



Virtual Study Abroad Program: Russian Communication and Active Grammar

Duration of the course:	14 weeks
Total number of hours:	200 academic hours (45 minutes)
Intensive Russian	130 academic hours
One-on-one grammar tutoring	28 academic hour
One-on-one peer communication practice	28 academic hours
Interactive virtual excursions	14 academic hours
Implementation/ provider:	“Learn Russian in the European Union”, Daugavpils, Latvia
Instructors:	Larisa Romanchuk, M Phil Alyona Savelyeva, M Phil Natalja Ivanova, M Phil Tatjana Revina, M Phil

Brief description of the program

“Learn Russian in the EU” designed this semester-long virtual study abroad program for undergraduate and graduate university students and working professionals who look for developing proficiency in Russian.

The main goal of the program is to develop students’ proficiency in the Russian language, as well as cultural learning and intercultural understanding. In 14 weeks, students will enhance their knowledge of the Russian language: significantly expand their vocabulary, ability to use grammatical structures, develop their speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills.

At the beginning of the course, there will be a diagnostic test (start test) and interview to determine more accurately levels of students’ proficiency in Russian and place them into the appropriate groups. At the end of the course, the students will do a final diagnostic test (final test) and oral interview to review their progress in the language.

Highly qualified and experienced native Russian teachers will deliver the instruction in a fully synchronous online mode using Zoom. Students will also immensely benefit from grammar tutorials. During the course, students will work on portfolio, which helps them get acquainted and better understand different aspects of Russian culture.

Students will also have a chance to explore real life situations when communicating with native Russian peer communication tutors – Daugavpils University students and language enthusiasts. Peer communication tutors are not teachers and, as a rule, their service is a part of a teacher-led language course. Peer tutors specialize in running conversation on the teacher assigned topic or scenario, and can correct the student or give a hint, when required.

Interactive virtual tours to Moscow and St. Petersburg, around Latvia/Lithuania/Estonia, and to destinations will provide students with the opportunity to immerse into culture and history of the region in the context of historic relations with Russia/USSR. This experience will greatly expand their understanding of the history and relations between Russia and Eastern Europe.

This program is not for university credits.

Intensive Russian (130 hours total)

The program will run at two levels (see Appendix 1):

- Second year, for students with at least one full year of Russian study prior the program;
- Third year, for students with two years or more of Russian study prior the program.

On a **daily** basis, students should be ready

- to review the previous lesson material (home task)
- to talk about their daily routine and ask questions to each other
- to retell the news, ask questions about the news and express their opinions

On a **weekly** basis, students should be ready

- to make presentations on the topic given by the teacher (see Appendix 2 on the requirements for presentations)
- to do vocabulary/grammar tests on the topics covered in class
- to retell the information, they get during the virtual tours around the historic sites (students may use the information from the booklets) and share their impressions (see Appendix 5 for the list of excursions)

Every Friday, students will have to reflect on their performance during the week:

1. how well they did during the week
2. what their accomplishments are
3. how they evaluate their involvement into the program

and do mock mini-interviews

Starting from week 3, every Friday, students will make presentations of a corresponding part of their portfolio (6 parts, see Appendix 3)

On Friday week 4 and week 8, students will make presentations of their Grammar Banks. (see Appendix 4)

Grammar tutoring (2 hours per week)

Every student will have 2 hours/week of one-on-one grammar tutoring. Topics may be adjusted to cater for individual student's needs.

Suggested topics:

1. Noun cases
2. Verb aspects
3. Verbs of motion
4. Reflexive verbs
5. Adjectives and adverbs. Degrees of comparison.
6. Pronouns.
7. Numerals.
8. Participles.
9. Passive voice.
10. Expressions of time, of cause, of comparison.

Communication with peer tutors (2 hours per week)

Every student will have 2 hours/week of one-on-one with native peer communication tutors. Communication tutoring will use the suggested topics depending on the students' levels.

Suggested topics:

1. I, my family, my school, my hometown.
2. Education
3. Travelling. Places.
4. Routines
5. Free time activities, hobbies.
6. Health
7. Shopping
8. Eating habits
9. Appearance and character.
10. Music, movies, books.
11. Environment

Course materials

1. Чернышов С. Поехали! Учебники 1, 2.2 ,2.1
2. Эсмантова Т. 5 элементов – А1, А2, В1
3. Ласкарева Е. Чистая грамматика
4. Мозелова И. Новый сувенир
5. Костюк Н. А что тут обсуждать?
6. Скороходов Л., Хорохордина О. Окно в Россию
7. Кулибина Н. Читаем по-русски на уроках и дома
8. Additional materials from various sources
9. The students are encouraged to use *Russian-English, English-Russian Dictionaries*.

