

Study in Russia!



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Welcome to Russia!

Добро пожаловать в Россию!

Bears, vodka, snow, cold and Putin. These are words that come to mind when thinking about Russia. But Russia is so much more. The geographically biggest country on earth has something to offer for everyone. Vibrant cities, a rich culture, beaches, mountains for hiking or skiing and, of course, endless possibilities to study Russian or any other topic on your wish list.



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A little history

The Russian Federation has had a turbulent history. Autocratic and enlightened tsars ruled the country until the early 20th century. Then the communists took over and all over the world the names of Lenin and Stalin could be heard. The Soviet Union rapidly industrialised and Yuri Gagarin became the first man to travel into space. But in the late 1980s the Soviet Union was in stagnation. Gorbachev's reforms failed, the Soviet Union fell apart, the Berlin Wall came down and the Cold War was over. Russia has gone through many changes since then. The unstable 1990s were followed by a decade of fast economic growth. Traces of the past are almost gone in cities like Moscow and St. Petersburg, with their 24-hour economies and exciting city life. But this is still a country in transition.

Why Russia?

The Netherlands is one of Russia's main economic partners and one of its biggest investors. Companies like Shell, Unilever and Heineken have large stakes in the Russian economy. Not only economically is Russia an important country for the Netherlands. The famous Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg has its own dependence in Amsterdam, for example. Historic ties between the two countries date back many centuries and, via his ancestors, the Dutch King is related to the Russian tsars. Russia is located so close to Europe, yet sometimes seems so far away. People with knowledge of Russia and the Russian language will always be needed in the near future.



Studying in Russia

Are you studying the Russian language, International Relations, European Studies, Energy, Physics or Aerospace Engineering? Maybe you could or even should consider Russia as a study destination. Many programmes are offered in English and there are also a lot of interesting summer school programmes available.

Although the educational system in Russia is still in transition, there are many faculties which offer top-notch education. This is a remainder of the Soviet Union, when the country heavily invested in research and universities. Today, Russia is once again investing in international programmes, English-taught courses and updating facilities, such as labs and dormitories.

A few topics can be studied in Russia better than anywhere else, starting, of course, with the Russian language. Most of the universities offer Russian language

courses for foreigners. Wouldn't it be great to study within the Arctic Circle, deep inside Siberia or in a city near the mighty Volga River?

Russia as a country has always had an enormous influence on our society. For example, most of our oil and gas comes from Russia. Today, the only way astronauts can reach the International Space Station (ISS), is with Russian manufactured rockets. Russia was and still is a big power in the international political order. It might sound like a cliché, but a study in Russia is a solid investment in yourself.



Practical stuff:

Which university:

Of course this depends on your field of study and where you want to go. Take a look at [the website](#) of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation. The universities listed here receive additional funding for internationalisation and offer more English-taught programmes. Don't forget to check if your own university has exchange programmes with Russia!

Money matters:

Russian universities are eager to receive foreign students, especially in cities other than Moscow. In some cases they can provide full or partial scholarships. Usually the university provides you with a room in a dormitory, free of charge, or at a very low price. Moscow is known as an expensive city, but if you go to Samara, Tomsk or Yekaterinburg you will have an even more unique experience and your money will go much further. For scholarships from the Netherlands, visit the [Beursopener](#).

Visa:

You will need a visa, but the Russian university (and Neso Russia) will help you out here. So don't worry too much about this.



People dancing near the river in Gorky Park, Moscow

Student life

You won't be bored, that's for sure. Forget what people say about the Russians – that they never smile and are unfriendly – you will be amazed. When you get to know them, Russians are hospitable and inviting. They like to eat and party, so be ready to have little sleep and lots of fun!

As a foreign student, you will most likely live in a dormitory. Most dorms for foreigners are either located in the centre or near the university. You might have to share your room and facilities, but dorms are of course a great place to meet other foreigners and Russians.

Regardless of where you will study, be it Moscow or some remote Siberian city,

chances are that the city will be much bigger than any city in Holland. That also means that there are many opportunities to go out, go to the theatre or cinema, and visit parks and museums. Russian students – who usually get by on small allowances – know how to get the most out of what's on offer. Just get out there, you will not regret it.

