

RUSSIAN AND EURASIAN STUDIES, BA

Banner Code: LA-BA-REST

Website: russianstudies.gmu.edu/programs/LA-BA-REST

Russian and Eurasian studies majors study the Russian language, spoken worldwide by some 250 million people, while also acquiring a foundational knowledge of the history, culture, literature, politics, sociology, economics, and geography of the region. This degree program is flexible, enabling students to focus their interests in one of three concentrations: Russia studies, Russian language and culture, and Eurasia studies. Russian and Eurasian studies prepares students for a wide range of career options in the private sector, government, and education. All students have opportunities for research, global-engagement, public service, and career preparation.

Admissions & Policies

Policies

Students pursuing this degree must complete 33 credits in one of the concentrations available with a minimum GPA of 2.00.

For policies governing all undergraduate degrees, see AP.5 Undergraduate Policies.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: minimum 120

Students should be aware of the specific policies associated with this program, located on the Admissions & Policies tab.

Students pursuing this degree complete the requirements for one of the available concentrations.

Concentrations in the Major

Concentration in Eurasia Studies (EURS)

The Eurasia studies concentration is designed to provide students with interdisciplinary training in the study of Eurasia, with special focus on Central Asia and secondarily on Russia/the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Students will develop a high degree of competence in the history, politics, and culture of Eurasia and a basic competence in a relevant language.

Russian or Other Eurasian-Related Language

Select two courses of Russian or other Eurasian-related language	6
Total Credits	6

Courses used to meet this requirement may be in the same language that is used to meet the college language requirement, in which case the student needs to complete 6 credits beyond intermediate proficiency (beyond courses numbered 210 at Mason). With the approval of the director, courses used to meet this requirement may be in a Eurasian-related language that was not used to meet the college language requirement at a level approved by the director.

Social Science Courses at the 300- and 400-Level

Select two social science courses at the 300- and 400-level	6
Total Credits	6

Courses used to fulfill this requirement must focus primarily on Central Asia and Eurasia and may be in any social science discipline (ANTH, ECON, GGS, GOVT, SOCI).

History Courses at the 300- and 400-Level

Select two history courses at the 300- and 400-level	6
Total Credits	6

Courses used to fulfill this requirement must focus primarily on Central Asia and Eurasia.

Literature or Film Courses at the 300- and 400-Level

Select two literature or film courses at the 300- and 400-level	6
Total Credits	6

Courses used to fulfill this requirement must be related to Eurasia.

Courses at the 300- and 400-Level

Students choose from courses that focus predominantly on Eurasia. The courses used to meet this requirement may be in any field of study including special topics courses and other courses that deal primarily with the geographic areas covered in the Russian and Eurasian studies major. To use a special topics course or other course with variable content to meet this requirement, students should seek the advanced written approval of the director. (Special topics courses may be repeated for credit when the topic is different.) The following courses when the topic is relevant, among others, may be used to meet this requirement.

Select three courses at the 300- and 400-level from the following: 9

ARTH 386	The Silk Road (Mason Core)
HIST 328	Rise of Russia (Mason Core)
HIST 329	Modern Russia and the Soviet Union (Mason Core)
HIST 387	Topics in Global History (Mason Core)
HIST 388	Topics in European History
HIST 460	Modern Iran (Mason Core)
HIST 462	Women in Islamic Society (Mason Core)
HIST 499	RS: Senior Seminar in History (Mason Core)
GOVT 338	Government and Politics of Russia
GOVT 340	Central Asian Politics
GOVT 345	Islam and Politics
GOVT 444	Issues in International Studies
GOVT 447	Revolution and International Politics
RUSS 470	Topics in (Post) Soviet Film
GGS 330	Geography of the Soviet Succession States
ECON 380	Economies in Transition (Mason Core)
Any 300- or 400-level CONF course	

Total Credits	9
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Concentration in Russia Studies (RUSS)

The Russia studies concentration is designed to provide students with in-depth interdisciplinary training in Russia and the Soviet Union. Students will develop a high degree of competence in Russian history, politics, society, and culture as well as a basic competence in the Russian language and the broader Eurasian context.

Required Language Courses

Other relevant advanced language courses may be used to fulfill this requirement with the prior written approval of the director. Majors are encouraged to take additional advanced Russian language courses.

RUSS 250	Gateway to Advanced Russian	3
RUSS 380	Advanced Russian I	3
Total Credits		6

Russian or Soviet History

When the topic is relevant, HIST 300 Introduction to Historical Method (Mason Core), HIST 388 Topics in European History, or HIST 499 RS: Senior Seminar in History (Mason Core) may be used to fulfill this requirement with the prior written approval of the director.

