

## RUSSIAN AND EURASIAN STUDIES

<http://chss.gmu.edu/programs/show/LA-BA-RUST>

### **Name and description of the field.**

Russian and Eurasian studies is an exciting field concerned with an area of the world that is of the highest importance to the United States. Russia has reasserted itself as a major international player and economic force, and the new Central Asian and Caucasus states have taken on their own international significance. In this major you will study the Russian language along with the history, culture, literature, and politics of this dynamic region. An understanding of the transformations currently taking place in Russia and Eurasia is important to both government and the private sector, in particular to policy makers, security agencies, law enforcement, business people, and public health officials.

There are three concentration options within the major:

- **Concentration in Russian Language and Culture**  
Students in this concentration develop a high level of competence in Russian language and culture, and a basic familiarity with Russian and Eurasian history and politics.
- **Concentration in Russia Studies**  
The Russia Studies concentration is designed to provide students with in-depth interdisciplinary training in Russia and the Soviet Union. Students will develop a high degree of competence in Russian history, politics, society, and culture as well as a basic competence in the Russian language and the broader Eurasian context.
- **Concentration in Eurasian Studies**  
The Eurasia studies concentration is designed to provide students with interdisciplinary training in the study of Eurasia, with special focus on Central Asia and secondarily on Russia/the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Students will develop a high degree of competence in the history, politics, and culture of Eurasia and a basic competence in Russian or another relevant language.

### **What special skills or abilities are needed to succeed in this major?**

Successful students in Russian and Eurasian Studies will be curious about different cultures and motivated to study the history, politics, international relations, and society of the Russian/Eurasian region. In addition, students who opt for the concentration in Russian Language and Culture will be highly motivated to acquire a high level of proficiency in Russian. All students in the major are encouraged to participate in study abroad programs in Russia to enhance their language proficiency and knowledge of the people in the region.

### **Is it possible to minor in Russian Studies?**

There is no minor in Russian and Eurasian Studies, however, a minor in Russian is offered through the Department of Modern and Classical Languages.

### **What are recent graduates doing?**

Recent George Mason recipients of the B.A. in Russian and Eurasian Studies are pursuing a variety of career and advanced educational opportunities. Many have been accepted to MA and PhD programs, either in specific disciplines such as Russian Language and Literature, Slavic Linguistics, History, Political Science, or in interdisciplinary programs in the Russian and Eurasian field; others have entered Law School. After graduation from GMU, or from graduate school, students have enjoyed positions as translators, researchers, and analysts in government agencies (e.g. CIA, Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of State, FBI) in professional associations and non-governmental organizations, as well as in private business.

## EXPLORING MAJORS

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### Sample job titles:

Consular Officer	Translator/Interpreter
Resident Program Officer	Administrative Assistant
Professor	Research Analyst
Grants Manager	

### Sample organizations seeking graduates with Russian and Eurasian Studies background:

**Printed Resources** – Go to <http://careers.gmu.edu/careerlibrary/wheretostart/intl.pdf> to see resources located in the Career Services Library, 348 Student Union I.

**Online Resources** – Go to <http://careers.gmu.edu/onlineresources/intl.htm> or <http://careers.gmu.edu/onlineresources/frln.htm>

### Whom should students contact for further information?

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