

**Summer
Study Abroad
2009**



Russia

THE RUSSIAN INTENSIVE LANGUAGE AND
CULTURE PROGRAM
JULY 2009 (4 WEEKS)

Application Deadline

February 15, 2009

Cost

Approximately \$5,000 plus
airline ticket and Visa

Payment Schedule

- Non-refundable \$150 deposit due February 16, 2009 (make check payable to the University of Richmond, designated Russia Study Abroad Program, and submit with your application)
- 1st payment due March 16
- Final payment due April 17

Once the heart of the Soviet Union, Russia has returned to prominence through oil wealth and under the leadership of Vladimir Putin. Long America's "significant other," Russia has had a complex relationship with the West. But whether nuclear or oil superpower, Russia has produced great thinkers, art, architecture, and culture. The barrier of political tensions has often made it difficult for foreigners to appreciate just what Russia has to offer, including partnerships on personal and professional levels.

One barrier to understanding and appreciating Russia has been the language barrier, and Russian is not an easy language to learn. This program is designed to overcome both the political and language barriers, so that University of Richmond students can learn about this new oil superpower and gain an appreciation lacking in general media and pop cultural accounts. In this 4-week program, students will study with leading Russian experts (in English!) on current Russian business, politics, and political-economic history. Lectures and discussions will be led by professors from the Faculty of Economics, Department of World Economy at St. Petersburg State University, one of the country's top two universities.

St. Petersburg

Participants will live and study in St. Petersburg, one of the world's most beautiful and mysterious cities—the home to the tsars and the subject or setting of some of the world's greatest literature. Long known as Russia's cultural capital, the grandeur of the past has been restored in recent years, revealing the city's true beauty, from the facades of pre-revolutionary architecture to the well-kept parks that Russians, always lovers of nature, perpetually cherish. In July the White Nights are in their last weeks but will leave a romantic impression, especially for those hardy enough to watch the bridges go up over the Neva River at midnight. Canals and small rivers run throughout the city, giving it the nickname "Venice of the North." All in all, a perfect city for a summer of study and reflection and expanding one's experiences.

Orientation

Orientation sessions will be offered towards the end of the spring semester, and they will involve not

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only preparation for living in St. Petersburg but also discussion of readings to prepare the students for their studies.

Living

Students will live in dormitory on Vasilievskii Island, not far from a metro station on the city's main line and near the Gulf of Finland. Rooms are two-person suites, and University of Richmond students will live alongside European students participating in a parallel business program (also ongoing at the Department of World Economy). Not only will participants learn about Russia—they get to learn about European culture on the side with fellow students!

Program of study

Students will choose from a set of lectures, some given as part of the Department of World Economy's summer business program, others added especially for Richmond students. Combined, these make up a 1-unit course, Sociology 279: The New Oil Superpower from Within. Each lecture is 1½ hours, and includes discussions. Participants initially choose from the following list to cater to their preferences.

Subjects of courses include:

- Economic issues in contemporary Russia
- Political issues in contemporary Russia
- Legal aspects of doing business in Russia
- Business Geography of Russia
- Russian Financial System
- Russian Integration into the World Economy
- Russia and International Mobility of Capital

- Russian Participation in International Economic Organizations
- Russia and the EU
- Business Operations in Russia
- Russia and the CIS
- Russian Business Culture
- Russian and Soviet political history
- Soviet and Russian political economy: legacies and change
- Russian foreign policy and international relations

Additionally, there will be short evening discussions with the Faculty coordinator about the day's class material, current events, and everyday impressions.

Excursions and other activities

Small excursions beyond St. Petersburg are also part of the overall program: a trip to Pushkin (Tsarskoe Selo), the home of the tsars' Summer Palace; Zelenogorsk, along the Gulf of Finland, to see *real dachas* and everyday Russians' lives (as well as participating in the Russian tradition of making *shashlyk*); a city excursion and visits to museums (such as the impressive Hermitage Museum); and smaller, more intimate informal excursions to historic or cultural parts of town led by the Faculty coordinator.

Visas

Students are responsible for obtaining visas. The Department of World Economy will provide the appropriate materials necessary for getting a visa from the Russian Embassy.

For further information, please contact Professor Jeff Hass, jhass@richmond.edu.

All dates and costs are approximate and subject to change as are program details. The University of Richmond reserves the right to alter the program costs as a result of fluctuations of international currency.



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