

Russian and East European Studies Certificate

About Us



The Russian and East European Studies (REES) Certificate program develops students' knowledge of the language, history, culture, and contemporary political and economic settings of that region of the world. The program combines

area or country-specific courses that give students the needed cultural immersion with more general comparative course work. The program is open to all students seeking a bachelor's degree at UWM and to those who have previously received a bachelor's degree from UWM or any other accredited college or university. The program also is open to students that do not plan to pursue a college or university degree (non-degree student) but who have a strong interest in this topic.

This certificate program is open to any major but is particularly complementary for Russian, political science, economics, history, geography, journalism, global studies, or international studies majors who are planning a career with international elements. Possible career tracks where a Russian and East European Certificate would be valuable include print and broadcast journalism, civil service and government work, business, advertising, finance, foreign trade, and teaching.

A language requirement above and beyond the standard language requirement for a degree is not required but is an optional track within this certificate program.

Students interested in obtaining an even more in-depth education about Russia and Eastern Europe also may wish to consider the Russian major offered at UWM.

Why Study Russia and Eastern Europe?

Both the certificate program and the major are small programs, and students receive a great deal of personalized attention. Students work closely with faculty advisors to ensure their program is meeting their academic goals.

Do politics and international relations excite you? Russia has a complex political scene that is changing constantly. Combining the study of Russian language and culture with coursework in economics, government, and history is excellent preparation for a career in diplomacy, foreign trade, and government service. Russia is the world's largest country in land mass and still wields tremendous world influence because of its vast natural resources and its work in aerospace.

Do you love the arts? Russian artists such as Chagall and Kandinsky, writers such as Dostoevsky and Tolstoy, and composers such as Tchaikovsky and Prokofiev make Russian culture a wonderful focus of study. A knowledge of Russian language and culture allows students to study the arts in their original form and gain a deeper appreciation for them.

Do you see your future in international business? Many international corporations have interests and operations in Russia. Graduates with skills in Russian language are valued assets to employers looking to expand operations in this part of the world.

Certificate Requirements

To obtain the certificate, students must complete at least 18 credits in one of two tracks:

Track One (with language mastery):

- 9 credits in upper division courses from the list of approved courses in foreign languages and literature, geography, history, political science, or substitutes as approved by the REES Committee.
- A demonstrated mastery of one of the languages of the region, as measured by the REES Committee.

Certificate programs are similar to minors. They are comprised of 15 to 26 credits in a specialized subject matter, and include coursework from different departments. Certificates can be combined with a degree program, or they are available as stand-alone options for individuals who already hold a bachelor's degree from any accredited college or university. Many certificates also will enroll individuals with a strong interest in the topic area but who do not have a degree.

In the past, this level of proficiency usually was achieved by successfully completing four semesters of classroom study in the language. A student with a demonstrated mastery of one of the languages in the area will be required to complete nine other credits in courses approved for the certificate.

Track Two (without language mastery)

- 18 credits in upper-division courses from the list of approved courses in history, political science, geography, foreign languages and literature, or substitutes approved by the REES Committee.

In both tracks, students will be required to have completed at least 18 credits in courses required for the certificate, at least nine of which must be at the 300-level or above. In both tracks, students also must also achieve a minimum GPA of 2.75 in all courses taken for the certificate, including language courses.

Approved Course List

Students should be aware that not all certificate courses are taught regularly and should plan well ahead in choosing courses needed for the certificate. When necessary, requests for substitute courses will be considered by the committee, provided they are made well in advance of graduation.

- Comp Lit 230 – Literature and Society: (Eastern European Subtitles only) (3 credits)
- English 316 – World Cinema: East European Cinema (3 credits)
- Ethnic 250 – Selected Topics in Ethnic Studies: (Eastern European Subtitles only) (3 credits)
- Geog 330 – Europe: East and West (3 credits)
- Hist 239 – Poland and Its Neighbors, 1795 to 1914 (3 credits)
- Hist 341 – Imperial Russia: From Despotism to the Bolshevik Revolution (3 credits)
- Hist 343 – The Soviet Union: From Lenin to Gorbachev (3 credits)
- Hist 345 – The Modern Balkans: Nationalism, War, and Democracy (3 credits)
- Hist 346 – Poland and Its Neighbors, 1914-1945 (3 credits)
- Hist 348 – Poland and Its Neighbors, 1945 to the Present (3 credits)
- IntSt 550 – Senior Seminar in International Studies (Eastern European subtitles only) (3 credits)

- Linguist 103, 104, 203 and 204 – First through Fourth Semester of a Less Commonly Taught Language (Eastern European subtitles only) (credits vary)
- Pol Sci 302 – Politics of Eastern Europe (3 credits)
- Pol Sci 310 – Politics of the Soviet Union and Its Successor States (3 credits)
- Pol Sci 330 – The Politics of International Economic Relations (3 credits)
- Pol Sci 371 – Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict (3 credits)
- All Russian, Polish, Serbian and Ukrainian language courses

The U.S. government has designated Russian a “critical

Critical Need Language

needs language” and funds dozens of scholarship and grant programs aimed at increasing the number of American students studying Russian. These include scholarships and grants for study abroad in Russia and financial aid incentives for Russian majors. Consult the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature for more information on current financial aid opportunities.

Study Abroad

Working with the University of Wyoming and Saratov State University, UWM offers a six-week summer program in Saratov, Russia, 450 miles southeast of Moscow. The program includes 75 hours of intensive language training at Saratov State University, a home-stay with a Russian family, several weekly excursions, travel to Moscow and St. Petersburg, and a cruise down the Volga River. Students who successfully complete the program earn six UWM Russian language credits. For more information, see: <http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/saratovstudy>.

Other programs are located in St. Petersburg, Moscow, and Vladimir.

More information about study abroad in Russia is available from the Russian program and UWM’s Center for International Education.

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