

RUSSIAN STUDIES - BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

The major in Russian studies is an interdisciplinary program focusing on study of the current cultural and social context, and the literary, artistic, and historical aspects of Russian culture in the past and present. The aim of the language curriculum is to equip students to read, write, speak and understand Russian on a level allowing communication with natives and other users of the language. Before registering for a language course other than RUSS 1010, students should consult with the undergraduate faculty advisor (<https://www.colorado.edu/gsl/russian/programs-degrees/russian-advising/>) concerning appropriate placement.

Students interested in Russian studies should consider a double major in order to increase their career opportunities. Prospective teachers might combine Russian studies with a major in another foreign language, while those preparing for a career in government, business or social services should benefit from a combination of Russian studies and a social science or business major. Students structure their curriculum according to the departmental checklist for majors, in close consultation with a departmental advisor.

Study Abroad

The department strongly recommends that all Russian majors take part in the university summer language program in St. Petersburg. For more information on CU Study Abroad programs, visit the Education Abroad (<http://abroad.colorado.edu/>) website.

Courses Taught in English

A number of courses are offered in translation. These courses generally require no previous study in the language, history or culture of the area involved, and are open to all interested students, regardless of major.

Requirements

General Requirements

Students must complete at least 30 credit hours in Russian studies, at least 18 of which must be completed at the 3000 or 4000 level, with grades of C- or better (none may be taken as pass/fail).

- RUSS 1010 and RUSS 1020 do not count toward the 30 credit hours required for the major in Russian studies.
- Students may not receive credit for both RUSS 3060 and RUSS 4010 or RUSS 4020 and RUSS 4060. Choose either the RUSS 3060/RUSS 4060 sequence or the RUSS 4010/RUSS 4020 sequence.
- Beginning or middle-level language course requirements may be met by transfer credit or by testing out of the course. Students who enter the program at the third-year level must complete at least 18 credit hours in residence in courses numbered 3000 or above with grades of C- or better (none may be taken pass/fail).
- Students who enter at and enroll in Russian language courses at the 3000- or 4000-level may not receive credit for lower-division Russian language courses, unless lower-division language coursework was completed prior to registration for 3000- and 4000-level Russian language courses.

- No course can be used for more than one category.

Students are required to structure their curriculum for the major in close consultation with the departmental advisor. (<https://www.colorado.edu/artsciences-advising/christine-luft/>) Students with advanced Russian language skills are strongly encouraged to meet with the undergraduate faculty advisor (<https://www.colorado.edu/gsl/russian/programs-degrees/russian-advising/>) to discuss language placement. Students who have Russian language transfer credit and/or students who are Russian language native or heritage speakers may enter the program at the upper-division level, up to RUSS 4010, with faculty permission.

In the case of advanced language placement, students will be required to meet with the Russian faculty advisor for Russian course substitutions and recommendations. Students who place out of Russian language courses required for the major must replace the credits with additional coursework in Russian Studies. Any substitutions to major coursework must be preapproved by the Russian faculty advisor.

Graduating Russian studies majors are asked to participate in an annual assessment exercise during their last (spring) semester at the university to help evaluate the quality of the Russian Studies major. Students may also be interested in learning their level of language competence from the standardized online test. Students cannot study for the exams, and they do not affect course grades or graduation in any way.

NOTE: Study abroad is recommended after the second year of language study.

Program Tracks

Track A: Russian Language and Culture

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required Russian Language Courses		
RUSS 2010	Second-Year Russian 1	4
RUSS 2020	Second-Year Russian 2	4
RUSS 3010	Third-Year Russian 1	4
RUSS 3020	Third-Year Russian 2	4
Russian Literature/Culture Course - the 19th Century and Earlier		3
Select one of the following:		
RUSS 2211	Introduction to Russian Culture	
RUSS 2261	The Russian Short Story	
RUSS 2471	Women in Russian Culture: From Folklore to the Nineteenth Century	
RUSS 3601	Russian Culture Past and Present	
RUSS 3701	Slavic Folk Culture: Ideals and Values in the Contemporary World	
RUSS 3705	Crimes of Passion: Gender and Sexual Politics in Tolstoy's Russia	
RUSS 4301	American-Russian Cultural Relations	
RUSS 4431	Dostoevsky	
RUSS 4441	Tolstoy	
RUSS 4451	Chekhov	
RUSS 4481	Rogues to Revolutionaries: Russian Rebels, Past and Present	
RUSS 4811	19th Century Russian Literature	

