

## Department of Russian and Slavonic Studies

### Study in Russia

#### Briefing document

#### Visas

- All foreign visitors to Russia require a visa
- To apply for a visa for the RF, you need
  - An official invitation provided by the [educational] establishment you are visiting (original, not photocopy)
  - A valid passport which does not expire for at least 18 months AFTER your visit to RF is complete
  - Visa application forms are now only available ONLINE, via <http://dublin.kdmid.ru/en.aspx?lst=en&it=/Applying%20for%20a%20visa.aspx>
  - Allow a minimum of 8 weeks for the whole process
- You will need to provide in addition to your letter of invitation:
  - Travel/health insurance documents
  - Passport-sized photograph
  - Fee (see Embassy website for charges for different types of visa – NB it is cheaper to arrange a multi-entry visa once you are in Russia, and purchase a single-entry visa at this stage)
- NB the Russian Embassy recommend that you wait to book flights until you have received your visa

#### EMBASSY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN IRELAND

Address:

184-186 Orwell Road

Rathgar, Dublin 14

Tel: +353 1 492 2048

Fax: +353 1 492 3525

E-mail: [info@russianembassy.ie](mailto:info@russianembassy.ie)

#### Consular/Visa Section:

**Please contact for all consular/visa queries:**

Tel: +3531 4922048

Fax: +3531 4926938

E-mail: [dublin.consul@mail.ru](mailto:dublin.consul@mail.ru)

#### Registration

The law on the registration of foreign citizens was altered at the beginning of 2007. The Literary Institute (or any other educational establishment in which students might be studying) will register students living in university accommodation. Technically they are not allowed to register students living in private apartments, although they will sometimes allow students to register in institute accommodation even when living elsewhere. This is not set in stone and the situation could change at any time.

Do not lose your registration documentation or leave it at home because if the police stop you for an identity check and you are unable to produce all the necessary paperwork (passport, migration card, registration documentation, visa) you will be fined. You do not need to produce the original, a photocopy will do.

If you stay in a hotel (or equivalent) in the course of your year's study in Moscow or St Petersburg (if, for instance, friends or relations come to visit you and you decide to spend time with them) you will be asked to provide your passport and registration card by the hotel authorities. In this situation you need to explain that you are already registered with/by the institution in which you are studying and are not permitted to give your registration card to a second organization. They will know what you are talking about and that will be the end of that.

If, on the other hand, you give your registration card to a second organization who then registers you on their behalf, the initial registration (in your place of study) will automatically be cancelled. When you then leave at the end of your stay in the hotel, you become an illegal/unregistered immigrant. This will cause you problems when you try to leave the country, or if you try to extend your visa over the summer months. It will also cause problems to the institution in which you are studying who are legally responsible for you (and your registration status). Because the place where you are studying may have no idea that you have stayed anywhere else, they have no way of alerting you to the problems you (and they) face.

### **Register with the Embassy:**

Irish Embassy in Moscow

**Address:** Грохольский переулок, 5, Москва 129010

**Telephone:** (+7 495) 937 5911

**Fax:** (+7 495) 680 0623

**E-mail:** [moscowembassy@dfa.ie](mailto:moscowembassy@dfa.ie)

Ambassador Adrian McDaid

[lorcan.byrne@dfa.ie](mailto:lorcan.byrne@dfa.ie)

[Robert.meade@dfa.ie](mailto:Robert.meade@dfa.ie)

### **Documents**

Make photocopies of all important documents (passport, visa, registration card) so that if any get lost you can replace them without too much difficulty.

### **Passport**

Keep your passport in a safe place at all times. You may need photo ID to get into some places (night clubs, bars, libraries) or to complete certain transactions (changing money). You are advised to bring to Russia as many types of photo ID as you can muster (driving licence, USIT travel card, ...) in order not to have to bring your passport when you are going out to have fun.

