

European Studies – Russian and/or Polish at a glance

Programme: Students study the nature of Europe and the forces that have shaped it through the disciplines of history, history of ideas, political science and sociology. They also develop proficiency in two modern languages (French, German, Italian, Polish, Russian, Spanish).

Russian course content: In languages which may be taken from scratch the first two years focus mainly on developing language skills, introducing students to the main trends in the historical and cultural development of Russia/Poland and familiarising students with aspects of contemporary Russian/Polish society.

Residence in Russia/Poland: European Studies students spend their third year on an approved course in a university or institute in the country of their major language. In the case of Poland, students spend a year at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow. Furthermore, all students of Polish are eligible to apply for scholarships to attend summer courses in Cracow. In the case of Russia, students spend a year in Moscow.

Year 1

Russian language: Elementary to intermediate Russian (the written and spoken language)
OR
Intermediate to advanced Russian
OR
Russian for academic purposes 1
Russian Area Studies 1: Introduction to Central, East European and Russian Area Studies

Year 2

Russian language: Intermediate to advanced Russian (the written and spoken language)
OR
Advanced Russian (the written and spoken language)
OR
Russian for academic purposes 2
Russian Area Studies 2: Introduction to current political, economic and social issues in Russia/Poland.

Year 3

Year abroad

Year 4

Russian language: Advanced Russian (the written and spoken language).
Long essay in Russian and presentation.
Russian Area Studies Contemporary Russian/Polish society

What students have to say:

European Studies students of Russian have language classes and lectures (in English at first, but later in Russian) on Russian history, politics and culture. Not only are these very interesting in themselves, they also complement the other European Studies subjects. What more could you want?

For me learning Russian, living in Moscow, and studying the culture, history and politics of this vast Eastern neighbour of Europe's, brought a different and balancing dimension to the European Studies programme as a whole. We tend to be accustomed to perceiving of Europe in terms of its more Western representatives. As Europe today plans to expand eastward, a deeper understanding of these countries is becoming increasingly significant.