

Russian Studies @ Durham

<https://www.durham.ac.uk/departments/academic/modern-languages-cultures/undergraduate-study/language-areas/russian-studies/>





TODAY'S PRESENTATION

- **Our Department**
- **Our Programme**
- **The Year Abroad**
- **Our Community**
- **Why study Russian at Durham?**
- **Q&A**

Staff in Russian

- Ekaterina Chown, Assistant Professor
- Branka Grundy, Assistant Professor
- Olga Zabotkina, Lecturer

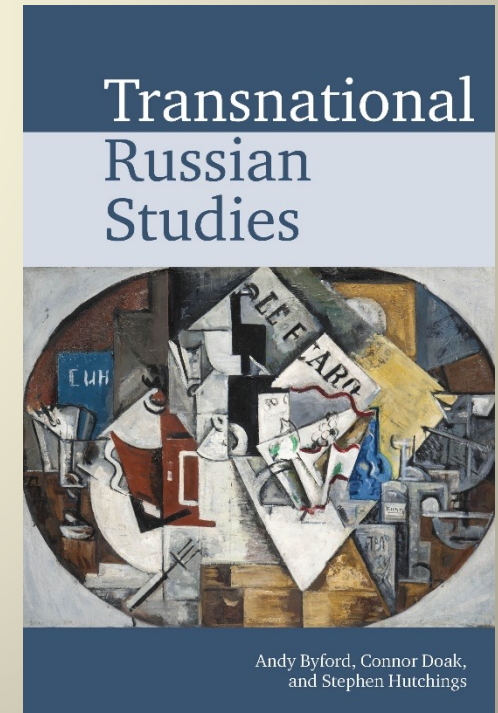
- Andy Byford, Professor
- Alexandra Harrington, Professor
- Victoria Ivleva, Associate Professor
- Dušan Radunović, Associate Professor
- Patrick Zuk, Professor

- Vladimir Liparteliani, Doctoral Researcher

- Sergey Tyulenev, Associate Professor (Translation Studies)

Areas of Expertise

- Russian literature and culture (17th-21st centuries)
- Russian and Soviet cinema
- Visual and material culture
- Russian and Soviet music
- Russian and Soviet linguistics
- Social, cultural and intellectual history
- Literary, aesthetic and critical theory
- History of science and medicine
- Area Studies
- Gender Studies
- Animal Studies
- Translation Studies



Teaching & Learning

- Annual intake of c. 30-40 students in Russian, of which 25-30% with Russian A-Level, 70-75% beginners
- Small group language and discussion classes, conversation clubs and round tables with students from partner universities
- Interdisciplinary and transcultural conception of Russian Studies
- Work with a variety of sources, media and texts
- Research-led teaching and learning
- Independent research projects in the final year



Module structure in Russian Studies



YEAR 1	UP TO 80 CREDITS (4 MODULES)
YEAR 2	UP TO 80 CREDITS (4 MODULES)
YEAR 3	YEAR ABROAD
YEAR 4	UP TO 120 CREDITS (6 MODULES)

YEAR 1

Compulsory Modules

either

- **Russian Language 1B** (40 credits)

or

- **Russian Language 1A** (20 credits)

Optional Modules

- **Introduction to Russian History and Culture** (20 credits)
- **Understanding Russia: Arts and Ideologies** (20 credits)

NB Short descriptions of all modules offered in Russian Studies are available here:
<https://www.durham.ac.uk/departments/academic/modern-languages-cultures/undergraduate-study/language-areas/russian-studies/russian-modules/>



YEAR 2

Compulsory Modules

either

- **Russian Language 2B** (40 credits)

or

- **Russian Language 2A** (20 credits)

Optional Modules

- **Reading Russian Literature** (20 credits)
- **Russian and Soviet Cinema** (20 credits)
- **St Petersburg-Petrograd-Leningrad** (20 credits)