### **Health and Safety**

- You should consult your GP/ College Health Centre at least 8 weeks before you intend to travel to Russia
- Anyone taking medication on a long-term basis should arrange to bring a supply with them
- Vaccinations: it is generally recommended that you are up to date with vaccinations/boosters for
  - Polio, diphtheria, tetanus
  - TB
  - Medical practitioners may also recommend Hepatitis A vaccination (check with GP)
- Water: it is advisable not to drink tap water in Russia (NB DO NOT EVER DRINK TAP WATER IN ST PETERSBURG AND ENVIRONS – high risk of infection from giardia - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giardia>)
- Tick-borne encephalitis/Lyme Disease: risk of tick bites in summer months in forest or scrub, wear long trousers/socks and be vigilant; see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tick> for advice on safe removal of ticks and first-aid action

LGBT issues in Russia: Please find below a link to a short documentary film focusing predominantly on the experiences of Gay and Bisexual men in Moscow. It's a balanced and insightful film and well worth a watch if this is a matter of concern or interest.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCbsd-UUSj8&t=360s>

The department can put you in touch with LGBT students who have been to Russia if you would like to discuss concerns you might have with a peer.

### Safety

- Avoid high-risk situations
- Be respectful of local behaviour norms (typically Russians are more reserved in public situations than people in Ireland)
- Do not drink excessively when out in public places
- Avoid travel alone in 'private taxis' (especially women); do not get into a 'private taxi' if there are people other than the driver in the car
- Carry your passport with you (legal requirement); NB a photocopy is OK if you have a student card from your university/college as well

### Money

- ATMs widely available in Russian cities
- Avoid carrying large sums of money around
- Consider taking a credit card (can be topped up from home to keep it in credit)
- Bring some cash with you to change to roubles on arrival (Euros are fine)
- Cost of living is relatively high in Moscow and St Petersburg, cheaper elsewhere (NB imported goods may be very expensive)

### Travel

- Public transport is cheap and frequent
- Moscow is big so travel takes a long time
- Be sure to sort out visa issues if travelling outside the RF
- Make the most of travel opportunities within Russia while there
- When travelling away from your home city, you are required to register with the local police in each town/city you stay in (hotels will register you automatically)

**Conversion of marks obtained in the Russian language certified testing:** Успешно сдавшим тест считается кандидат, выполнивший каждый из разделов теста не менее, чем на 66%. При этом по одному из разделов теста проходной балл может быть не ниже 60%. [Candidates are required to obtain a minimum mark of 66% in each part of the test to be deemed to have passed. Candidates may, however, obtain a minimum mark of 60% in one section of the test.]

Marks in Russian language test	TCD classes
60-69	III
70-79	II.2
80-89	II.1
90-100	I

**Conversion of marks obtained in examinations** — as per the TCD-wide conversion table: European Erasmus Conversion Table for Trinity Students Returning from Study Abroad see <https://www.tcd.ie/study/non-eu/study-abroad/from-trinity/Return/>.

<b>RUSSIA</b>	20+	30+	40+	50+**	50+**
	2	3	4 —	5 (Excellent)**	5 (Excellent)**

**Conversion of marks obtained in essays** — as per the TCD-wide conversion table (though these are also moderated by internal and external examiners in the Department).

Your other TSM subject is responsible for determining the assessment requirements in that subject. Please do not leave without having clarified with them what they will require on your return.

### Checklist

#### Getting the invitation

<b>European Studies</b> Students should deal directly with the Sarah Smyth <ssmyth@tcd.ie>; TSM students should deal with Justin Doherty <jdoherty@tcd.ie> and/or the TCD International Office who administer the TCD-MSU exchange; BSL students should deal with Dmitri Tsiskarashvili <dtsiskar@tcd.ie>.	
1. Make sure your passport is valid for <b>at least</b> eighteen months after your expected return from the Russian Federation.	
2. Supply your co-ordinator with a scanned version [Jpeg, tiff or bmp] of your passport containing your personal details	
3. Supply your co-ordinator with your place of birth, home address, contact number(s), both College and personal e-mail address, country where you are going to process your visa, preference for hostel accommodation (single/shared room), contact details for next of kin.	