Recommended Online Dictionaries:

<http://lingvo.abbyyonline.com/en/>

<http://www.multitran.ru>

Technology:

- Zoom will be the online teaching platform.
- “Learn Russian in the EU” uses a proprietary Learning Management System to handle all management tasks. All students will have personal accounts in the LMS.
- The student account will provide access to the student profile, course information, class schedule with Zoom links, homework assignments, and more.
- Using a desktop computer or a laptop for remote lessons is highly recommended. We suggest avoiding use of a tablet or smartphone, since smaller screen size may worsen the learning experience.
- The student’s device should be equipped with a camera, microphone and audio output (speakers, headset).

Schedule

The schedule of classes and excursions will be finalized by weekends and then posted in student accounts. The students will be informed in advance of possible changes to the schedule.

It is the responsibility of the student to follow the schedule and its changes.

Work in class and attendance

Attending all scheduled classes, completion of assignments and active participation in the class is mandatory. Missed classes will not be refunded.

Classroom discipline

- Although students will not gather together in a physical classroom, they should act appropriately during class sessions to contribute to an efficient learning environment.
- All lessons, excursions, sessions with communication tutors are parts of the program. Your attendance is required.
- Join the session on time.
- Dress the way you would dress for classes at your university.
- Do not join the lesson from inappropriate locations (when driving a car, from public transportation, noisy locations, places with many distractions, etc.).
- Always keep your video on during the online class.
- Students are not allowed to leave a session without teachers’ permission.
- Personal chat is not allowed during the class.
- Do your homework. Be prepared for the classes.
- Read excursion descriptions in advance.
- Respect all other program participants.
- No food in the class! Please eat your lunch during the break.
- No gadgets during the class!

Final grade

Evaluation will take place on the following criteria:

Work in the classroom and attendance	10%
Grammar Bank	10%
Vocabulary/grammar tests	20%
Presentations	20%
Portfolio	20%
Oral Tests	20%

Appendix 1

Program levels and topics

The program will run at two levels:

- Second year, for students with at least one full year of Russian study prior the program;
- Third year, for students with two years or more of Russian study prior the program.

Level: Second year

Week	Topic	Creative tasks
Week 1	Name, occupation Introduction What do they do? What are they doing?	Presentation "My Life"
Week 2	My family Weather and climate My typical day	Presentation "My Family" Presentation "My Hometown" Presentation "My Typical Day"
Week 3	My city Shopping for clothes	Presentation "My Favorite City" Practical interactive task: Going shopping Portfolio Part 1
Week 4	Countries and languages In the city	Presentation "Countries and Languages" Role Play Grammar Bank Part 1
Week 5	House and apartment Shopping for food	Presentation "My Dream House" Practical interactive task: Going shopping Portfolio Part 2
Week 6	Plans for the week Summer vacation	Presentation "My Plan for the Week" Presentation "My Summer Vacation"
Week 7	Culture Traveling Transport	Presentation "My TV Channel" Presentation "My Ideal Trip" Debates Portfolio Part 3
Week 8	Possessions At the hotel Trips	Presentation "My Favorite Possession" Grammar Bank Part 2
Week 9	At the Restaurant	Practical interactive task: Eating Out Portfolio Part 4
Week 10	Don't say what you did, but say what you have done	Presentation "My Achievements"
Week 11	My birthday	Presentation "My Ideal Birthday" Portfolio Part 5
Week 12	Telephone	Role-play "Telephone conversation"
Week 13	Biography	Presentation "Biography of a person I admire" Portfolio Part 6
Week 13	Where and when is it better?	Presentation "Your favorite period in history"
Week 14	How to get to the museum?	Role-play "How to get to...?"

Level: Third year

Week	Topic	Creative tasks
Week 1	Portrait/ Appearance/ Character	Filling out forms. Game "Last hero" Presentation "I am Unique" Making horoscopes
Week 2	Work/ Education	Job Interview Role play: applying for a job Guess my job Presentation "My Future Job" or "Most Popular Jobs"
Week 3	My typical day. Time.	Essay: My Work Day Role Play "How to start a new life" Presentation "Best Day of My Life" or "Worst Day of My Life" Presentation "One Day in the Life of ... " Portfolio Part 1
Week 4	Free time	Game: "Bingo!" Essay: Interesting person Presentations "Hobbies Famous People Have" or "My Ideal Day off" Grammar Bank Part 1
Week 5	Asking the way. Tourism and traveling	Role Play: At a Tourist Agency Presentation "Ideal Trip" Portfolio Part 2
Week 6	Shopping for clothes	Role Play: At the store Presentation "Shop I'd like to open"
Week 7	Eating habits	Role play: At a Restaurant Presentation "My Favorite Dish" Portfolio Part 3
Week 8	Ecological issues. Space travel. Inventions	Presentations "World in 100 Years" or "The Most Significant Inventions" Grammar Bank Part 2
Week 9	Health and healthy lifestyle	Role play "At the doctor's" Debate "How to stay healthy in the modern world" Presentation "5 ways to stay healthy" Portfolio Part 4
Week 10	My home is my castle. Houses and apartments	Presentation "My dream house"
Week 11	Youth around the world.	Presentation "Youth problems around the world" Portfolio Part 5
Week 12	Languages in the world. How to learn a foreign language	Presentation "My experience in learning a foreign language"
Week 13	Global economies and standard of living. Social equality.	Presentation "Social/economic/political issues modern world faces" Portfolio Part 6
Week 14	Consolidation	Presentation "My 14 weeks in the online Russian program"

