

# Russian and Czech



**Undergraduate study**

## 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 Italian and Russian**

four years RR37

#### **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

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2019. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (June 2018). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University's website, [bristol.ac.uk/ug-study](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-study), for the latest updates.

## 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.

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 European Union (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.

Bristol's Department of Russian offers a carefully structured, student-centred course for both complete beginners and experienced Russian and Czech learners. You will have contact with native Russian or Czech tutors from the start of your degree. Staff research specialisms are reflected in units offered in all years. These currently include literature from the 18th century to the present, the history of ideas, orthodoxy, Soviet social history, Czech cinema, cultural politics and gender studies.

Modern languages students at Bristol benefit from a state-of-the-art multimedia centre, which provides access to over 2,000 film titles, foreign satellite channels, magazines and newspapers as well as equipment for oral practice, presentations and projects.

'There is a great variety of modules and a lot of scope to research what you are interested in within and outside the outlines of each module. Studying languages has proved indispensable to getting my first graduate job.'

Isabella (BA Spanish and Russian)

## What will you study?

Alongside language learning, you will study diverse historical and cultural topics. The exceptional variety of optional units includes topics from literature, history, political and religious thought, gender and visual culture. An excellent range of year-abroad opportunities includes study and work placements with our contacts in Russia, Kazakhstan and the Czech Republic.

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 can include essays, exams, commentaries and presentations.

### Russian

In year one, beginners in Russian follow a core language course with a specialist teacher, while 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 beginners 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 and visual culture and its religious, political and artistic ideas. You may also take interdisciplinary units in the School of Modern Languages. Recent examples include 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 a long co-existence with German. No prior knowledge of the language is required. Our students regularly achieve excellent 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 (for example Tomsk and Tyumen).

Many students choose to teach English, undertake internships or find 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 currently covered by the Erasmus+ programme.

Your year abroad will provide you with a highly attractive skill set for employers. 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.



'The Russian department is structured really well. The small cohort of Russian students has created a very tight-knit group which is definitely something I value highly.'

Harry (BA Russian)



## Careers and graduate destinations

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 EU languages and one minor.

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

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.

The skills that arts students traditionally bring to the workplace are valued in every part of the employment market. Our arts students go on to succeed in careers as diverse as the subjects they study here, including 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.

**'The opportunity to learn Czech alongside my other languages was a huge bonus. Having a rare Slavonic language is a huge asset to potential employers. It is the main reason that I was offered a job as a translator at the European Parliament.'**

*Catriona (BA French and Russian, MA Translation)*

## Making your application

### Typical offer for BA Russian\*

Visit [bristol.ac.uk/ug19-russian](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug19-russian) or [bristol.ac.uk/ug19-czech](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug19-czech) for Joint Honours and other qualifications.

**A-levels** AAB (contextual BBB<sup>†</sup>) including B in a modern language.

**IB Diploma** 34 overall (contextual 31<sup>†</sup>) with 17 points at Higher Level (contextual 15<sup>†</sup>), including 5 at Higher Level in a modern language.

**English Language profile** B<sup>††</sup>

**GCSEs** No specific subjects required.

<sup>†</sup>For information on contextual offers, visit [bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers](http://bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers).

<sup>††</sup>For details of English language profiles, visit [bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements).

**Selection** UCAS or Common Application.

\*The typical offer is indicative only and the University accepts a wide range of qualifications. The information is correct at the time of printing (June 2018); however, we recommend you check the University's website for the most up-to-date information: [bristol.ac.uk/ug-study](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-study).

Admissions tutors are looking for evidence that you will be interested, motivated and able to begin exploring all aspects of Russian and/or Czech language and culture.

When making your application please consider the following:

- interest in and commitment to the language, history and culture;
- evidence of clear thinking and understanding, and problem-solving and analytical skills;
- suitability of the course for you;
- genuine evidence of deep interest in and appreciation of Russian and/or Czech linguistic culture, and determination to take every opportunity for direct contact with native speakers and cultural products;
- reading or research which goes beyond the AS- and A-level syllabus;
- non-academic achievements, extracurricular interests and positions of responsibility;
- teamworking;
- response to challenges faced;
- standard of written English.

### Further information

Find out more about the Department of Russian: [bristol.ac.uk/russian](http://bristol.ac.uk/russian).



# Contact us

## Enquiries Team

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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.

## Accommodation Office

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## Disability Services

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University guide to the city of Bristol

**[bristol.ac.uk/citybristol](http://bristol.ac.uk/citybristol)**

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## Photography

Dan Rowley, Charles University in Prague

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