Russian Studies
+ College of Arts and Sciences

Degree(s)
+ Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Russian studies
+ Minor in Russian studies

About the Faculty
We have a small, dedicated core faculty that works with related faculty in such other departments as history and political science. We help students to pursue their interests and to attain an excellent foundation in Russian. All our full-time faculty hold the highest degrees in their field.

Program Overview
Saint Louis University has taught Russian studies for more than 50 years and is the only institution in the greater St. Louis region that provides a major in Russian studies. Moreover, it is the only major among the language programs on campus judged critical by the U.S. government.

As a culture and a country, Russia continues to have a large impact on the global stage. The Russian Federation remains the largest country in the world, accounting for one-sixth of the earth’s land surface spread out across nine time zones. The Russian language is also broadly used in the states of the former Soviet Union.

Russia has produced world-class creative literature from authors such as Dostoevsky, Tolstoy and Chekhov. In general, Russian culture has long attracted much attention due to its art, architecture, folklore and applied arts. Russian also accounts for the largest corpus of scientific literature in the world after English.

Much has changed in the country since 1991. Democratization has been slowly gaining momentum and the Russian economy has improved considerably. American companies have realized the growing potential of the Russian market, and business analysts predict further growth in trade and larger investments in the Russian economy. Moreover, Russian is very actively re-asserting itself as a major player on the geopolitical scene.

Across the humanistic, geopolitical and scientific spectra, the study of Russian makes eminent sense for those who would take on the intellectual challenge of learning it. Prospective graduate programs and employers are quick to note when the study of Russian appears on a transcript.

Beginning in the 2014-15 academic year, Saint Louis University will sponsor a study abroad program at The Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences of St. Petersburg State University (Smolny College), Russia’s first liberal arts institution.

Curriculum
Saint Louis University offers a multidisciplinary Bachelor of Arts and a minor in Russian studies. The Russian studies major requires 30 credit hours of upper-division coursework. Nine hours of upper-division Russian electives are chosen with the assistance of a faculty mentor.

Three courses or their equivalent must be completed before pursuing the upper-division courses:
+ RUSS 1010: Communicating in Russian I
+ RUSS 1020: Communicating in Russian II
+ RUSS 2010: Intermediate Russian: Language and Culture

Four courses are required from within the division:
+ RUSS 3010: Oral and Written Proficiency in Russian I
+ RUSS 3020: Oral and Written Proficiency in Russian II
+ One Russian literature elective
+ RUSS 4010: Fluency in Russian

Three courses are required outside the department:
+ HIST 3290: History of Russia Since 1905
+ POLI 2530: Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics
+ PHIL 4740: Philosophy of Karl Marx

The Russian studies minor requires 15 credit hours of upper-division coursework, including:
+ RUSS 3010: Oral and Written Proficiency in Russian I
+ RUSS 3020: Oral and Written Proficiency in Russian II
+ One Russian literature elective
+ One 3000- or 4000-level Russian elective
+ One 4000-level Russian elective

Learn More For course listings and more information about our faculty, visit slu.edu/x49825.xml.

Revised April 2015
Admission Requirements

Freshman: All applications are thoroughly and carefully reviewed. Solid academic performance in college preparatory course work is a primary criterion in reviewing a freshman applicant’s file. College admission test scores (ACT or SAT) are used as an additional indicator of the student’s ability to meet the University’s academic requirements and to qualify the student for certain University scholarship programs. To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, the applicant must be approaching graduation from an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the General Education Development (GED) test.

Transfer: Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED. An official high school transcript and official test scores are required only of those students who have attempted fewer than 24 transferable semester hours (or 30 quarter hours) of college credit. Those having completed 24 hours or more of college credit need only submit a transcript from previously attended college(s). In reviewing a transfer applicant’s file, the office of admission holistically examines the student’s academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student’s ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University.

Internships and Careers

There are many opportunities available in the St. Louis region for Russian studies students to study, teach and volunteer.

The increasing demand for Russian experts is mainly attributed to the important role the Russian Federation plays in the modern world. Expertise in Russian studies is needed in many fields, and students can also go on to graduate study of Russian at major universities in the United States and abroad.

Graduates in Russian studies from Saint Louis University work in a wide range of businesses and organizations, including:

+ The U.S. Armed Forces, NASA, the NSA, the CIA and other military intelligence and federal agencies
+ Private businesses such as Microsoft, Delta, Reebok, Ford, AT&T, Avon and Hewlett-Packard
+ Nonprofit organizations such as Amnesty International, Green Cross, International Resettlement Agencies, Peace Corps, IREX, ACTR/ACCELS and Mother and Child Teachers of Russian in the United States, Russia and Eastern Europe
+ Slavic librarians

Scholarships and Financial Aid

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

+ Scholarships: awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
+ Financial Aid: provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, applicants should apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For information on other scholarships and financial aid, visit the student financial services office online at finaid.slu.edu.

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Graduate Programs
For a full listing of graduate programs, visit graduate.slu.edu.

Revised  April 2015