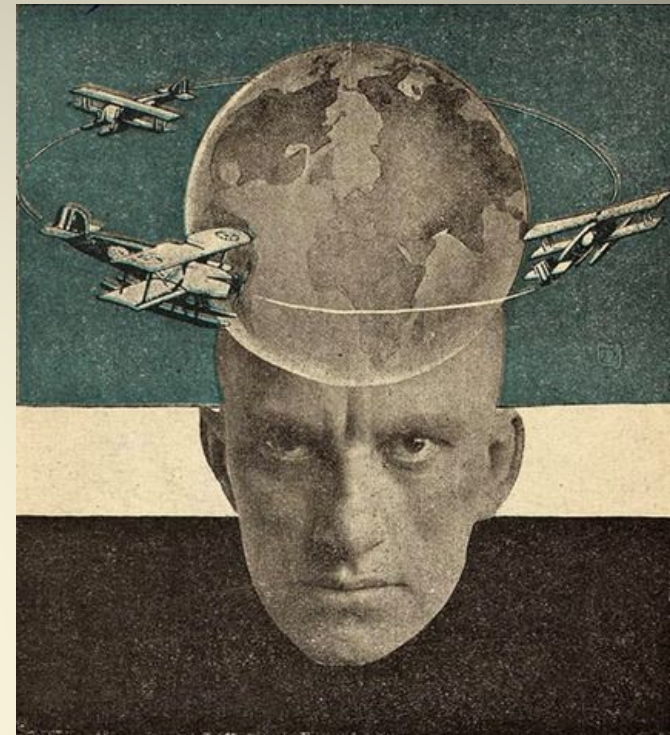
YEAR 4

Compulsory Modules

- **Russian Language 4** (20 credits)
- **Dissertation** (20 or 40 credits)

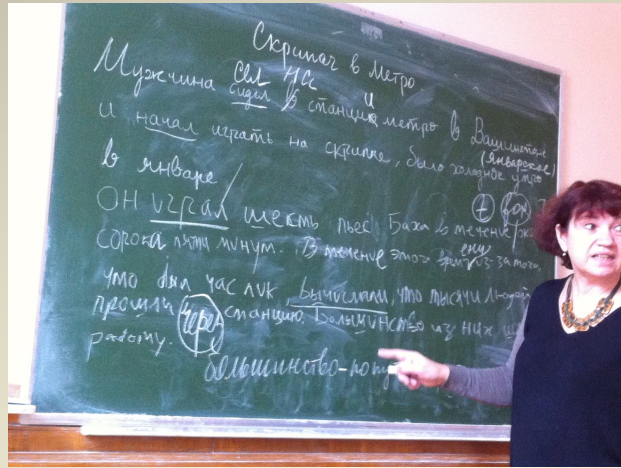
Optional Modules (20 credits each)

- **Russian for Professional Communication** (Mrs Olga Zabolkina)
- **Literature and Society in the Age of Pushkin** (Dr Ivleva)
- **The Poet and the State** (Prof Harrington)
- **The Making of the Russian Intelligentsia** (Prof Byford)
- **Screening the Nation** (Dr Radunović)



