



Contact us

- @BristolUni
- bristoluniversity
- UniversityofBristol
- UniversityofBristol

Enquiries Team

Tel +44 (0)117 394 1649

Email choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk

If you have any questions about courses, applications or student life at Bristol, please contact the Enquiries Team.

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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 English and Czech

four years QR3V

BA History and Czech

four years VR1V

BA Music and Czech

four years WR3V

BA English and Russian

four years QR37

BA French and Russian

four years RR17

BA German and Russian

four years RR27

BA History and Russian

four years VR17

BA History of Art and Russian

four years VR37

BA Italian and Russian

four years RR37

BA Music and Russian

four years WR37

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

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 history, Russian and 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)

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2020. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (May 2019). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University's website, bristol.ac.uk/ug-study, for the latest updates.

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, Central Asia 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 themes in Russian history and culture 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
- Russia in the 1990s: Decade of Chaos?
- Anticipating the End: Russian Thought in the Shadow of the Revolution, 1890-1917
- Engineers of the Human Soul: Soviet Politics and Culture, 1917-1953
- 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.

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.

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.

Modern languages students can access our state-of-the-art Multimedia Centre, which includes a student cinema suite, an audio recording and editing studio, and a library of foreign films, books and magazines.



'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 startups, 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.'

Catrina (BA French and Russian, MA Translation)

Source: Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey 2016/17. Data is for students of all modern languages courses. Find out more at bristol.ac.uk/careers/be-inspired.



Graduate employers

British Council
EY
Focus PR
Éléphant groupe
Merbis-Kirk Translations



Career destinations

Auxiliaire de Conversation
Accountancy Associate
Team Assistant
Freelance Researcher
Translator

Making your application

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug20-russian or bristol.ac.uk/ug20-czech for more information about our courses.

Typical offer for BA Russian

A-levels AAB (contextual BBB) including B in a modern language.

IB Diploma 34 points overall (contextual 31) with 17 at Higher Level (contextual 15), including 5 at Higher Level in a modern language.

Our contextual offer is a grade reduction of up to two grades below the standard entry requirements, made to applicants from under-represented groups. Find out more at bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers.

GCSEs No specific subjects required.

Selection process UCAS.

For other accepted qualifications, and for our English language requirements, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug20-russian or bristol.ac.uk/ug20-czech.

Application advice for Russian and Czech courses

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;
- reading or research which goes beyond the A-level syllabus;
- non-academic achievements, extracurricular interests and positions of responsibility;
- evidence of teamwork;
- response to challenges faced;
- standard of written English.

Further information

Find out more about the Department of Russian: bristol.ac.uk/russian.

This information is correct at the time of printing (May 2019), but we recommend you check the University website for the latest information: bristol.ac.uk/ug20-russian or bristol.ac.uk/ug20-czech.



Read more about how we support you when you are here:

bristol.ac.uk/students