

# St. Petersburg State University 🏠

russian language / russian studies



## program snapshot

- The longest-running study abroad program in Russia; held in beautiful St. Petersburg—300 years of history in one city
- Intensive Russian language training for intermediate and advanced students
- Homestay with a Russian family for maximum cultural and linguistic immersion
- *Sobesedniki*: conversation partner program with Russian students
- Local cultural excursions and field trips; two overnight excursions, including a multi-day trip to Moscow to visit sites of cultural importance such as the Kremlin

## what you'll learn

The Language and Culture 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 St. Petersburg State University students.

## thoughts from abroad

Summer is arguably the best time to study in St. Petersburg. The days are long and the nights so full of light that they're called "white." Bring a sweater, though. Alexander Pushkin, Petersburg's and Russia's most famous poet, teased that the northern summers are a caricature of southern winters. But the real draw is the city itself. For 200 years, St. Petersburg was Russia's imperial capital, and the architectural splendor from that period has earned the city UNESCO status as a world heritage site. Inside its many historic buildings, its grand homes and palaces, and its churches and architectural ensembles, you will find some of the greatest treasures of world culture, including the Hermitage Museum, The State Russian Museum, and the Mariinsky Ballet and Opera Theater, to name just three of the most famous. The CIEE Study Center in St. Petersburg is located on the banks of the Neva in the sky blue baroque complex surrounding the 18th Century Smolny Cathedral. St. Petersburg is a wonderful city in which to study, and the summer is a great season.

— Nathan Longan, Resident Director

### About the Resident Director

Dr. Nathan Longan received his B.A. in Russian studies at Dartmouth College in 1982 and his Ph.D. in Slavic languages and literature from the University of Michigan in 1992. He is a past participant of the CIEE Russia study abroad program. One of his central research interests is second language acquisition. He is the author of numerous articles on the topic and was a contributing author to the textbook *Russian, Stage Two*. Dr. Longan particularly appreciates the pace and cultural life of St. Petersburg, and especially the ballet and many art exhibits and installations.

### About the Administrative Director

Irina Borisovna Shuliakovskaya is a longtime St. Petersburg resident. She received her M.A. in Political Economy from St. Petersburg State University in 1986 and has many years of experience working with international educational exchange programs. Irina has been associated with CIEE in some capacity since the early 1990s. From 2002 to 2008, she was the Co-Curricular Coordinator and in 2008, she became the CIEE Administrative Director. She has an encyclopedic knowledge of St. Petersburg and is happy to share this knowledge with all CIEE participants.

### About the Resident Coordinator

Jarlath McGuckin graduated from the University of Rochester in 2002 with a B.A. in Russian and Political Science. In 2009 he received an M.A. in Russian Studies from the European University in St. Petersburg. In the spring of 2003, he began working for CIEE as Assistant for External Relations and then as Coordinator for Campus Relations in Portland, Maine at the CIEE corporate headquarters. Jarlath moved to Russia in the summer of 2006 to take on the role of Resident Coordinator at the CIEE Study Center in St. Petersburg. He is fluent in Russian and was a former participant in both the CIEE St. Petersburg and Prague programs.

## about st. petersburg

Envisioned by Peter the Great as his "Window to the West," French and Italian architects created a testimony to opulence with palaces, mansions, landscaped parks and gardens, canals, and vibrant colors. Having endured bombardment, famine, the horrors of Stalinist repression, and the city's near total devastation in World War II, the people now cope with a new emerging political and economic reality. Known as Leningrad from 1924 to 1991, the city of nearly five million is easily navigated by bus, trolley, and an efficient metro system.

## academics

### Academic Program

The program includes eight weeks of language study at St. Petersburg State University. The curriculum includes courses in grammar, phonetics, and conversation. In addition, students take classes in film and music, two important cultural components to understanding the Russian language. During the program, students visit places of historical and cultural significance in and around St. Petersburg.

### Academic Culture

All classes are taught in Russian. Homework assignments serve to reinforce what is discussed in class. Nearly all academic material is presented in class, and the 90-minute periods provide ample time for a range of learning activities.

Students are expected to be prepared for class. Much of the material is written by the teachers themselves, and exercises are often taken directly from the teachers' texts.

A more traditional attitude toward behavior in the classroom means no hats, no eating or drinking, and no feet on the furniture. CIEE teachers have years of experience with American students, but sometimes they may express their feelings more frankly than Americans expect. Taking advantage

of outside activities (including a homestay) enhances academic success and the overall experience.

### 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 short quizzes, written assignments, and exams. In addition, participation accounts for a large percentage of students' grades as Russian teaching methodology emphasizes in-class learning.



