

RUSSIAN STUDIES

<http://www.gmu.edu/departments/fld/RUSSIAN/r-studies.html>

Name and description of the field.

Within this major students pursue an integrated curriculum combining in-depth study of the Russian language with a variety of courses in Russian literature, history, culture, politics, geography and economics. Upon completion of the major in Russian Studies, students should have attained the following objectives:

- working proficiency in the Russian language, i.e., be able to use Russian effectively in academic, professional and personal contexts.
- knowledge of contemporary Russian culture sufficient to function appropriately in routine social situations with native speakers of Russian.
- knowledge of the political, social and cultural experience of Russia from the earliest times to the present.
- general knowledge of major Russian writers and literary works of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

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

Successful students of Russian Studies will be highly motivated to become proficient in the Russian language and will have the patience and perseverance necessary to acquire advanced level skills in speaking, reading, writing and understanding the Russian language. In addition, students majoring in Russian Studies should have a keen interest in acquiring a general knowledge of the civilization of Russia, especially its contemporary history, politics and society.

If both B.A. and B.S. degrees are offered, what are the differences in career/graduate school opportunities?

Only a B.A. is offered.

Is it possible to minor in Russian Studies?

There is no minor in Russian 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 Studies are pursuing a variety of career and advanced educational opportunities. More than half have applied and were accepted to M.A. and Ph.D. programs, either in specific disciplines such as Russian Language and Literature, Russian History, Political Science, or in interdisciplinary graduate programs on Russian and Eurasian Studies. Others are working as translators, researchers and analysts in government agencies (e.g. CIA, Defense Intelligence Agency, State Department, Commerce Department, Library of Congress), in international organizations such as the World Bank, and in private businesses.

Sample job titles:

US State Dept. Fellow
International Trade Assistant
Research Analyst

Translator/Interpreter
Administrative Assistant
Teacher

EXPLORING MAJORS

Sample organizations seeking graduates with Russian Studies background:

US COMMERCE/International Trade	Development Alternatives
US State Department	Central and East European Law Initiative
US Information Agency Office of Research	Agency for International Development
CIS Operations	Library of Congress
Meridian International Center	Disclosure Inc.
Fund for Democracy & Development	Ruder Finn Global Public Affairs
American Food Companies	US-Ukraine Foundation

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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