Russian and Czech
Undergraduate study
Become an arts student at Bristol and you will be joining a diverse group of staff, students and subjects united by a fascination in exploring how humans express their experiences. From 2018 we are offering you even greater opportunities to explore subjects beyond your core studies and an average of ten or more contact hours per week. Through our innovative curriculum we ensure you develop the key skills and attributes employers seek while receiving a first-class education.

Why study Russian and Czech at Bristol?

Expertise in modern languages has never been more important as the United Kingdom forges a new relationship with its European partners and seeks to develop its trading and cultural ties throughout the world.

Bristol offers an exciting range of degrees involving Russian and Czech. Russia’s dramatic history and complex culture give it exotic appeal, while studying Czech allows you to explore the richest episodes in European history from the perspective of a small nation striving to preserve its identity at the heart of the continent. Both enable you to acquire other Slavonic languages.

As Russia reasserts itself as an independent political and economic force, Russian expertise becomes increasingly vital in a range of professions.

The modern Czech Republic is at the centre of the expanded EU, and knowledge of a less widely spoken language is highly prized in many professions. Bristol is one of very few universities to offer a full Czech programme including language, literature, history, cinema and contemporary society.

Courses

Single Honours
BA Russian
four years R700

Joint Honours
BA Czech and Russian
four years R701
BA Czech and French
four years RR1V
BA Czech and German
four years RR2V
BA Czech and Italian
four years RR3V
BA Czech and Portuguese
four years RR5V
BA Czech and Spanish
four years RR4V
BA French and Russian
four years RR17
BA German and Russian
four years RR27
BA History of Art and Russian
four years VR37
BA Philosophy and Russian
four years RV75
BA Politics and Russian
four years RL72
BA Russian and Portuguese
four years RR57
BA Spanish and Russian
four years RR47
Alongside language units, you will study a wide range of units in history and culture. The exceptional range of periods and areas available for study in optional units in Bristol includes literature, history, political and religious thought, gender and visual culture. An excellent range of year-abroad opportunities includes study and work placements based on our contacts in Russia, Kazakhstan and the Czech Republic.

All teaching occurs in relatively informal tutorial or seminar settings. Speaking, listening, translating and writing skills are assessed through a mixture of coursework and examinations. Assessment in non-language units varies but includes essays, exams, commentaries and presentations.

**Russian**

Beginners in Russian follow a core language course with a specialist teacher. Students who have A-level Russian study advanced language units. Both groups benefit from frequent contact with experienced teachers who are native speakers. Our cultural programme in year one equips you with the knowledge and skills to explore aspects of Russia in more depth later. All students study key periods in Russian history alongside selected texts, images or films. Single Honours and post A-level students also take units on classic Russian literature, contemporary Russia through the media, or beginner’s Czech, which all other students may take up in year two.

Options in later years allow you to explore Russia through the study of its literature, history, religious, political and artistic ideas and visual culture. You may also take interdisciplinary units in the School of Modern Languages, for example: World Cinema, Translation as Professional Practice, Linguistics, The Radical Right and Communism in Europe.

**Czech**

Czech is a Slavonic language, like Russian or Polish, and provides an excellent introduction to this group of languages. Its grammar and vocabulary also reveal the effects of long co-existence with German. No prior knowledge of the language is required. Our students regularly achieve excellent, graduate-level fluency after four years’ study. Our course allows you to explore the contemporary socio-political priorities of the Czechs in the context of their longer history and culture, and students are encouraged each year to shape the precise focus of cultural options.

Options which have recently been available to students of Russian or Czech include:
- Dostoevsky
- Chekhov on the World Stage
- Anticipating the End: Russian Thought in the Shadow of the Revolution, 1890-1917
- The New Soviet Man and his “Others”: Politics and Identity in Soviet Russia, 1917-1945
- Gender in 20th- and 21st-century Russia
- Russian Orthodox Culture
- From Nation-Building to Rat-Catching: Czech Literature 1836-1913
- Introduction to Czech Cinema since 1963
- Gender Identity in the Czech Republic.

**Year abroad**

Most of our students choose to study at a Russian or Czech university during their year abroad. Bristol has strong links with universities across Russia, including in Moscow and St. Petersburg, in southern Russia (Krasnodar) and, for the adventurous, in Siberia (eg in Tomsk and Tyumen).

Many students also choose to teach English, undertake internships or other work. The department will help you to arrange study or work placements, and the Global Opportunities office will assist with associated administration. Czech study and work placements are covered by the Erasmus+ programme.

If you study two languages you divide the year equally between countries where they are spoken. Many students find that studying two languages makes them stronger linguists. Your year abroad will provide you with a highly attractive skill set for employers.

‘Towards the end of my year abroad in Tomsk, finally being able to understand the conversations of people gossiping on the tram was a great sign that my Russian language skills had improved!’

Isabella Craft (BA Russian and Spanish 2015)
A Russian or Czech degree stands out as a sign of individuality, intellectual ability and zest for unusual challenges. Russian and Czech expertise is in demand in a wide range of professions. Russia is a major diplomatic and trading partner of the UK and a key centre for the energy industry. The Czech Republic is firmly established in the EU, with Prague as a key regional centre, and many government and international organisations favour speakers of two major and one minor EU language.

A degree in modern languages develops skills essential to most graduate careers, including communication, critical thinking and analysis. The study of another culture, with work or study abroad, builds self-confidence and self-awareness and a capacity to understand and empathise.

The University of Bristol has one of the best employment records in the UK. We are rated sixth in the UK in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2016/17 and are the third most targeted university by top UK employers (High Fliers Research, 2017).

The Bristol Skills Framework enables our students to recognise their development in academic writing, problem solving, group work and individual and group presenting. We will equip you with the tools to market your skills, your achievement and your potential in whatever career path you choose to pursue after you graduate.

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The skills that arts students traditionally bring to the workplace are valued in every part of the employment market. Our students go on to succeed in careers as diverse as the subjects they study here – commerce, tech start-ups, law, accountancy, theatre, museums, publishing, the charity sector, journalism, politics, education and international relations, as well as sectors not immediately associated with Arts disciplines, such as engineering and IT.

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Contact us

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If you have any questions about courses, applications or any aspect of being a UK or international student at Bristol please contact the Enquiries Team.

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University guide to the city of Bristol  
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