

WHY LEARN RUSSIAN

Questions?

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Did You Know That....

Russia, also called Russian Federation, is the world's largest country and covers almost twice the territory of either the United States or China.

Russian language is the principal state and cultural language of Russia. Together with Ukrainian and Belorussian, the Russian language makes up the eastern branch of the Slavic family of languages. Russian is the primary language of the overwhelming majority of people in Russia and is also used as a second language in other former republics of the Soviet Union.

Russian was also taught extensively in those countries lying within the Soviet sphere of influence, especially in central Europe, in the second half of the 20th century. Spoken by approximately 288 million people, Russian ranks with English, Chinese and Spanish as one of the major world languages.

The Russian-American population is estimated at approximately 3 million people. The main cities of residence are New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle and Detroit. In 2000, the Russian ethnic group became the second largest ethnic group representing 10.3% or 2.9 million of the American foreign-born population, topped only by Mexicans.

Careers:

Learning Russian at UC Davis opens up opportunities and careers in many different fields such as:

Foreign Affairs and World Politics: Knowing Russian can help you launch a career as a foreign service officer, diplomat, an intelligence analyst, customs official, UN translator or interpreter. Russian has been designated a Critical language (alongside Arabic, Chinese, etc.) by the U.S. Department of State.

International Trade: U.S.-Russian business projects are expanding and are eager to hire people who know Russian. The *Joint Statement on New Russian-American Economic Relationship* emphasizes the importance of Russian-American economic cooperation: "We note that significant progress has been made in strengthening our economic relations... The first example is the completion and operationalization of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium, the largest U.S.-Russian joint investment to date. The second is the recent breakthrough on the Sakhalin oil and gas project, which opens the door to the single, largest private investment project in Russia representing \$12 billion in projected capital investment in the region and creating up to \$10,000 new jobs. We declare support to other U.S.-Russian investment projects in various fields, and, above all, in high-technology areas..."

International Law: Russian-American Law Firms employ both Russian and American licensed lawyers with the capability and contacts to handle legal matters throughout Russia. Many of them specialize in business law and provide legal advice and legal assistance in various aspects of commercial transactions, investments, banking, and taxation.

Communications: Russian can facilitate your career as a foreign correspondent, reporter, translator, interpreter, publisher, or literary and show agent.

Environment: Many different Russian-American environmental projects are interested in hiring Americans who speak Russian. One of them, *Tahoe-Baikal Institute*, is registered right in our backyard, in South Lake Tahoe (California USA); it was established in 1990 to help preserve Lake

Tahoe and Lake Baikal in Siberia, as well as other significant and threatened natural areas around the world. Another interesting project is *Russian-American Center Kamchatka*; its mission is to work on issues of concern to the indigenous people of the Far East—ecology, advocating of their rights, preservation of the traditional way of life and others.

Majoring in Russian: The Russian Department at UC Davis offers a major in Russian leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree. The major program instructs students in speaking, understanding, reading, and writing the Russian language. The program is designed to teach reading, writing, and spoken Russian in two years. The program also acquaints students with the intellectual and cultural contributions of the Russian world through the study of its classic and modern literature, traditions, and institutions.

Students can also take a double major or double minor in Russian with a major in Biology, Computer Science, etc.

Courses: The UC Davis Russian program is distinguished by a variety of language and literature courses, such as Elementary, Intermediate, and Advanced Russian; 19th and 20th century Russian Prose and Poetry, Russian Film; courses on Pushkin, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Russian Culture; Women's Autobiography and others.

Study Abroad, Internships: Students who have completed either one or two years of Russian language study can participate in the University of California's Education Abroad Program in Moscow. Many of our students also participate in summer, semester, and yearly programs, sponsored by CIEE and ACTR, in St. Petersburg and Moscow.

UC Davis Russian majors are granted experience in their specific areas of interest such as international relations, political science, computer science, economics, and others.