RUSS 4861	Absurd and Supernatural in Russian Literature	
Russian Literature/Culture Course - the 20th and 21st Centuries		3
Select one of the following:		
RUSS 2221	Introduction to Modern Russian Culture	
RUSS 2261	The Russian Short Story	
RUSS 2501	Russia Today	
RUSS 3211	History of Russian Cinema	
RUSS 3241	Red Star Trek: Russian Science Fiction Between Utopia and Dystopia	
RUSS 3251	Arctic Noir: Environment, Landscape and Literature of the Far North	
RUSS 3301	Contemporary Issues in Russian Film	
RUSS 3333	Spies Like Us: Espionage in the Culture of the Cold War and Beyond	
RUSS 3601	Russian Culture Past and Present	
RUSS 4120	Russia after Communism: Post-Soviet Politics and Culture	
RUSS 4221	Stalinism: Culture and Society	
RUSS 4251	Russian Queer Culture	
RUSS 4321	Mythological Russia	
RUSS 4471	Women in 20th-21st Century Russian Culture	
RUSS 4481	Rogues to Revolutionaries: Russian Rebels, Past and Present	
RUSS 4821	20th Century Russian Literature and Art	
RUSS 4831	Contemporary Russian Literature	
RUSS 4861	Absurd and Supernatural in Russian Literature	
Advanced Language Courses		
Select two of the following:		8
RUSS 3060	Advanced Russian for Heritage Speakers (Part 1) ¹	
or RUSS 4010	Advanced Conversation and Composition 1	
RUSS 4020	Advanced Conversation and Composition 2 ¹	
or RUSS 4060	Advanced Russian for Heritage Speakers (Part 2)	
Upper-Division Courses		
Select one of the following:		3
RUSS 4050	Professional Russian	
RUSS 4230	Russian Cultural Idioms	
RUSS 4220	Open Topics: Russian Culture in Russian	
RUSS 4850	Russian Film and Society (taught in Russian)	
6 credit hours of upper-division study-abroad Russian language class		
Total Credit Hours		33

¹ Students may not receive credit for both RUSS 3060 and RUSS 4010 or RUSS 4020 and RUSS 4060. Choose either the RUSS 3060/RUSS 4060 sequence or the RUSS 4010/RUSS 4020 sequence.

Track B: Russian Culture and Literature

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required Courses		
RUSS 2010	Second-Year Russian 1	4
RUSS 2020	Second-Year Russian 2	4
RUSS 4811	19th Century Russian Literature	3
RUSS 4821	20th Century Russian Literature and Art	3
Aspects of Russian/Soviet/Post-Soviet Culture		
Select two of the following (one must be upper-division):		6
RUSS 2211	Introduction to Russian Culture	
RUSS 2221	Introduction to Modern Russian Culture	
RUSS 2222	Sports and the Cold War	
RUSS 2501	Russia Today	
RUSS 3221	Space Race in Russian and American Culture	
RUSS 3333	Spies Like Us: Espionage in the Culture of the Cold War and Beyond	
RUSS 3601	Russian Culture Past and Present	
RUSS 3701	Slavic Folk Culture: Ideals and Values in the Contemporary World	
RUSS 4120	Russia after Communism: Post-Soviet Politics and Culture	
RUSS 4221	Stalinism: Culture and Society	
RUSS 4301	American-Russian Cultural Relations	
RUSS 4321	Mythological Russia	
2000-Level Literature/Film Courses		
Select one of the following:		3
RUSS 2231	Fairy Tales of Russia	
RUSS 2241	The Vampire in Literature and the Visual Arts	
RUSS 2261	The Russian Short Story	
RUSS 2471	Women in Russian Culture: From Folklore to the Nineteenth Century	
3000/4000-Level Literature/Film Courses		
Select two of the following:		6
RUSS 3211	History of Russian Cinema	
RUSS 3241	Red Star Trek: Russian Science Fiction Between Utopia and Dystopia	
RUSS 3251	Arctic Noir: Environment, Landscape and Literature of the Far North	
RUSS 3301	Contemporary Issues in Russian Film	
RUSS 3705	Crimes of Passion: Gender and Sexual Politics in Tolstoy's Russia	
RUSS 4251	Russian Queer Culture	
RUSS 4431	Dostoevsky	
RUSS 4441	Tolstoy	
RUSS 4451	Chekhov	
RUSS 4471	Women in 20th-21st Century Russian Culture	
RUSS 4831	Contemporary Russian Literature	
RUSS 4481	Rogues to Revolutionaries: Russian Rebels, Past and Present	

