Russian courses at St Andrews combine modern communicative methods with sound grammatical accuracy and a high level of oral aptitude. You can also choose from courses dedicated to literature, film, history and contemporary Russian society.

- The Russian Department scored 100% for student satisfaction in the National Student Survey 2017.
- You will gain an excellent knowledge of the Russian language and be able to use it in a variety of different social and professional contexts.
- You will study Russian literature and culture in the original language, not in translation, and be taught by experts publishing research in a wide range of subject areas.
- You have the option of studying in Russia for one semester or a full year.
- There are separate streams for beginners and non-beginners in first and second year.

What will I study?
You will gain an excellent knowledge of the Russian language for use in both written and spoken contexts. You also get to study Russian literature, media and culture from the eighteenth century to the present day, all in the original language. There are plenty of opportunities to practice your Russian outside the classroom with native speakers.

First year
In the beginners’ stream, you will focus primarily on gaining a sound knowledge of Russian vocabulary and grammar so as to be able to communicate in a variety of real-life situations.

In the non-beginners’ stream, classes aim to consolidate and expand the knowledge of Russian gained at school. Classes are devoted to grammar, translation and oral communication. You also take courses in Russian literature and culture, taught by staff with research expertise in these areas. All classes are taught in small groups with an emphasis on student participation.

Second year
You continue to extend your knowledge of the Russian language with classes on grammar, translation and oral communication. Classes are also designed to prepare students for study abroad. You will have the opportunity to study Russian literature and film in the original language.

Third and fourth years (Honours)
You continue to study the language with classes devoted to both the spoken and the written language. You also take courses in Russian literature and culture, taught by staff with research expertise in these areas. All classes are taught in small groups with an emphasis on student participation.

Study abroad
Students who have not done an Integrated Year Abroad can spend one semester in Russia during their third year. Further information on page 133 and online www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study-abroad

“I chose to study Russian because I have always had a deep interest in Russian history and culture. I applied to St Andrews originally as a Single Honours History student, but picked up Russian along the way and have never looked back! The Russian Department is small, so it has a friendly and relaxed feel. It also means we can speak to tutors about anything and they are always happy to help. Having the opportunity to study in Russia for a year was the best experience of my life.”

Thomas (Aberdeenshire, Scotland)