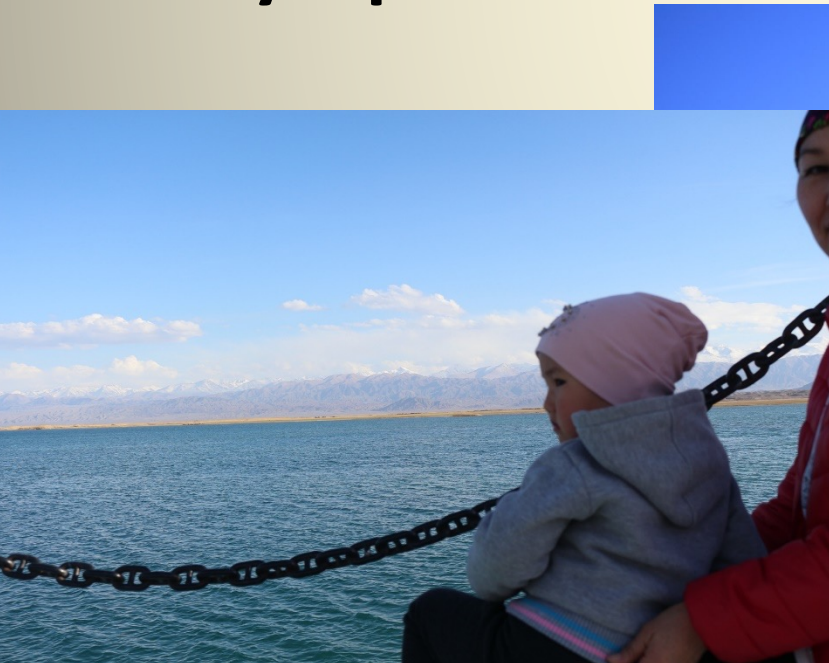
Recent Dissertation Topics

- “Putting the Nose Out of Joint: A Composite Reevaluation of the Traditions and Innovations that Lie Beneath and Beyond Shostakovich’s First Operatic Work”
- “A Two-Faced Janus: Empire, Identity and the Orient in Alexander Bestuzhev-Marlinsky and Mikhail Lermontov”
- Soviet Satire: Literary Responses to the Challenge of Artistic Expression and Censorship in Stalinist Russia
- “Masquerading the Absolute: Symbolism of Colours in Andrey Bely’s *Petersburg*”
- “Women Framed in Pavlova’s, Turgenev’s and Chekhov’s Short Stories”
- “Sovietisation in Contemporary Literature About Tatarstan and Armenia (Through the Lens of Postcolonial Theory)”
- “The Changing Perception of Stalin in Russian print media from 2005 to 2015”
- “‘Let Us Forget’: Twentieth-Century History as Told by Sites Of Memory in Putin’s Russia”
- “In Search for the Homeland: Identifying Russia in Contemporary Photography”
- “Understanding Eisenstein’s Sovietised Language of Queer Sexuality and Gender”



Year Abroad

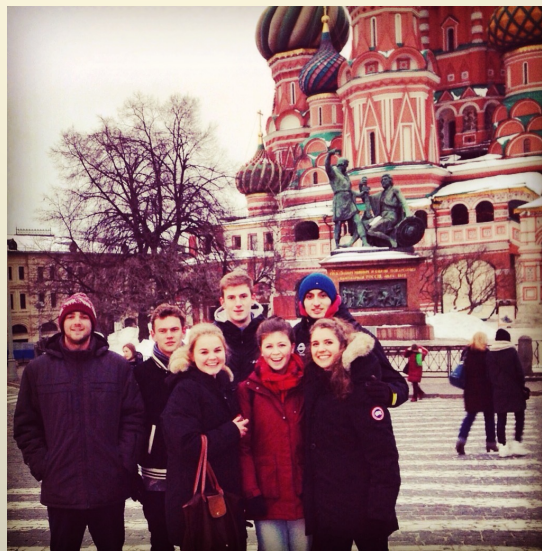
Study Options & Work Placements



Minimal YA Period in Russian-speaking countries

7 months – if Russian is the only language studied

3 months – if Russian is one of two languages studied



Study and Internship Placement Options

2023-24

Tallinn University (Estonia)

- Language School FORM + Caucasus University, Tbilisi (Georgia) – studies and an internship
- London Language Schools (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)
- Legal Internship in the intellectual property company in Almaty, Kazakhstan for post-A level students or advanced ab initio students
- English Teaching internships in Kyrgyzstan (outskirts of Bishkek)
- Palacký University (Olomouc, Czech Republic)
- Innsbruck University (Austria)
- Sorbonne IV (France)
- Vilnius University (Lithuania)



Summer Schools 2023

- Tallinn University Summer School
Intensive 3 or 4-week programme in July-August (€550, 660, tuition only, 60 hours)
- London Language School in Bishkek
(flexible dates, USD 883 for 80 hours)
-



The Helen Sharp Undergraduate Scholarships in Modern Languages at Durham University

- Application to be submitted no later than on 30 March, 2023
- Up to £4,000 annually for up to four years
- Academic talent
- Contributions to life at MLAC
- Your financial situation
- For more information go to:
- <https://www.durham.ac.uk/departments/academic/modern-languages-cultures/undergraduate-study/scholarships/helen-sharp-undergraduate-scholarship-in-modern-languages/helen-sharp-notes-to-applicants/>