Appendix 2

Presentations

During the course, students will make presentations on given topics. The teacher will inform the students about the presentation's topic in advance. The presentation can be prepared using PowerPoint or a text editor. The size of the presentation is up to 10 slides.

Format of the slides: white background, black text, without embellishments.

On each slide:

- Title of the Presentation
- Photos, illustrations, maps, charts or graphics
- Names of geographical objects, books, movies, etc.
- Summary of the presentation text

Total time of the presentation – 20 minutes including questions and discussions.

The presentation is evaluated on pass/fail basis. It is evaluated on the use of vocabulary and grammatical structures, content, style, pronunciation, answers to questions and active discussion of other students' presentations. Students will receive a form to fill out and evaluate others' presentations, and they actively participate in discussion.

Appendix 3

Portfolio

During the course, students will work on a portfolio. The content and presentation of the portfolio will be negotiated within each group and depend on the groups' level. The portfolio presentations will be divided into six parts and will be made on Week 3, Week 5, Week 7, Week 9, Week 11, and Week 13.

Portfolio consists of the following parts:

1. Films in Russian (2) and cartoons (2)
 - The title of the film/cartoon.
 - The main characters.
 - Synopsis.
 - Why you recommend this film.

2. Read articles (3) from Russian magazines or newspapers. Themes of articles are of your choice.
 - Create a glossary for each article.
 - Write a brief summary of the article (3-4 sentences).
 - Provide your opinion/ conclusions..

3. Russian songs (3)
 - Title of the song.
 - Singers or groups and their brief description.
 - Song's lyrics: in Russian and in English.
 - Glossary (no less than 5-10 words).
 - Say why you have chosen these songs.
 - Describe a situation in which you would listen to the song
 - Sing the song (if you wish ☺)

4. Russian traditions or holidays (1), which you would like to take part in
 - Description: Why? When? How?
 - What attracts you to it (8-10 sentences).
 - Show or teach the tradition/holiday.

5. Memorize a poem (2) from Russian authors:
 - Author of the poem.
 - Text of the poem.
 - Glossary.
 - Content.

6. Russian proverbs/idioms (5)
 - Explain the meaning.
 - Give examples and situations in which they could be used.
 - Give English equivalent.

Teachers and peer communication partners can help in choosing or selecting films, songs, magazines and authors.

Appendix 4

Grammar Bank – learn it yourself and then teach it to others

We need grammar all the time when we use language for speaking, listening, reading, and writing. If we want to improve our Russian language skills, there is no escape from addressing grammar issues.

During Week 1 of the program, students are invited to choose 2 grammar topics, which they find exciting, challenging and useful, and start working on them.

Students will collect theoretical material on the topic, study and analyze it, and arrange it in two parts: theory and practice. Then, the students will explain the grammar topic to their classmates.

Students will present their grammar bank on Week 4 and Week 8.

Students are not limited in the ways they present their findings (PowerPoint presentations, workshops, quizzes, etc.), but the presentation should be interactive and all other students should be actively involved.

Appendix 5

Interactive virtual tours

Russia:

1. Moscow. History.
2. Contemporary Moscow.
3. St-Petersburg, part 1.
4. St-Petersburg, part 2.

Latvia

5. Daugavpils history. Multicultural Daugavpils.
6. WW2 history of Daugavpils, Daugavpils military memorials, Holocaust Memorial.
7. Riga Old Town, Art Nouveau architecture masterpieces.
8. Jurmala, Salaspils Memorial, Rundale Palace.

Lithuania:

9. Vilnius Old Town. KGB museum
10. Trakai Castle. Kaunas - 9th Fort.

Other destinations:

11. Estonia and the capital city Tallinn.
12. Belarus. Minsk – history and main sights.
13. Chernobyl history and the exclusion zone today, Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant in Lithuania.
14. Poland – Warsaw, Krakow, Auschwitz memorial.