Select two courses from the following:		6
HIST 326	Stalinism	
HIST 327	The Soviet Union and Russia Since World War II	
HIST 328	Rise of Russia (Mason Core)	
HIST 329	Modern Russia and the Soviet Union (Mason Core)	
HIST 426	The Russian Revolution	
Total Credits		6

Social Sciences Dealing Primarily with Russia

Any topically appropriate courses in any social science discipline (ANTH, ECON, GGS, GOVT, SOCI) may be used to fulfill this requirement with the prior written approval of the director.

Select two courses from the following:		6
GOVT 338	Government and Politics of Russia	
GGS 330	Geography of the Soviet Succession States	
ECON 380	Economies in Transition (Mason Core)	
Total Credits		6

Russian Literature or Culture

Other relevant courses may be used to fulfill this requirement with the prior written approval of the director.

Select two courses from the following:		6
RUSS 310	Readings in Russian Literature	
RUSS 311	Contemporary Russian Short Fiction	
RUSS 325	Major Russian Writers (Mason Core)	
RUSS 326	A Survey of Russian Literature (Mason Core)	
RUSS 327	A Survey of Russian Literature (Mason Core)	
RUSS 353	Russian Civilization (Mason Core)	

RUSS 354	Contemporary Post-Soviet Life (Mason Core)	
Total Credits		6

Courses at the 300 and 400 Level

Students choose from courses that focus predominantly on Eastern Europe, Russia, or Central Asia. Courses used to meet this requirement may be in any field of study including special topics courses and other courses that deal primarily with the geographic areas covered in the Russian and Eurasian studies major. To use a special topics course or other course with variable content to meet this requirement, students should seek the advanced written approval of the director. (Special topics courses may be repeated for credit when the topic is different.) Examples of courses that may meet this requirement:

Select three courses from the following:		9
RUSS 302	Russian Conversation and Composition	
RUSS 303	Russian Advanced Conversation	
RUSS 310	Readings in Russian Literature	
RUSS 311	Contemporary Russian Short Fiction	
RUSS 325	Major Russian Writers (Mason Core)	
RUSS 326	A Survey of Russian Literature (Mason Core)	
RUSS 327	A Survey of Russian Literature (Mason Core)	
RUSS 353	Russian Civilization (Mason Core)	
RUSS 354	Contemporary Post-Soviet Life (Mason Core)	
RUSS 381	Advanced Russian II	
RUSS 401	Readings in the Social Sciences	
RUSS 407	Russian Drama and Theater	
RUSS 410	Russian Poetry	
RUSS 470	Topics in (Post) Soviet Film	
RUSS 480	Fourth-Year Russian	
RUSS 481	Fourth-Year Russian	
HIST 300	Introduction to Historical Method (Mason Core)	
HIST 312	Nationalism in Eastern Europe	
HIST 328	Rise of Russia (Mason Core)	
HIST 329	Modern Russia and the Soviet Union (Mason Core)	
HIST 387	Topics in Global History (Mason Core)	
HIST 388	Topics in European History	
HIST 426	The Russian Revolution	
HIST 499	RS: Senior Seminar in History (Mason Core)	
THR 352	Dramatic Literature Seminar	
ECON 380	Economies in Transition (Mason Core)	
GGS 330	Geography of the Soviet Succession States	
GOVT 338	Government and Politics of Russia	
GOVT 340	Central Asian Politics	
GOVT 444	Issues in International Studies	
GOVT 447	Revolution and International Politics	
Total Credits		9

Concentration in Russian Language and Culture (RULC)

Students in the Russian language and culture concentration develop a high degree of competence in Russian language and culture and a basic familiarity with Russian and Eurasian history and politics.

Required Courses in Advanced Russian

RUSS 380	Advanced Russian I	3
RUSS 381	Advanced Russian II	3
RUSS 480	Fourth-Year Russian	3
or RUSS 481	Fourth-Year Russian	
Total Credits		9

Russian Culture or History

RUSS 353	Russian Civilization (Mason Core)	3
or HIST 328	Rise of Russia (Mason Core)	
RUSS 354	Contemporary Post-Soviet Life (Mason Core)	3
or HIST 329	Modern Russia and the Soviet Union (Mason Core)	
Total Credits		6

Russian Literature or Cinema in Translation

Select two courses from the following:		6
RUSS 325	Major Russian Writers (Mason Core)	
RUSS 326	A Survey of Russian Literature (Mason Core)	
RUSS 327	A Survey of Russian Literature (Mason Core)	
RUSS 470	Topics in (Post) Soviet Film	
Total Credits		6

Courses Taught in Russian

Select three courses from the following:		9
RUSS 302	Russian Conversation and Composition	
RUSS 303	Russian Advanced Conversation	
RUSS 310	Readings in Russian Literature	
RUSS 311	Contemporary Russian Short Fiction	
RUSS 401	Readings in the Social Sciences	
RUSS 410	Russian Poetry	
RUSS 481	Fourth-Year Russian	
Total Credits		9

Social Sciences

Students choose from courses dealing with Russia. Any other topically appropriate course in a social science discipline (ANTH, ECON, GGS, GOVT, SOCI) may be used to fulfill this requirement with the prior written approval of the director.