RUSS 4861	Absurd and Supernatural in Russian Literature	
Elective		
Select one of the following:		3
Any one 3000- or 4000-level RUSS or GSLL culture/literature or language course, or a course in another department pertaining to Russia, upon consent of advisor.		
Upper-division study-abroad language class.		
Total Credit Hours		32

Track C: Russian Major for Heritage Speakers

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Required Courses		
RUSS 3060	Advanced Russian for Heritage Speakers (Part 1) ¹	4
RUSS 4060	Advanced Russian for Heritage Speakers (Part 2) (or any other upper-division Russian language course) ¹	4
or RUSS 4010	Advanced Conversation and Composition 1	
or RUSS 4020	Advanced Conversation and Composition 2	
or RUSS 4050	Professional Russian	
or RUSS 4210	Topics in Russian Culture	
or RUSS 4230	Russian Cultural Idioms	
or RUSS 4850	Russian Film and Society (taught in Russian)	

Russian Literature/Culture Course - the 19th Century and Earlier		
Select one of the following:		3
RUSS 2211	Introduction to Russian Culture	
RUSS 3601	Russian Culture Past and Present ²	
RUSS 4811	19th Century Russian Literature	

Russian Literature/Culture Course - the 20th and 21st Centuries		
Select one of the following:		3
RUSS 2221	Introduction to Modern Russian Culture	
RUSS 3601	Russian Culture Past and Present ²	
RUSS 4821	20th Century Russian Literature and Art	

RUSS 2000-level course		
RUSS 2222		Sports and the Cold War
RUSS 2231		Fairy Tales of Russia
RUSS 2241		The Vampire in Literature and the Visual Arts
RUSS 2471		Women in Russian Culture: From Folklore to the Nineteenth Century
RUSS 2501		Russia Today

Russian Culture		
Select three of the following:		9
RUSS 3211	History of Russian Cinema	
RUSS 3241	Red Star Trek: Russian Science Fiction Between Utopia and Dystopia	
RUSS 3251	Arctic Noir: Environment, Landscape and Literature of the Far North	
RUSS 3301	Contemporary Issues in Russian Film	
RUSS 3333	Spies Like Us: Espionage in the Culture of the Cold War and Beyond	

RUSS 3701	Slavic Folk Culture: Ideals and Values in the Contemporary World
RUSS 4221	Stalinism: Culture and Society
RUSS 4301	American-Russian Cultural Relations
RUSS 4321	Mythological Russia
RUSS 4471	Women in 20th-21st Century Russian Culture
RUSS 4481	Rogues to Revolutionaries: Russian Rebels, Past and Present
RUSS 4831	Contemporary Russian Literature
Russian Literature	
Select one of the following:	
RUSS 3705	Crimes of Passion: Gender and Sexual Politics in Tolstoy's Russia
RUSS 4120	Russia after Communism: Post-Soviet Politics and Culture
RUSS 4251	Russian Queer Culture
RUSS 4431	Dostoevsky
RUSS 4441	Tolstoy
RUSS 4451	Chekhov
RUSS 4861	Absurd and Supernatural in Russian Literature

Elective	
One other 3000- to 4000-level RUSS or GSLL culture/literature or language course, or a course in another department pertaining to Russia, upon consent of advisor.	
Total Credit Hours	
	32

¹ Students may not receive credit for both RUSS 3060 and RUSS 4010 or RUSS 4020 and RUSS 4060. Choose either the RUSS 3060/RUSS 4060 sequence or the RUSS 4010/RUSS 4020 sequence.

Graduating in Four Years

Consult the Four-Year Guarantee Requirements (<https://www.colorado.edu/advising/programs-requirements/germanic-slavic-languages-literatures/>) for information on eligibility. The concept of "adequate progress" as it is used here only refers to maintaining eligibility for the four-year guarantee; it is not a requirement for the major.

Recommended four-year plans of study appear on the Four-Year Plans (p. 4) tab. To maintain adequate progress in Germanic or Russian studies, students should meet the following requirements:

- Begin to study the language in the freshman year, or have received AP credit.
- In consultation with the major program advisor before the end of the drop/add period in the first semester, plan a tentative schedule of courses to be taken over eight semesters.
- Discuss progress toward the degree each semester with the major advisor.

NOTE: Although these requirements apply only in cases in which students are seeking to graduate under the terms of the four-year guarantee, they are good advice for all majors. Consult the program advisor about the major at any time.

