St. Petersburg, White Nights, and Moscow

University of Richmond’s summer study abroad program in St. Petersburg, Russia is designed for students who have taken one year of intensive elementary-intermediate Russian or the equivalent. St. Petersburg is one of the world’s most beautiful destinations (“The Venice of the North”), with pastel-hued neo-Classical architecture, crisscrossing canals, Imperial museums, and easily navigated city center. Students will arrive during the peak of St. Petersburg’s fabled “White Nights” and experience the excitement of the arctic summer. After a two-day orientation and settling-in program, participants will begin a tightly scheduled program of intensive language instruction in the classroom and guided excursions and learning tasks (e.g. buying a list of groceries at the farmer’s market) outside of the classroom. The aim of the program is to accelerate language learning in the context of onsite, active assimilation of Russian social and cultural history. The program also includes a 3-day excursion to the capital city of Moscow.

Director: Irina Baranova, Instructor of Intensive Russian Language, University of Richmond. Irina Baranova has a Master’s degree in Russian History from St. Petersburg State University, as well as eight years of experience teaching Russian language in Richmond, Virginia.

Coursework

All program participants will take RUSN 312: Accelerated Russian Language Abroad (aka “Russian for Real!”), and RUSN 313: Russian Cultural Life (aka “Museums and shashlik!”). The course combines daily, intensive language instruction with guided immersion into cultural and historical topics, including frequent museum visits and fieldtrips. These courses will provide 2 units (about 7 credits) towards graduation.
Orientation
There will be two short orientation sessions on campus before the trip. Students will be picked up from the airport and transferred to their place of residence for the onsite orientation. Onsite orientation for the whole group will provide extensive and thorough familiarity with the housing facility, local safety, local transportation, food and drink, and a city tour.

Housing and Meals
Participants will be housed in centrally located, safe and modern student hostel. The hostels are fully furnished, with kitchen and laundry facilities. Most students prefer to eat out in St. Petersburg’s many inexpensive cafes and coffee shops. One of the apartments will be the site of frequent group meals.

What’s Included
- 2 units UR credit (general elective towards graduation and/or towards Russian Studies minor or major, and/or towards International Studies: Modern Europe major)
- pick-up service from airport
- on-site orientation and constant attention ....
- one-month public transportation pass and initial local cell phone plan
- faculty-led field trips and excursions both within the city and beyond
- extended field trip to Moscow
- traditional “dacha” cookout in the countryside
- on-site supervision by program director

What’s Not Included
- visa
- roundtrip airfare
- most meals
- paperback course books

Approximate price, not including airfare, should be roughly $5,500.

Scholarship money
Students who need financial assistance are encouraged to apply for the Holt summer scholarships. See http://mlc.richmond.edu/program/awards.html

All dates and costs are approximate and subject to change as are program details. The University of Richmond reserves the right to alter the program costs as a result of fluctuations of international currency.