Select one course from the following:		3
GOVT 338	Government and Politics of Russia	
ECON 380	Economies in Transition (Mason Core)	
GGG 330	Geography of the Soviet Succession States	
Total Credits		3

Writing-Intensive Requirement

The university requires all students to complete at least one course designated "writing intensive" in their majors at the 300 level or above. Students majoring in Russian and Eurasian studies may fulfill this

requirement by successfully completing RUSS 302 Russian Conversation and Composition, RUSS 325 Major Russian Writers (Mason Core), or RUSS 407 Russian Drama and Theater.

Upper Level Requirement

Students seeking a bachelor's degree must apply at least 45 credits of upper-level courses (numbered 300 or above) toward graduation requirements.

College Level Requirements for the BA Degree

In addition to the Mason Core program, students pursuing a BA degree must complete the coursework below. Except where expressly prohibited, a course used to fulfill a college level requirement may also be used simultaneously to satisfy other requirements (Mason Core requirements or requirements for the major).

Philosophy or Religious Studies

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits from the following:		
PHIL ¹		3
RELI		

¹ Note that the following courses may not be used to fulfill this requirement:

- PHIL 323 Classical Western Political Theory
- PHIL 324 Modern Western Political Theory
- PHIL 327 Contemporary Western Political Theory
- PHIL 393 Humanities College to Career
- PHIL 460 Senior Seminar in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

Additionally, PHIL 253 Philosophy and Literature (Mason Core) and RELI 235 Religion and Literature (Mason Core) cannot be used to fulfill both the philosophy/religious studies requirement and the Mason Core literature requirement.

Social and Behavioral Sciences

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits of social and behavioral sciences from the following (additional to the Mason Core social and behavioral sciences requirement) ¹		
ANTH		
CRIM		
ECON		
GOVT		
HIST ²		
LING		
PSYC		
SOCI		

Or choose from the following GGS courses:		
GGG 101	Major World Regions (Mason Core)	
GGG 103	Human Geography (Mason Core)	
GGG 110	Introduction to Geoinformation Technologies	
GGG 301	Political Geography	
GGG 303	Geography of Resource Conservation (Mason Core)	
GGG 304	Population Geography (Mason Core)	
GGG 305	Economic Geography	
GGG 306	Urban Geography	

GGG 315	Geography of the United States
GGG 316	Geography of Latin America
GGG 320	Geography of Europe
GGG 325	Geography of North Africa and the Middle East
GGG 330	Geography of the Soviet Succession States
GGG 357	Structures in Urban Governance and Planning
GGG 380	Geography of Virginia

¹ The two courses used to fulfill the combined college and Mason Core requirements must be from different disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences.

² HIST 100 History of Western Civilization (Mason Core) and HIST 125 Introduction to World History (Mason Core) may not be used to fulfill this requirement.

Foreign Language

Code **Title** **Credits**
Intermediate-level proficiency in one foreign language, fulfilled by:¹

Completing a course in a foreign language numbered 202, 209, or 210 (or higher level courses taught in the language)		
Or achieving a satisfactory score on an approved proficiency test		
Or completing the following ASL three course sequence:		
EDSE 115	American Sign Language (ASL) I	
EDSE 116	American Sign Language (ASL) II	
EDSE 219	American Sign Language (ASL) III	

¹ Students who are already proficient in a second language may be eligible for a waiver of this requirement. Additional information on waivers can be found at the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (<http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu>).

