Junior Year:
- Third-Year Russian 8
- Revolution and Restoration in Russian Literature 3
- Practical Russian Pronunciation 3
- GE courses 13
- Electives courses 3
**Total Hours** 30

Senior Year:
- Major Capstone course 3
- Fourth-Year Russian 6
- GE courses 18
- Electives courses 3
**Total Hours** 30

Revised August 2015. For the most up-to-date information on the Russian program, please visit slavic.osu.edu.

Contact information:

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