Russian

See also Modern Languages page 130

Degrees all available With or Without Integrated Year Abroad

Degree options in the Faculty of Arts

MA (Single Honours Degree)

Russian

MA (Joint Honours Degrees)

Russian and one of:

- Arabic
- Art History
- Comparative Literature
- Economics
- English
- Film Studies
- German
- International Relations
- Italian
- Latin
- Mathematics
- Mediaeval History
- Middle East Studies
- Modern History
- Persian
- Philosophy
- Scottish History
- Social Anthropology
- Spanish
- Theological Studies

For degrees combining more than one subject, the subject with the higher Entrance Requirements determines the grades you need. You will also need to meet any further subject-specific Entrance Requirements as outlined on their pages.

For further country-specific qualifications and pre-degree foundation programmes see: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study/international

Do I need previous knowledge of this subject? – No.

Subject enquiries

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Features

- Start your study of Russian as an absolute beginner, or continue your studies from school.
- Take Russian either as Single Honours, or in combination with one or two other subjects.
- Acquire advanced skills in spoken and written Russian, for a variety of contexts.
- Choose from a wide range of modules in Russian language, literature and cultural history.
- Develop language and other skills through a prolonged stay in Russia on a study placement.
- Study in an intimate and friendly environment, in small groups taught by research-active staff.

Facilities and resources

The School has a Multimedia Centre with the latest electronic technology to enhance the learning and practice of oral and aural skills.

The Department enjoys an excellent reputation nationally, consistently being ranked amongst the top departments of Russian in the UK. It has a proven track record of excellence in teaching and combines this with internationally recognised research in a range of fields. We are extremely proud of the calibre of our graduates who are sought out each year by a wide range of employers, including law firms, financial institutions and NGOs, or who go on to further study.

What will I study?

At the core of our curriculum lie modules dedicated to a sound knowledge of the language. The majority of our graduates begin their study of Russian here with no prior knowledge of the language. Students who already have a suitable pre-university qualification in Russian (e.g. A-Level, Scottish Higher, IB) follow

Entrance Requirements

Obtaining the following grades will not guarantee you a place as we consider all aspects of every application, including the Personal Statement.

SQA Highers: AAAB
GCE A-Levels: AAB
International Baccalaureate Points: 36

For full Faculty Entrance Requirements, see page 53.
a separate language course for the first two years. All of our language modules aim to combine modern ‘communicative’ methods with sound grammatical accuracy and a high level of oral aptitude. These language modules are supplemented by a wide range of modules dedicated to literature, film, cultural history and contemporary Russian society. The aim of such modules is to allow you a deeper and more diverse understanding and appreciation of different aspects of Russian culture. At the same time you will develop the ability to analyse and discuss critically, to present a reasoned argument and to use online resources in Russian. The building of a high level of competence in language skills is a priority in all modules, and you will be expected to write using correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation in both Russian and English. A recommended part of the programme is the period spent in Russia studying at a university or language institute. Stays abroad can range in length from six weeks to a full academic year and can be combined with residence in a Russian home to maximise exposure to Russian language and life.

Upon completion of their degrees, our students have an excellent command of the language and have gained an invaluable understanding and appreciation of the Russian-speaking world.

Indicative programme information

First Year (2 x 20-credit modules required)
We have modules designed to cater for students with no prior knowledge of the language as well as modules for those who have a school qualification. None of our modules are designed for native or heritage speakers of Russian.

Second Year (at least 40 credits overall required)
The distinction between beginners and non-beginners is maintained, with separate sets of modules depending on previous experience. Many students will supplement their study of the language with modules focusing on literature and culture.

Honours – Third and Fourth Years
(4 x 15-credit core modules required and at least 4 other 15-credit modules required over 2 years)
Many students go to Russia for a year after second year, or for a semester in the second half of their Junior Honours year. In Senior Honours all students come together for the final lap of the language curriculum.

Apart from the core language modules, at Honours you may choose from a variety of Russian modules in literature, film or cultural history, in order to complete the required number and spread of credits. Students may also opt to write a dissertation in their Senior Honours year under the guidance of one of our research-active staff.

Modules currently available, but subject to change (see information on Curriculum development, page 7), include or cover aspects of:

- Russia’s Literary Easts
- The Nineteenth-century Russian Novel
- The Fantastic in Nineteenth-Century Russian Literature
- Russian Crime Fiction
- Soviet Culture Under Stalin
- The City in Soviet and Russian Cinema
- Russian Modernist Fiction: 1900-1940
- Issues in Russian Cultural Memory
- Russian ‘Village Prose’: 1953-1980

Study abroad
Honours degrees With Integrated Year Abroad (WIYA) in Russia involve residence there for the academic session between second and third years. If you take the four-year degree instead, you may apply to go to Russia for the second semester of third year. In each case, you are placed on a university language course. All arrangements are made with considerable help, advice, and support from the Russian Department. For options available during your intended period of study, see: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad/outgoingstudents

For further information about eligibility, the application and selection process, and costs involved, please see: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad

You may also apply to study abroad under the University’s St Andrews Abroad programme. See page 46.

Typical class sizes and teaching information

Language teaching: 5 - 20
First Year: lectures 40 - 60, tutorials 10 - 15
Second Year: 15 - 30
Honours: language classes 5 - 15, seminars 5 - 12

Russian language teaching is conducted in classes of between five and twenty students with small groups for conversation classes. Literature and culture classes follow a seminar format.

Typical methods of assessment
At all levels the assessment pattern varies depending on the individual module, but coursework is always significant with all module grades based on at least 40% coursework.

Careers

Russia’s political and economic significance in the world means ever-multiplying career prospects for those who can communicate in Russian. Graduates have gone into the British Foreign Office, the Civil Service, journalism, law, teaching, the armed services, accountancy, and management consultancy. Others work as educators in Russia and Eastern Europe or pursue graduate study. For more information: http://bit.ly/sta-modlangs-careers

See also page 36 for details of the University’s Careers Centre.