Testimonials:

“At times we had our lessons outside on a terrace, in an area where you'd normally never set foot.”

Jorine Heijboer
Summer school Graphical Design
in St. Petersburg

“Russians are – in my opinion – the friendliest people around.”

“My experience in Russia was great. It was really nice to have this experience of living and studying abroad.”

Pieter Barendregt
Economy in Nizhny Novgorod

Maurice van Klaveren
Studied Russian language and culture in Moscow



St. Isaac's Cathedral, St. Petersburg

Four invaluable pieces of advice:

- 1 Learn Russian (even a little bit will help)
- 2 Look beyond Moscow or St. Petersburg
- 3 Don't be prejudiced
- 4 Pack really warm clothes for winter ;)

Study programmes

Many universities in the Netherlands have partnerships in Russia, so check this first with your International Office or faculty. If there are no partnerships, it's up to you to make your choice. Are you looking for a full-time master's programme, a short course summer school or do you want to take some time to study the Russian language? Neso Russia can help you find a suitable programme.

Bachelor's and master's programmes

Russian Higher Education Institutions have a wide range of bachelor's and master's programmes. Most of them are in Russian, but more and more are offered in English.

Are you interested in fundamental sciences such as **Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics**, then take a look at the State Universities of Moscow, St. Petersburg and Kazan.

Interesting **Business and Management** courses are offered at the Higher School of Economics, Moscow State University of International Relations and the St. Petersburg State University. **Aerospace and Rocket Science** is especially strong in Bauman University, Novosibirsk State University and Samara State Aerospace University.

For those who are interested in **Bioscience and Medicine** consider the Ural Federal University, Kazan State Federal University or head for the Moscow Institute for Physics and Technology. If you study **Information Technology** check out ITMO University in St. Petersburg.

What is Russia without **oil and gas**?

So obviously you have universities specialised in this industry. The most logical choice might be the Gubkin Russian State Oil and Gas University, but also the Siberian Federal University and Tyumen State Oil and Gas University. Those interested in **Environmental Sciences** should look for programmes at the Far Eastern Federal University and the North – Eastern Federal University.

Summer schools

Taking a break, enjoy a holiday in Russia and gain new skills at the same time. That is what summer schools are all about. They normally last between one and four weeks and universities all over the country offer interesting programmes. Learn how to do business in Russia, study Aerospace in Samara or go to Tomsk if you are interested in arts and culture. Practise your Russian language while riding the Trans-Siberian Railway or learn how to cut diamonds in Yakutsk. All universities offer a leisure programme to get to know the city and surrounding area.

Winter schools

Are you looking to experience Russia as it is imagined by most people? With metres of snow and daytime temperatures of 25 degrees below zero? Then perhaps you should consider attending a winter school in Russia. Just because it's cold doesn't mean you have to stay at home: go ice skating, skiing, to the Russian sauna or finally have that real snowball fight again. There are fewer options than with summer schools, but if you are interested in learning the language, business culture or history of Russia, then wait no longer and contact the Neso Russia office.

Russian Language

You speak fluent Dutch and probably also English. It is also likely that you know some French, German or Spanish. But by learning Russian, you will make yourself truly unique. More and more (international) companies, government organisations and other institutions are looking for people who can read and speak Russian and not only in the Netherlands. The best place to learn the language is, of course, Russia. And choices are limitless, a bachelor's or, master's programme, a summer or winter school in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Samara or Vladivostok, you can learn it everywhere. If you choose cities off the beaten track, chances are you learn the language much faster. It is not easy, but once you've mastered it, a whole new world will open up. Удачи! (Good luck!)



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Why Russia?

- 1 Enrich yourself with a unique experience – for yourself and your future employer
- 2 Go somewhere less obvious
- 3 Speak, read and write the language of Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Chekhov and Bulgakov
- 4 Feel the enormity of the largest country in the world (11 time zones!)
- 5 Study in the largest gas-exporting and second-largest oil-exporting country