Non-Western Culture

Select 3 credits of an approved course in the study of a non-Western culture (additional to the Mason Core requirement in global understanding)

Code	Title	Credits
Select 3 credits (additional to Mason Core Global Understanding requirement) ¹		
ANTH 114	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 300	Civilizations	3
ANTH 301	Native North Americans	3
ANTH 302	Peoples and Cultures of Latin America (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 303	Peoples and Cultures of the Andes	3
ANTH 306	Peoples and Cultures of Island Asia (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 307	Ancient Mesoamerica (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 308	Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 309	Peoples and Cultures of India (Mason Core)	3

ANTH 313	Myth, Magic, and Mind (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 314	Zombies	3
ANTH 316	Peoples and Cultures of the Caribbean (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 323	Digging and Dealing in the Dead: Ethics in Archaeology	3
ANTH 330	Peoples and Cultures of Selected Regions: Non-Western	3
ANTH 332	Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Globalization (Mason Core)	3
ANTH 381	Medical Anthropology	3
ANTH 383	Cities of the Global South	3
ANTH 396	Issues in Anthropology: Social Sciences (Mason Core)	3
ARAB 360	Topics in Arabic Cultural Production	3
ARAB 420	Survey of Arabic Literature	3
ARAB 440	Topics in Arabic Religious Thought and Texts (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 203	Survey of Asian Art (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 204	Survey of Latin American Art (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 206	Survey of African Art (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 318	Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt	3
ARTH 319	Art and Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 320	Art of the Islamic World (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 382	Arts of India (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 383	Arts of Southeast Asia (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 384	Arts of China (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 385	Arts of Japan (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 386	The Silk Road (Mason Core)	3
ARTH 482	RS: Advanced Studies in Asian Art	3
CHIN 318	Introduction to Classical Chinese (Mason Core)	3
CHIN 320	Contemporary Chinese Film	3
CHIN 325	Major Chinese Writers (Mason Core)	3
DANC 118	World Dance (Mason Core)	3
ECON 361	Economic Development of Latin America (Mason Core)	3
ECON 362	African Economic Development (Mason Core)	3
FREN 451	Topics in Sub-Saharan Francophone Literature and Culture	3
FREN 454	Topics in Caribbean Francophone Literature and Culture	3
GGG 101	Major World Regions (Mason Core)	3
GGG 316	Geography of Latin America	3
GGG 325	Geography of North Africa and the Middle East	3
GGG 330	Geography of the Soviet Succession States	3
GGG 399	Select Topics in GGS	3
GOVT 328	Non-Western Political Theory	3
GOVT 332	Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa	3

GOVT 333	Government and Politics of Asia	3
GOVT 340	Central Asian Politics	3
GOVT 341	Chinese Foreign Policy	3
GOVT 345	Islam and Politics	3
GOVT 432	Political Change and Social Development in Sub-Saharan Africa	3
GOVT 433	Political Economy of East Asia	3
HIST 251	Survey of East Asian History (Mason Core)	3
HIST 252	Survey of East Asian History (Mason Core)	3
HIST 261	Survey of African History (Mason Core)	3
HIST 262	Survey of African History (Mason Core)	3
HIST 271	Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core)	3
HIST 272	Survey of Latin American History (Mason Core)	3
HIST 281	Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization (Mason Core)	3
HIST 282	Survey of Middle Eastern Civilization (Mason Core)	3
HIST 326	Stalinism	3
HIST 327	The Soviet Union and Russia Since World War II	3
HIST 328	Rise of Russia (Mason Core)	3
HIST 329	Modern Russia and the Soviet Union (Mason Core)	3
HIST 353	History of Traditional China	3
HIST 354	Modern China	3
HIST 356	Modern Japan (Mason Core)	3
HIST 357	Postwar Japan (Mason Core)	3
HIST 358	Post-1949 China (Mason Core)	3
HIST 360	History of South Africa (Mason Core)	3
HIST 364	Revolution and Radical Politics in Latin America (Mason Core)	3
HIST 365	Conquest and Colonization in Latin America (Mason Core)	3
HIST 366	Comparative Slavery	3
HIST 367	History, Fiction, and Film in Latin America	3
HIST 387	Topics in Global History (Mason Core)	3-6
HIST 426	The Russian Revolution	3
HIST 460	Modern Iran (Mason Core)	3
HIST 461	Arab-Israeli Conflict	3
HIST 462	Women in Islamic Society (Mason Core)	3
HIST 465	The Middle East in the 20th Century	3
JAPA 310	Japanese Culture in a Global World (Mason Core)	3
JAPA 340	Topics in Japanese Literature (Mason Core)	3
KORE 320	Korean Popular Culture in a Global World	3
MUSI 103	Musics of the World (Mason Core)	3
RELI 211	Religions of the West (Mason Core)	3
RELI 212	Religions of Asia (Mason Core)	3
RELI 240	Death and the Afterlife in World Religions	3