Student Community

- Everything Begins with Love (Student Concert celebrating the International Women's Day)
- Chekhov Performance: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TOVCJKGMCNM>
- Commemorating Victory Day: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5BtThEg1R0&feature=youtu.be>
- Music Unites Us All: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3Bwr5D_JdE
- From Durham with Love: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISjW5lyrNHc>
- Mistress into Maid: <https://youtu.be/Wt9c6pwSlpA>
- Durham University Russian Speaking Society: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/DURSS/>



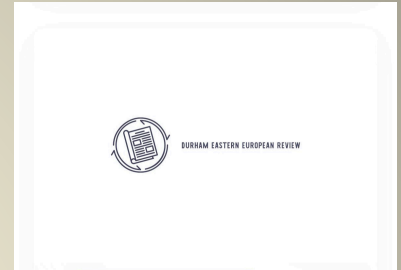
or peer



room



Durham Eastern European Review



- On politics, globalisation and culture
 - Recently founded by our second-year students
 - <https://durhameasterneuropeanreview.com>
-
- **The Undergraduate British Association of Slavonic, Eastern European and Central Asian Studies** – Darcie Peters, Durham's Institutional Rep

The 2023 World Literature Today Award

- Read about Katie Kassam, our recent graduate (BA in Russian and History and MA in Translation) who received the 2023 World Literature Today student translation award for her translation from Russian
- <https://www.worldliteraturetoday.org/blog/news-and-events/world-literature-today-announces-2023-student-translation-prize-winners>
- Supervised by Carol Ermakova &
- Ekaterina Chown



Katie Kassam

Research Events

Open World Research Initiative
(Cross-Language Dynamics:
Reshaping Community)

<https://www.durham.ac.uk/research/institutes-and-centres/open-world-research-initiative/>

invited lectures, seminar talks,
conferences, workshops,
exhibitions, film festivals



TYNESIDE CINEMA & DURHAM UNIVERSITY PRESENT:
WHAT'S LEFT?
A Century in Revolution



29 September - 8 October 2017
A special programme of visual art, film and discussions to mark the occasion of the centenary of the Russian Revolution of 1917 and examine the global implications of revolution today.

www.tynesidecinema.co.uk/whats-left

TYNESIDE
C I N E M A



Why Study Russian @ Durham

- **high ranking** in university guides (2nd Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide, 6th Complete University Guide)
- **research-led teaching** by highly experienced teachers, offering expertise in a wide range of specialisms and a curriculum on a broad range of topics and periods
- excellent foundation for pursuing **higher degrees** (MA & PhD).
- **transferable skills** enabling graduates to choose professions in and outside subject area
- graduates topping the national list for **employment success**: international organisations, global corporations, law, translation, media, publishing ...



Our recent alumni



Anna Little, Head of Russian
Marlborough College



Kamila Godzinska, Climate
and Energy Transition
Researcher



- Oliver Zeffman, Associate
Conductor of the London
Chamber Orchestra, 2019/20



Otto Fooks, Future Trainee
Solicitor



Marcus Rapacioli, Software
Developer, Product Manager
MSc in Management of
Technology at NYU



Claudia Griffiths,
Production Assistant
eLife Sciences
Publications, Ltd.

The Student Perspective/ Alumni

- **Olivia Wilde on Russian @ Durham:**
https://youtu.be/KinH_rSio-s
- **An interview with Marcus Rapacioli:**
<https://www.durham.ac.uk/departments/academic/modern-languages-cultures/alumni/meet-our-alumni/marcus-rapacioli/>
- **The Russia Observer created by Sophie Adair:**
<https://twitter.com/russtudentuk?lang=en>



For questions that you did not have a chance to ask during Open Days

- Email Dr Viktoria Ivleva, Director of Russian Studies, at viktoria.ivleva@durham.ac.uk
- Dr Ivleva is also happy to put you in touch with colleagues and student reps in Russian Studies in case you have questions for them