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# RUSSIAN

Русский язык

**Присоединяйтесь к нам и учите  
русский язык! Это же здорово!**  
*[Join us and study Russian! It's cool!]*

*If you want to study Russian, you must start it in the fall semester (we don't offer first-semester Russian in the spring semester or in the summer.)*

**Our alphabet is really cool!** It has 33 letters, 10 of which are vowels, and the last letter of the alphabet looks like a **backwards R**, which is really cool:

Аа Бг Вв Гг Дд Ее Ёё Жж Зз Ии Йй Кк Лл Мм Нн Оо
Пп
Рр Сс Тт Уу Фф Хх Цц Чч Шш Щщ Ъь Ыы Ьь Ээ Юю Яя

(UW-Madison students learn the Russian alphabet in 10 class days: it's easy!)

**And here are 10 more great reasons to study RUSSIAN:**

- 1. Russian is a STRATEGIC WORLD language:** Russia spans eleven time zones and covers about 1/8th of the world's land surface. It is the largest country in the world, almost twice the size of the United States. Put simply, Russia is huge. Russian is spoken throughout the former Soviet Union, especially throughout the former Soviet Republics in Central Asia, where Russian is a lingua franca – a common language for people who speak different languages of the region
- 2. Learning Russian prepares you to join the world economy.** Russia is the largest or one of the largest producers of numerous natural resources and raw materials including petroleum, diamonds, gold, copper, manganese, uranium, silver, graphite, and platinum. Russia is the second largest steel producer in the world, after Japan, and has an enormous timber reserve. Russia is the world's largest producer of natural gas, third largest producer of oil and fourth largest in terms of the mining of coal. Russia has an estimated 40% of the world's total reserves of natural gas, and Russia's proven oil reserves are second only to Saudi Arabia's. Russia is the TOP oil producer in the world and new pipelines are being built that will make it cheaper for the US to import oil from Russian rather than from the Middle East. American companies have been quick to realize the potential of the Russian market; some of these are listed at [www.bisnis.doc.gov](http://www.bisnis.doc.gov). The Russian middle class is prospering and growing and US investment in Russia is growing every year. **RUSSIAN BUSINESS IS BOOMING!** (Consider the ACTR Business-Russian study abroad program!)

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3. **You (and your resume) will STAND OUT with Russian:** Employers, graduate and professional school admissions committees notice students who take on this special challenge!
4. **Learn about one of the world's most fascinating cultures:** Some of the world's most prominent writers, artists, musicians, and directors of the stage and screen are Russian: Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Chekhov, Pasternak, Akhmatova and Brodsky, Repin, Kandinsky, Malevich, Popova, Chagall, Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky, Stravinsky, Prokofiev, Shostakovich, Stanislavsky and Tarkovsky ... to name just a few! Have you seen Sokurov's film *The Russian Ark* (featured at [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)) – a film created in just one shot!
5. **Russian at UW-Madison is a challenging, but not difficult class:** Students spend no more time on homework for a Russian class at UW-Madison than they do for Spanish, about 1.5 hours a day. Students who come to class and do the homework regularly get good grades. Russian classes are FUN and students in Russian classes form a friendly community. Students get lots of attention from their instructors.
6. **We have a great study abroad program:** Many students of Russian at UW-Madison go on our great study abroad program through the American Council of Teachers of Russian ([www.actr.org](http://www.actr.org) or [www.wisc.edu/studyabroad](http://www.wisc.edu/studyabroad)). Some UW-Madison students have won prestigious awards, such as the National Security Education Program Fellowship and the Fulbright Fellowship. ACTR runs programs in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Vladimir (city of 400,000 3 hours east of Moscow) and a Business-Russian program in Moscow.
7. **Russian combines well with many other disciplines ;** business and Russian, science and Russian, international studies and Russian, English and Russian, another foreign language and Russian, engineering and Russian, mathematics and Russian, music and Russian. We've had students majoring in all these areas who have found that Russian provides them with opportunities their classmates don't have. For instance, a student majoring in biology and Russian went to Russia on our study abroad program and worked with Russian biologists in a laboratory in Russia. She reports that this experience helped her get a fellowship to study fresh water ecology in Lake Baikal and Lake Tahoe: now she's in Medical School.
8. **Our students go on to great careers.** Some of our former students are now working or have worked: as engineers at NASA's Johnson Space Center (with Russian cosmonauts training for the Space Shuttle), at banks operating in international markets, as professors of Russian literature at small colleges and large universities, in the Peace Corps, in major accounting firms (in Russia and in the US), in large and small law firms, in press offices in Russia, Europe and America, in the State Department and Commerce Department of the federal government, teaching English in Russian high schools, for non-profit agencies such as the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the National Foreign Language Center, or the US-Russia Business Council. Some of our former students have worked for the American Council of Teachers of Russian and the International Research and Exchange Board (IREX) both in the US and in Russia.
9. **The US Government needs more staff with Russian-language expertise:** Commerce Department, FCC, ITC, FBI, CIA, NSA, Energy Department, State Department, among others, are all hiring!
10. **Russian language study can lead to a major in ...** *Russian language and civilization, Russian language and literature, Russian for native speakers.*

### **Contact**

Enrollment and advising questions: [slavic@slavic.wisc.edu](mailto:slavic@slavic.wisc.edu)

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