RELI 272	Islam	3
RELI 313	Hinduism (Mason Core)	3
RELI 314	Chinese Philosophies and Religious Traditions	3
RELI 315	Buddhism (Mason Core)	3
RELI 337	Mysticism: East and West	3
RELI 365	Muhammad: Life and Legacy	3
RELI 374	Islamic Thought (Mason Core)	3
RELI 375	Qur'an and Hadith	3
RELI 379	Islamic Law, Society, and Ethics	3
RELI 387	Islam, Democracy, and Human Rights	3
RELI 490	Comparative Study of Religions (Mason Core)	3
RUSS 353	Russian Civilization (Mason Core)	3
RUSS 354	Contemporary Post-Soviet Life (Mason Core)	3

¹ A course used to fulfill the Mason Core global understanding requirement may not be simultaneously used to satisfy this college-level requirement. A course used to fulfill this requirement may be used simultaneously to fulfill any other requirements (Mason Core requirements, college-level requirements, or requirements for the major). Additional information on waivers can be found at the Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs (<http://chssundergrad.gmu.edu>).

Mason Core

Note: Some Mason Core requirements may already be fulfilled by the major requirements listed above. Students are strongly encouraged to consult their advisors to ensure they fulfill all remaining Mason Core requirements.

Code	Title	Credits
Foundation Requirements		
	Written Communication	6
	Oral Communication	3
	Quantitative Reasoning	3
	Information Technology	3-7
Core Requirements		
	Arts	3
	Global Understanding	3
	Literature	3
	Natural Science	7
	Social and Behavioral Sciences	3
	Western Civilization/World History	3
Synthesis/Capstone Requirement ¹		
	Synthesis/Capstone	3
Total Credits		40

¹ minimum 3 credits

Additional Elective Courses

Any remaining credits may be completed with elective courses to bring the degree total to 120

Accelerated Master's

The accelerated master's program below specifies the BA in Russian and Eurasian Studies as a feeder degree for its program. It is important to note, however, that many accelerated master's programs are available for any bachelor's degree at Mason, including this one. See the full list of master's degrees with accelerated programs at George Mason.

Bachelor's Degree (selected)/Middle East and Islamic Studies, Accelerated MA

Overview

Highly-qualified undergraduates pursuing a BA in select majors (listed below) may apply to the accelerated master's degree in Middle East and Islamic studies. If accepted, and depending on their undergraduate major, students will be able to earn a bachelor's degree in their chosen major and a master's degree in Middle East and Islamic studies after satisfactory completion of 144 credits, sometimes within five years. See AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees.

Students in an accelerated degree program must fulfill all university requirements for the master's degree. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies.

Selected Majors

- government and international politics
- global affairs
- history
- religious studies
- Russian and Eurasian studies
- sociology
- anthropology

It is preferred, though not required, that the student have a minor in Middle East studies or Islamic studies.

Application Requirements

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions. For information specific to the accelerated MA in Middle East and Islamic studies, see Application Requirements and Deadlines (<http://meis.gmu.edu/programs/la-ma-acel-meis>).

Accelerated Option Requirements

While undergraduate students, accelerated master's students complete two graduate courses as indicated on their Accelerated Master's Program Application with a minimum grade of 3.00 in each course. Once admitted to the accelerated master's pathway, students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 in all course work. Upon completion and conferral of the undergraduate degree in the semester indicated in the application, they submit the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form and are admitted to graduate status.

Code	Title	Credits
Select two courses from the following:		
MEIS 500	Critical Issues and Debates in Middle East and Islamic Studies	6

HIST 575	Approaches to Middle East and Islamic History	
GOVT 632	Politics and Societies of the Middle East	
RELI 644	Islamic Texts and Contexts	
Total Credits		6

As graduate students, accelerated master's students have an advanced standing. They must meet all master's degree requirements except for the two courses (6 credits) they completed as undergraduates. Students must begin their master's program the semester immediately following conferral of the undergraduate degree.

Reserve Graduate Credit

Students may take up to 6 additional graduate credits as reserve graduate credit. These credits do not apply to the undergraduate degree. To apply these credits to the master's degree, students should use the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form.

Code	Title	Credits
Select up to 6 additional graduate credits from the following:		
MEIS 500	Critical Issues and Debates in Middle East and Islamic Studies	6
HIST 575	Approaches to Middle East and Islamic History	
GOVT 731	Advanced Seminar in Comparative Politics (when content focus is the Middle East)	
GOVT 733	Islam and Politics	
RELI 644	Islamic Texts and Contexts	
Total Credits		6

The ability to take courses, including ones not listed above, for reserve graduate credit is available to all high achieving undergraduates with the permission of the department. Permission is normally granted only to qualified Mason seniors within 15 hours of graduation. Permission is normally granted only to qualified Mason seniors within 15 hours of graduation. See AP.1.4.4 Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates.