RUSSIAN STUDIES —
BORIS NEMTSOV EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
A Russian-language Master’s degree program of Charles University
(Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Social Sciences) supported by
Boris Nemtsov Foundation for Freedom
KEY FACTS

European Master’s degree program accredited at Charles University. The duration of the program is two years.

Most courses will be taught in **Russian** with selected courses taught in English.

**The programme is focused on a comprehensive study of Russia after 1991** - the failed democratic transition and the current political regime; the economic transformation of Russia vs countries with socialist experience; patterns of Russian foreign policy; colonialism towards other countries and indigenous peoples; the state of Russian society; propaganda and the role of independent media.
CANDIDATES

Young Russians motivated to rebuild the country and/or meaningfully contribute to creation of robust and sustainable democratic institutions after the fall of the Putin regime.

Citizens of other countries wishing to improve their knowledge about Russia and the region to better understand global political, economic and social developments.

We’ll admit 20 students to our inaugural program.
CANDIDATES (cont.)

Attained BA degree in any area from a recognized university.

Successful completion of entrance exams.

We are looking for candidates with different academic and professional backgrounds motivated to contribute to a country of origination in various aspects (political, social, professional).
GOALS

Advancement of knowledge about Russia and the region in the world.

Facilitation of direct interaction between Russian and international students.
EXAM REQUIREMENTS

Russian language — C1, C2.

Knowledge of Russian history and political and social realities after the collapse of the USSR.

English language — B2 (Candidates will be asked to explain their motivation to get enrolled in the program).

Candidates MUST show up at the exam in person. There will be no written assignments.
AREAS OF STUDY

The program offers seven compulsory courses and then allows students to choose an area of specialization and take other courses from 4 different «baskets».

Compulsory courses are introductory disciplines aimed at setting the common ground for the students about key areas of study.

Elective courses aim to deepen students’ knowledge of the chosen area of specialization.

We’ll revise the list of selective courses every semester to address the academic need of the students. Also, we’ll invite guest lectures to teach classes on public policy and media.
Compulsory courses

- Research methodology
- Evolution of Russia’s political system after 1991
- Comparative analysis of political regimes in the region
- Economics of post-Communist Transition
- Russia’s foreign policy in post-Soviet Russia
- Russian society after 1991
- The role of media in post-Soviet Russia
CURRICULUM — ELECTIVE COURSES

Students will choose courses from four different «baskets» that will be revised every semester to suit students’ academic needs and interests better.

**Basket 1**  
Theme: Society, Domestic Policy and Economy of post-Soviet Russia

**Basket 2**  
Theme: Russia’s Foreign Policy after the Collapse of the USSR

**Basket 3**  
Theme: Language and Symbols of Contemporary Russian Politics and Culture, Problems of Identity

**Basket 4**  
Theme: Journalism and Media Landscape in modern Russia
CURRICULUM — ELECTIVE COURSES (examples)

- Putininism and authoritarian revanchism in Russia
- Historical Consciousness and Identity in Russia: From the Empire to the Putin Era
- Nationalism, minorities and identity conflicts in Russia
- Religion and confessions in modern Russia
- Russia-Belarusian relations in the post-Soviet period
- Central Asia in the post-Soviet period
- The role of Russia in international organizations (UN, OSCE, Council of Europe)
- Disinformation, sanctions, foreign agents: Russia and its neighborhood
Tuition Fees & Scholarships

In the Czech Republic, academic programs taught in foreign languages are required by law to charge tuition fees.

The annual tuition fee is 110,000 CZK (approx. 4670 EUR).

We want to ensure that all interested, qualified students are able to participate and not discouraged from applying by the tuition fees. Therefore, the Nemtsov Foundation will offer up to 15 stipends of $500 USD/month to students who score well on the entrance exams and can demonstrate financial need.

The duration of the stipend is six months and can be extended for another six months if a student shows outstanding academic excellence.
COOPERATION WITHIN ERASMUS+

We’ll use the ERASMUS+ framework to invite guest professors to teach specific courses on sociology, transitional justice, public policy & good governance and media at Charles University and/or to send our students to European universities for one or two semesters.

We already have SciencesPo as our partner, and we are seeing interest from other universities.
The Stanford Russia Forum (SURF) is a student exchange program that brings together around 25 Russian and American students to work on joint projects. The project implies online sessions and three annual conferences in 2024, 2025 and 2026.
In cooperation with the Boris Nemtsov Educational Foundation's MA program, the SURF program will produce collaborative research by students from both countries on core issues of mutual interest to American and Russian participants. Now more than ever there is an increased need for better mutual understanding and opportunities for person-to-person dialogue on common areas of interest. The SURF program anticipates a time when relations between the US and Russia are eventually more productive and constructive. We seek, therefore, to build a foundation in the expectation that at some point, we will return to a time when the Russian and American governments and societies can constructively collaborate.
TEAM

Dr. Eva Lehečková, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Charles University

Zhanna Nemtsova, Co-Founder, Boris Nemtsov Foundation

Dr. Marek Prihoda, Co-Director, Boris Nemtsov Academic Center for the Study of Russia (Faculty of Arts, Charles University)
The Faculty will include Russian-speaking scholars at risk, Czech professors and guest lecturers from Europe, the United States and Israel.

Part of our mission is to preserve the Russian-speaking academic community by offering them full-time teaching positions at Charles University.
KEY FACULTY MEMBERS

**Alena Markova**, Ph.D. (modern history of Central and Eastern Europe, studies of nationalism and national identity, language policy, post-Soviet transformation processes)

**Maria Kuznetsova**, MA in Cultural Studies (History of Post-Soviet Russia, Historical Politics and Memory Research, Totalitarianism and Post-Totalitarian Society)

**Sergei Medvedev**, Candidate of Historical Sciences (political history of Russia, theories of social and political transformation)

**Olga Leshkova**, MA (politics of memory, mythologization of history, historical narratives in literature and art)
KEY FACULTY MEMBERS (cont.)

Marek Prihoda, Ph.D. (Russian history)

Ekaterina Rycheva, Candidate of Philological Sciences (modern Russian language and media language, the language of advertising and politics, the language of modern Russian and Soviet cinema)

Dmitry Dubrovsky, Candidate of Historical Sciences (human rights, minority studies, academic rights and freedoms in Russia)

Ivan Fomin, Candidate of Political Sciences (methodology and research methods of political science and economics)
VISITING PROFESSORS

We’ll invite leading scholars from around the world to teach short-term courses

**Timothy Fry**, PhD in Political Science, Professor at Columbia University, USA (post-communist political and economic transition, comparative political science)

**Anat Gofen**, PhD in Political Science, Associate Professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel (the role of outliers in the evolvement, design and implications of public policy, with emphasis on the interrelationships between citizens, government and policy implementation)

**Andrej Richter**, PhD, professor at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia (international standards for media regulation, legal foundations of internet journalism)
TIMELINE OF ACTIVITIES

30 June - 14 August - admission applications.

4 September - 6 September - entrance exams.

2 October 2023 - the start of the semester.

In later years, regular admission examinations are expected at the end of May/beginning of June.
WHAT DO WE NEED?

Financial support to sustain academic positions for core Faculty members and create short-term academic positions for Russian-language scholars at risk.

Assistance in developing programs in key study areas.

Opportunities for internships for our students and academic exchange for our professors.

Joint research grants.
THANK YOU

Contacts

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Nemtsov Center webpage: cbn.ff.cuni.cz