BA in Russian Language, Literature & Culture

Russian language, culture and politics play an important role beyond Central and Eastern Europe, affecting the international community as a whole. Students earning a BA in Russian Language, Literature and Culture develop exceptional insight into this complex country and its people.

Developing this understanding starts with intensive language study: enrollment for first-year Russian at UW is the highest in the nation. Students then build on this knowledge with diverse cultural studies, including Russian art, cinema, literature and history. Outside of classes with nationally acclaimed teachers, they benefit from study abroad programs and on-campus events and opportunities including conversation tables, film series and events.

Beyond our programs, students benefit from the department's close ties to the Jackson School of International Studies and local and global Slavic communities to learn to assess linguistic, cultural and political differences in a global context. Alumni of our department use their enhanced understanding of the world to find success in careers around the globe.

Admissions, Advising & Student Resources

Students in good academic standing may declare the major at any time by meeting with the undergraduate advisor. Learn more about applying to the university as an incoming first-year student, transfer student, or postbaccalaureate student.

See our Undergraduate Programs section for information about advising, career paths, scholarships and other student resources.

Major Requirements

Note: The University of Washington requires a minimum of 50 credits for a major from all students. Students who test out of Slavic Department language requirements MUST still complete 50 credits appropriate to their major, selecting alternate courses with the assistance of the Slavic adviser.

1. RUSS 322, 323 (May be taken in any order)
2. Completion of the 3rd year of Russian language (RUSS 303) or higher. Students may satisfy the language requirement with a high level placement test. A successful placement test does not count towards the 50 credit requirement.
3. RUSS 110
4. RUSS 340 (5 credits)
5. A minimum of 15 credits from the following course list (no more than 5 credits may be taken at the 100 level):
   - RUSS 210: From Paganism to Christianity: Medieval Russian Mythology, Literature, and Culture
   - RUSS 223: Russian Cinema
   - RUSS 230: Masterpieces of Russian Literature
   - RUSS 240: Vladimir Nabokov
   - RUSS 313: Business Russian (Prerequisite: RUSS 203, or equivalent)
   - RUSS 324: Russian Folk Literature in English
- RUSS 420: Topics in Russian Literary and Cultural History
- RUSS 421: Post-Soviet Literary and Cultural Scene
- RUSS 422: Russian Literature in Emigration and Exile
- RUSS 423: Russian Film
- RUSS 424: Topics in Ethnicity and Cultural Identity
- RUSS 425: Russian Drama
- RUSS 426: Russian Art and Architecture
- RUSS 427: Russian Jewish Experience
- RUSS 430: Major Authors
- RUSS 481: Study Abroad (see adviser)
- RUSS 482: Study Abroad (see adviser)
- RUSS 483: Study Abroad (see adviser)
- RUSS 486: Study Abroad (see adviser)
- RUSS 490: Studies in Russian Literature
- SLAVIC 110: The Slavic Languages
- SLAVIC 210: Introduction to Bilingualism
- SLAVIC 223: East European Cinema
- SLAVIC 320: The Other Europe: Post-World War II East European Fiction
- SLAVIC 323: Masterpieces of East European Cinema
- SLAVIC 351: Introduction to the History of Slavic Languages (Prerequisite: LING 200** )
- SLAVIC 401: Research Methods and Writing
- SLAVIC 423: East European Film
- SLAVIC 425: Ways of Meaning: Universal & Culture Specific Aspects of Language
- SLAVIC 426: Ways of Feeling: Expressions of Emotions Across Languages & Cultures
- SLAVIC 470: Special Topics in Slavic Linguistics
- SLAVIC 490: Studies in Slavic Literatures
- SLAVIC 498: Senior Honors Thesis
- HSTEU 444/JSIS A 444: Imperial Russia: 1700-1900
- HSTEU 445/JSIS A 445: The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union

6. A minimum of 50% of credits applied to the major must be taken at the 300 or 400 level.

7. A minimum grade of 2.0 in each course and a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50 for all UW and transfer courses presented for this major.

8. A minimum of 15 graded credits presented for this major must be completed through the UW.

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