#### Health and welfare

4. Get a HIV test certificate required if you are spending more than 3 months in Russia.	
5. Boosts of standard immunisations (recommended). Vaccinations: it is generally recommended that you are up to date with vaccinations/boosters for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Polio, diphtheria, tetanus</li> <li>• TB</li> <li>• Medical practitioners may also recommend Hepatitis A vaccination (check with GP)</li> </ul>	
6. Have a medical check-up (recommended).	
7. Have a dental check-up (recommended).	
7.a. If you have a medical condition, bring necessary medication. Check <a href="http://www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk">http://www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk</a> Check <i>Rough Guide</i> and <i>Lonely Planet</i> for International Health Centres	

#### Preparations for leaving

8. Plan to arrive as soon after 1st September as possible	
9. Organise comprehensive worldwide medical insurance for the year ( <b>required</b> ).	
10. Once your invitation arrives, go to the Russian Embassy (check <a href="http://dublin.kdmid.ru/ru.aspx?lst=ru&amp;it=/Issuance_of_visas.aspx">http://dublin.kdmid.ru/ru.aspx?lst=ru&amp;it=/Issuance_of_visas.aspx</a> for changes in regulations) at least ten working days before your planned date of departure with the following:	
1. A completed visa applications form (signed and dated) needs to have be processed through the Embassy website.	
2. Your passport (original).	
3. One passport-size photograph (signed and dated on the back).	
4. A HIV test certificate.	
5. The official invitation	
6. A postal order to pay for the visa (cash not accepted). Check Embassy website for rates.	
7. Evidence of medical insurance	
11. make sure you have a photocopy of all essential documents (passport, visa, HIV test cert., health insurance).	
12. Bring plenty of matt-finish passport-sized photographs for student cards, travel cards, etc., in Russia. (Fujifilm in Dublin)	

### On the plane/ at the border

13. Do not lose the registration form/migration card you are given on arrival as it is needed to exit the country.	
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### On arrival

14. You are required by the Russian authorities to register:	
(a) in your chosen institution in the Международный отдел.	
(b) with your Embassy. The address of the Irish Embassy in Moscow is: Грохольский переулок, 5, tel. +7 495 937 59 11. Nearest Metro station is Проспект мира (circle line – Кольцевая линия)	
15. You may be required to supply some/all of the following:	
(a) A copy of your HIV test certificate.	
(b) A copy of your medical insurance document	
16. Contact your co-ordinator and give them information about your course choices (and generally keep in touch with your co-ordinator).	
16.a. Obtain your student metro ticket as soon as possible	

### Before leaving (Christmas/end of year)

17. Organise exit and re-entry, multi-entry visas through the Международный отдел (if you were not provided with one from the outset)	
18. Obtain official transcripts of examination results and any assessed work + reports which you are required to submit to the Department.	

### Visitors

20. Friends/relatives of students who wish to visit students in Moscow have been using Liga Consulting to obtain visas quickly for about \$25. Contact Vadim Rybakov: <a href="http://www.rusvisa.org">www.rusvisa.org</a> <a href="mailto:liga@vniikomg.ru">liga@vniikomg.ru</a> or tel. 007-499-978-6924; 978-1529; No 43, Ul. Lesnaya, office No. 419-420, Metro Belorusskaya; Vadim organises letters of invitation and registration for visitors.  See also <a href="http://www.waytorussia.net">www.waytorussia.net</a> (\$120)  For Petersburg, recommended is: Alexei Maslennikov at <a href="http://www.ltour.ru">http://www.ltour.ru</a> ; Tel: mobile +7-812-9002226; home +7-812-3147052	
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### Flights (subject to change)

The cheapest airlines (to Moscow) include AirBaltic (fly via Riga), Malev (via Budapest) and SwissAir (via Zurich), Ryanair (Tampere), Aer Lingus (Helsinki), also Air Berlin, Lufthansa	
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### Other

Please see below a link to a short documentary film focusing predominantly on the experiences of Gay and Bisexual men in Moscow. It is a reasonably balanced and insightful account of Gay life in Russia.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCbsd-UUSj8&t=360s>