## where you'll study

Founded in the 18th Century, St. Petersburg State University is one of Russia's leading institutions of higher learning. The University's 16 departments provide instruction for more than 20,000 students. The campus has expanded from its original site on the Neva River, and now includes over 400 buildings around the city center and the suburb of Peterhoff. CIEE students take their classes on the Smolny campus, which is located 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 two daily meals are included with the family. Three meals are provided on weekends. Students are responsible for weekday lunches.

### Orientation

The orientation, held near or in St. Petersburg, provides an introduction to Russia; the culture, health and safety; and the academic program. In order to facilitate students' entry into their new culture, the orientation session includes Russian student assistants. After the initial two-day gathering, students move to their home-stays and start classes. 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. The orientation period wraps up with a two-day field trip to Novgorod, one of Russia's oldest cities.

### Internet

Limited, but free, wireless is available at the CIEE Study Center for students who bring wireless-enabled laptops. In addition, there is a fee-for-service Internet classroom on campus. Wireless Internet is also available through local cell phone providers, and there are many Internet cafés throughout St. Petersburg.

## culture

### Cultural Activities and Field Trips

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

Several required excursions are included in the cultural program, some of which are organized by CIEE staff with others left for students to participate in on their own. Organized excursions include a city bus tour, the Peter and Paul Fortress, and the palaces at Peterhof and Pavlovsk. Students also visit several museums, including the Yusupov Palace, Pushkin's last apartment, the State Russian Museum, the Hermitage, and the Dostoevsky apartment museum. Most weekend excursions are free with the exception of overnight weekend trips and possible Saturday excursions.

The program includes a multi-day excursion to Moscow, capital of the Russian Federation. The field trip includes visits to the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, Novodevichy Convent, Sparrow Hills, and an extensive tour of the Kremlin with additional free time for students to become acquainted with the city. The field trip is coordinated with the academic program, with preparation in class prior to departure and discussion of experiences and impressions upon return to St. Petersburg. Also included is a second overnight trip to Novgorod, one of Russia's ancient cities.



## eligibility

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

## duration

8 weeks: mid-June—mid-August

## costs

### CIEE Fees

Summer 2009: \$6,200

Summer 2010: available 12/15/09

The CIEE fees for 2010 include an optional on-site airport meet and greet, full-time leadership and support, tuition, housing and most meals, orientation, cultural activities, local excursions, a multi-day excursion to Moscow, comprehensive student handbook, pre-departure advising, visa fees, some course materials, and a CIEE iNext travel card, which provides insurance and other travel benefits.

### Estimated Additional Costs (Summer 2009)

Transportation (round-trip based on U.S. East Coast departure)	\$ 1,499
Personal Expenses	\$ 600
Additional Meals	\$ 125
Books and Supplies	\$ 50
Local Transportation	\$ 150
<b>Total Estimated Additional Costs</b>	<b>\$ 2,424</b>

Check our website for current fees.

## immersion

### Sobesedniki—Peer Language Partners

CIEE students 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.

### Target Language Meals

Students participating in this program have the opportunity to participate in daily meals with CIEE staff. Students attending these meals are required to speak only Russian.



## coursework

### Program Requirements

Students are required to take all language and 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 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

#### AREA 3001 RLP

##### 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 3011 RLP

##### Russian Grammar Advanced I

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, and participles. Contact hours: 42. Recommended credit: 2 semester/3 quarter hours.

#### RUSI 3021 RLP

##### Russian Phonetics Advanced I

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. Contact hours: 28. Recommended credit: 1 semester/1.5 quarter hours.

#### RUSI 3031 RLP

##### Russian Conversation Advanced I

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

#### CINE 3001 RLP

##### Russian Film

Students examine one or two Russian films in detail. Transcripts and vocabulary lists are provided at the beginning of each film. Students are given both oral and written exercises in class, as well as written homework assignments. Discussions focus on the film and on related topics that require students to use the vocabulary and expressions introduced in the film. Contact hours: 15. Recommended credit: 1 semester/1.5 quarter hours.

#### MUSI 3001 RLP

##### Russian Music

In this course, students learn about and perform various types of Russian songs to further their knowledge and understanding of Russian culture. Contact hours: 15. Recommended credit: 1 semester/1.5 quarter hours.

#### RUSI 3001 RLP

##### The Current Press

In this course, students learn the specific language of the Russian press by reading and discussing articles from newspapers and journals. Class work consists of oral and written exercises. Students are asked to read articles and complete written exercises for homework. Contact hours: 15. Recommended credit: 1 semester/1.5 quarter hours.