Why study Russian?

- **Speak** the language of the world’s largest country and 200 million people worldwide.

- **Delve into** Russia’s deep culture, in **literature** (from Dostoevsky and Tolstoy to Svetlana Alexievich), in **music** (Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich), and in art (Repin, Chagall).

- **Uncover** the fascinating and often bloody history of Russia, the Soviet Union and the Russian Empire.

- **Engage** with Russia today, which has strong legal business links with Britain and is a major centre for oil and gas in particular.

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Russian at Bristol

At Bristol you can study single honours Russian or joint honours in the following combinations:

- Russian and Czech
- Russian and History of Art
- Russian and French
- Russian and Philosophy
- Russian and German
- Russian and Politics

- Russian and Italian
- Russian and English
- Russian and Portuguese
- Russian and History
- Russian and Spanish
- Russian and Music

Or as a three-language pathway with two other languages (two languages must be post A-level or equivalent).

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In recent years, our first-year intake has comprised between 35 to 55 students.

About one third come from A-Level or equivalent in Russian and about two-thirds come with little or no previous knowledge of Russian.

Students of Russian are divided for language into two groups, those with A-Level Russian or equivalent and those who are starting from scratch.

You are essentially considered a beginner for two years but at the end of second year take the same examination as the post A-Level students. This exam counts towards your degree result.

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The first-year intensive beginner’s course is worth 40 credits - one third of your programme.

It consists of six classes a week, including presentation and practice of grammar and the development of oral, aural, writing and translation skills.

You are taught from the beginning by a combination of specialist native and non-native Russian tutors.

You also take our Understanding Russia module, two hours weekly, which introduces you to university-level study of Russian history, culture, literature and film.
Russian post A-level

- The course for post A-Level students is worth 20 credits i.e. a sixth of your programme.
- It consists of four classes a week, including thorough revision and consolidation of grammar and the development of speaking, listening, writing and translation skills, with substantial use of contemporary, authentic on-line resources and video.
- You are taught from the beginning by a combination of specialist native and non-native Russian tutors.
- You also take our Understanding Russia module, two hours weekly, which introduces you to university-level study of Russian history, culture, literature and film, and the Introduction to Russian Literature module, where you will meet great writers such as Pushkin, Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Akhmatova.
First year cultural units

- Understanding Russia
- Introduction to Russian Literature
- Elementary Czech Language 1
- Introduction to Comparative Literature
- Up to two units from the University’s Bristol Futures e.g.
  - The Science of Happiness
  - Sustainable Development
  - City Futures: migration, citizenship, and planetary change.

Available units may be subject to change.
Second year cultural units

- Hedgehogs and Foxes?: The Nineteenth-Century Russian Novel
- The Struggle for Russia: Nineteenth-Century Debates on Self and Society
- Engineers of the Human Soul: Soviet Politics and Culture, 1917-1941
- Russian Orthodox Culture
- Pushkin and Russian Romanticism
- Russian Comic Fiction
- Tolstoy
- Chekhov on the World Stage
- Beginners and Intermediate Czech Language
- General Linguistics
- Cinema and Revolution
- Woman and Nation
- Reading the Media
- Theatre and Performance

Available units may be subject to change.

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Final year cultural units

- Writing Revolution: Russian Literature 1910-1940
- Life and Death with Stalin
- Dostoevsky
- Anticipating the End: Russian Thought in the Shadow of the Revolution, 1890-1917
- Post-Soviet Russian Fiction
- Gender and Sexuality in Twentieth- and Twenty-First Century Russia
- Russia in the 1990s: A Decade of Chaos?
- Intermediate and Advanced Czech
- Independent Study (Supervised Research Project)

- The Radical Right: Nationalism and Fascism in Europe 1870-1939
- Communism in Europe
- Liaison Interpreting
- Pan-Africanism: Ideas and archives

Available units may be subject to change.

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Year abroad

- We offer a range of work and study placements with accommodation with families or halls of residence.
- Our students do a great variety of things, from studying Russian in university to studying music at the St Petersburg Conservatoire, teaching English at various levels to children or adults, working in financial institutions, companies, human rights organisations, law firms, charities and orphanages.
- Many arrange their own placements with our help and support.
- Some have used the opportunity to begin journalism careers, submitting articles to major daily and weekly publications or arranging short, unpaid internships with major international broadcasters. They also find time to travel widely.

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Recent placements

- St Petersburg (Herzen State Pedagogical University; Liden & Denz)
- Krasnodar (Kuban State University)
- Moscow (Liden & Denz)
- Yaroslavl (Russian Language Centre)
- Tomsk (choice of 3 universities)
- Tyumen
- Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan: NGO Erayim TEFL)
- Work placements in Kitezh (children’s community near Moscow), Sotheby’s (Moscow) and Carfax (EFL teaching, Moscow), Deloitte’s, Saatchi and Saatchi, offices of UK legal firms.

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Student comments

‘The Department of Russian really want us to do well and were very helpful when we had to decide where to go on our year abroad.’

‘Being part of the Department of Russian at Bristol has been a fantastic experience. The close relationship among students and between students and teachers is something that sets the department apart from others.’

‘The Russian department is very well organised, I feel challenged as a student and instruction is always clear.’
Recent graduates from the Department of Russian have gone on to further study or work in:
MA in Translation at Bristol, UN Interpreting
GCHQ
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
BBC Russian Service
British-Russian Chamber of Commerce
PricewaterhouseCoopers
From PhDs to academic careers in Bristol, Leeds, St Andrews, Toronto, London
Employment in Russia: from Helsinki Foundations for Human Rights to Legal Counsel at Gazprom.

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