Recommended Four-Year Plans of Study

Through the required coursework for all tracks of the major, students can complete all 12 credit hours of the Arts & Humanities area of the Gen Ed Distribution Requirement. Depending on the courses selected from options, students can potentially complete some credit hours in the Social Sciences area of the Gen Ed Distribution Requirement and the Global Perspective component of the Gen Ed Diversity Requirement.

Track A: Russian Language and Culture

Course	Title	Credit Hours
Year One		
RUSS 1010 and 1020 (which do not count toward the major)		8
RUSS course on 19th century or earlier periods		3
Gen. Ed. Skills course (example: QRMS)		3
Gen. Ed. Distribution/Diversity course (example: Social Sciences/Global Perspective) (if needed)		3
Gen. Ed. Skills course (example: Lower-division Written Communication)		3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Sciences with lab)		4
Elective/MAPS		3
Elective/MAPS		3
Elective/MAPS		3
Credit Hours		33
Year Two		
RUSS 2010 & RUSS 2020	Second-Year Russian 1 and Second-Year Russian 2 (or Study Abroad)	8
RUSS course on 20th-21st centuries		3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Sciences)		3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Social Sciences)		3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Sciences)		3
Elective		3
Elective		3
Elective		3
Credit Hours		29
Year Three		
RUSS 3010 & RUSS 3020	Third-Year Russian 1 and Third-Year Russian 2 (or Study Abroad)	8
Gen. Ed. Skills course (example: Upper-division Written Communication)		3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Sciences)		3
Gen. Ed. Distribution/Diversity course (example: Social Sciences/US Perspective)		3
Upper-division Elective		3
Elective or Upper-division Elective (if needed)		3
Elective or Upper-division Elective (if needed)		3
Elective		3
Credit Hours		29

Year Four

RUSS 4010 & RUSS 4020 or RUSS 3060 and RUSS 4060	Advanced Conversation and Composition 1 ((or Study Abroad)) or Advanced Russian for Heritage Speakers (Part 1) and Advanced Russian for Heritage Speakers (Part 2)	8
RUSS 4210 or RUSS 4230 or RUSS 4851 or RUSS 4050	Topics in Russian Culture or Russian Cultural Idioms or Critical Thinking: Russian Film and Society (taught in English) or Professional Russian	3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Social Sciences)		3
Upper-division Elective		3
Upper-division Elective		3
Upper-division Elective		3
Upper-division Elective		3
Upper-division Elective		3
Credit Hours		29
Total Credit Hours		120

Track B: Russian Culture and Literature

Course	Title	Credit Hours
Year One		
RUSS 1010 and RUSS 1020 (which do not count toward the major)		8
RUSS 2000-level Aspects of Russian/Soviet/Post-Soviet Culture course		3
Gen. Ed. Skills course (example: QRMS)		4
Gen. Ed. Distribution/Diversity course (example: Social Sciences/Global Perspective) (if needed)		3
Gen. Ed. Skills course (example: Lower-division Written Communication)		3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Sciences)		3
Elective/MAPS		3
Elective/MAPS		3
Credit Hours		30
Year Two		
RUSS 2010 & RUSS 2020	Second-Year Russian 1 and Second-Year Russian 2 (or Study Abroad)	8
RUSS 2000-level Russian literature or film course		3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Sciences)		3
Gen. Ed. Distribution/Diversity course (example: Social Sciences/US Perspective)		3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Sciences with Lab)		4
Elective		3
Elective		3
Elective		3
Credit Hours		30
Year Three		
RUSS 4811	19th Century Russian Literature	3
RUSS 4821	20th Century Russian Literature and Art	3

RUSS Upper-division Aspects of Russian/Soviet/Post-Soviet Culture course	3
Gen. Ed. Skills course (example: Upper-division Written Communication)	3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Sciences)	3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Social Sciences) (if needed)	3
Upper-division Elective	3
Upper-division Elective	3
Upper-division Elective	3
Elective	3
Credit Hours	30

Year Four

Two 3000-4000 level RUSS literature or film courses	6
Elective 3000-4000 level RUSS or GSLL culture, literature or language course	3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Social Sciences) (if needed)	3
Upper-division Elective	3
Upper-division Elective	3
Upper-division Elective	3
Upper-division Elective	3
Upper-division Elective	3
Upper-division Elective	3
Elective	3
Credit Hours	30

Total Credit Hours 120

Track C: Russian Major for Heritage Speakers

Course	Title	Credit Hours
Year One		
RUSS 3060 & RUSS 4060	Advanced Russian for Heritage Speakers (Part 1) and Advanced Russian for Heritage Speakers (Part 2)	8
One of the RUSS courses on 19th century or earlier periods OR Study Abroad		3
Gen. Ed. Skills course (example: QRMS)		3
Gen. Ed. Distribution/Diversity course (example: Social Sciences/US Perspective)		3
Gen. Ed. Skills course (example: Lower-division Written Communication)		3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Sciences with Lab)		4
Elective		3
Elective		3
Credit Hours		30

Year Two

One of the RUSS courses on 20th-21st centuries	3
One of the 2000-level RUSS culture courses	3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Sciences)	3
Gen. Ed. Distribution/Diversity course (example: Social Sciences/Global Perspective) (if needed)	3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Sciences)	3

Elective	3
Elective	3
Elective	3
Elective	3
Elective	3
Credit Hours	30

Year Three

One 4000 level RUSS literature course	3
Two 3000-4000 level RUSS culture courses	6
Gen. Ed. Skills course (example: Upper-division Written Communication)	3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Sciences)	3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Social Sciences) (if needed)	3
Upper-division Elective	3
Upper-division Elective	3
Elective or Upper-division Elective (if needed)	3
Elective	3
Credit Hours	30

Year Four

One 3000-4000 level RUSS culture course	3
One elective 3000-4000 level RUSS or GSLL culture, literature or language course	3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Social Sciences) (if needed)	3
Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Sciences)	3
Upper-division Elective	3
Upper-division Elective	3
Upper-division Elective	3
Upper-division Elective	3
Elective or Upper-division Elective (if needed)	3
Elective or Upper-division Elective (if needed)	3
Credit Hours	30
Total Credit Hours	120

Learning Outcomes

The following areas are central to the undergraduate degree in Russian:

- An awareness of the fundamental outlines of the history of Russophone literature and culture from the Middle Ages to the present day.
- Familiarity with the major Russian creative writers and/or familiarity with major historical, political and socio-economic currents of the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries
- Familiarity with the historical context of Russian literature and culture.
- An awareness of basic critical methodologies as they relate to the study of Russian literature, culture, history and/or politics.

In addition, students with a degree in Russian are expected to acquire the ability to:

- Comprehend contemporary Russian, written or spoken, to a degree permitting sophisticated analysis of cultural texts.
- Be able to communicate competently in Russian.

- Analyze Russian texts and give a reasoned response to them in literate English.
- Write and converse in Russian at their own intellectual level.

Bachelor's–Accelerated Master's Degree Program(s)

The Bachelor's–Accelerated Master's (BAM) degree program options offer currently enrolled CU Boulder undergraduate students the opportunity to receive a bachelor's and master's degree in a shorter period of time. Students receive the bachelor's degree first, but begin taking graduate coursework as undergraduates (typically in their senior year). Because some courses are allowed to double count for both the bachelor's and the master's degrees, students receive a master's degree in less time and at a lower cost than if they were to enroll in a stand-alone master's degree program after completion of their baccalaureate degree. In addition, staying at CU Boulder to pursue a bachelor's–accelerated master's program enables students to continue working with their established faculty mentors.

BA and MA in Russian Studies

Highly motivated undergraduates majoring in Russian studies at CU Boulder have the opportunity to enter a BAM program, thereby earning both the BA and the MA in five years. The accelerated degree program offers a unique academic credential designed to produce skilled graduates for a variety of occupations.

Admissions Requirements

In order to gain admission to the BAM program named above, a student must meet the following criteria:

- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and a minimum GPA of 3.25 for all Russian Studies courses
- Have completed a minimum of 75 credit hours of coursework
- Transfer students must have completed a minimum of 24 credit hours at CU Boulder

It is recommended that applications be submitted the spring semester of the third year of study, but late applications will also be considered. Two letters of recommendation indicating strong potential for advanced, intensive work in Russian also required. Students should have completed most of their MAPS/Gen Ed requirements by the end of the sophomore year. Only CU Boulder students may apply.

Program Requirements

Students may take up to and including 12 hours while in the undergraduate program, which can later be used toward the master's degree. However, only 6 credits may be double counted toward the bachelor's degree and the master's degree. Students must apply to graduate with the bachelor's degree, and apply to continue with the master's degree, early in the semester in which the undergraduate requirements will be completed.

BAM students are expected to take graduate courses in the fourth and fifth years only.

If you are interested in the BAM degree program, please contact the Russian MA program (<https://www.colorado.edu/gsl/graduate/>). For more information, visit the BA/MA Degree in Russian Studies (<https://www.colorado.edu/gsl/russian/undergraduate/concurrent-bama-degree-russian-studies/>) webpage.