



FILOZOFICKÁ FAKULTA  
Univerzita Karlova

**BNAC**

Boris Nemtsov Academic Center  
for the Study of Russia

# RUSSIAN STUDIES

**BORIS  
NEMTSOV  
EDUCATIONAL  
PROGRAM**

Master's degree program of Charles University (Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Social Sciences)

# KEY FACTS

EUROPEAN MASTER'S  
DEGREE PROGRAM  
accredited at Charles University

2 YEARS  
duration

RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH  
language of instruction

## FOCUS

Comprehensive study  
of Russian politics and society  
as well as the environment  
of the post-Soviet world  
provided by highly qualified  
scholars with vast experience  
in the region

# PROGRAM MISSION

1 Advancing knowledge of Russia and the post-Soviet region

2 Fostering interaction between Russian and international scholars and students

3 Educating new generations of researchers, politicians, and journalists with a critical view of Russian history, politics, and social structure


# LEARNING OVERVIEW



Russian history, society,  
and politics after 1991



Multidisciplinary approaches  
for the comparative study  
of Russia, post-Soviet Central  
and Eastern Europe, and Eurasia



Understanding of Russian regime  
evolution and failed democratic transition,  
economic transformation, patterns  
of foreign policy, external and internal  
colonialism, social fragmentation, work  
of propaganda and independent media





# PROGRAM DESIGN

The program consists of 7 core courses  
and a range of elective courses

7 core  
courses

## CORE COURSES

introduce key areas of study

## ELECTIVE COURSES

aim to expand knowledge  
of Russian politics, society,  
culture and media

## GUEST LECTURES

by policymakers, entrepreneurs,  
journalists, and intellectuals

List of elective courses to be updated every semester according to the academic needs of students.  
Students can also select any courses offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences.

# CURRICULUM



Evolution of Russia's political system after 1991



Russia's foreign policy in post-Soviet Russia



Research methodology



Comparative analysis of political regimes in the region



Russian society after 1991



The role of media in post-Soviet Russia



Post-Communist transition

# CURRICULUM ELECTIVE COURSES

Students will choose courses from 4 “baskets”

1

Society,  
Domestic Policy,  
and Economy of  
Post-Soviet Russia

2

Russia's  
Foreign Policy  
after the Collapse  
of the USSR

3

Language  
and Symbols of  
Contemporary Russian  
Politics and Culture,  
Problems of Identity

4

Journalism  
and Media Landscape  
in Modern Russia

\*The list of courses will be revised every semester to meet academic needs and interests of students

# CURRICULUM

## ELECTIVE COURSES

(examples)

Putinism and Authoritarian Revanchism  
in Russia

Disinformation, Sanctions, Foreign Agents

Religion and Confessions in Modern Russia

Central Asia in the Post-Soviet Period

Nationalism, Minorities, and Identity  
Conflicts in Russia

The Role of Russia in International  
Organizations (UN, OSCE, Council of Europe)

Historical Consciousness and Identity in  
Russia: From The Empire To The Putin Era

Understanding Digital Authoritarianism

Russia and its Neighbours

# GUEST LECTURERS

The MA program in Russian Studies aims to broaden students' horizons through the course ***Russia and the World in the 21st century- Global Challenges***, offered each semester. We invite renowned academics, practitioners, and public intellectuals to share their research outcomes and experience. Among our speakers were **Michael Kofman**, a military analyst with a focus on the Russian and Ukrainian militaries, **Ruben Enikolopov** and **Alexandra Prokopenko**, two leading Russian economists, **Kathryn Stoner**, Mosbacher Director of Stanford's Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law, and many others.



# RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE TRAINING

Foreign students can benefit from free Russian-language courses from the Faculty of Arts. The Faculty has long been known for its focus on Slavic Studies and excellence in teaching Russian to non-native speakers.



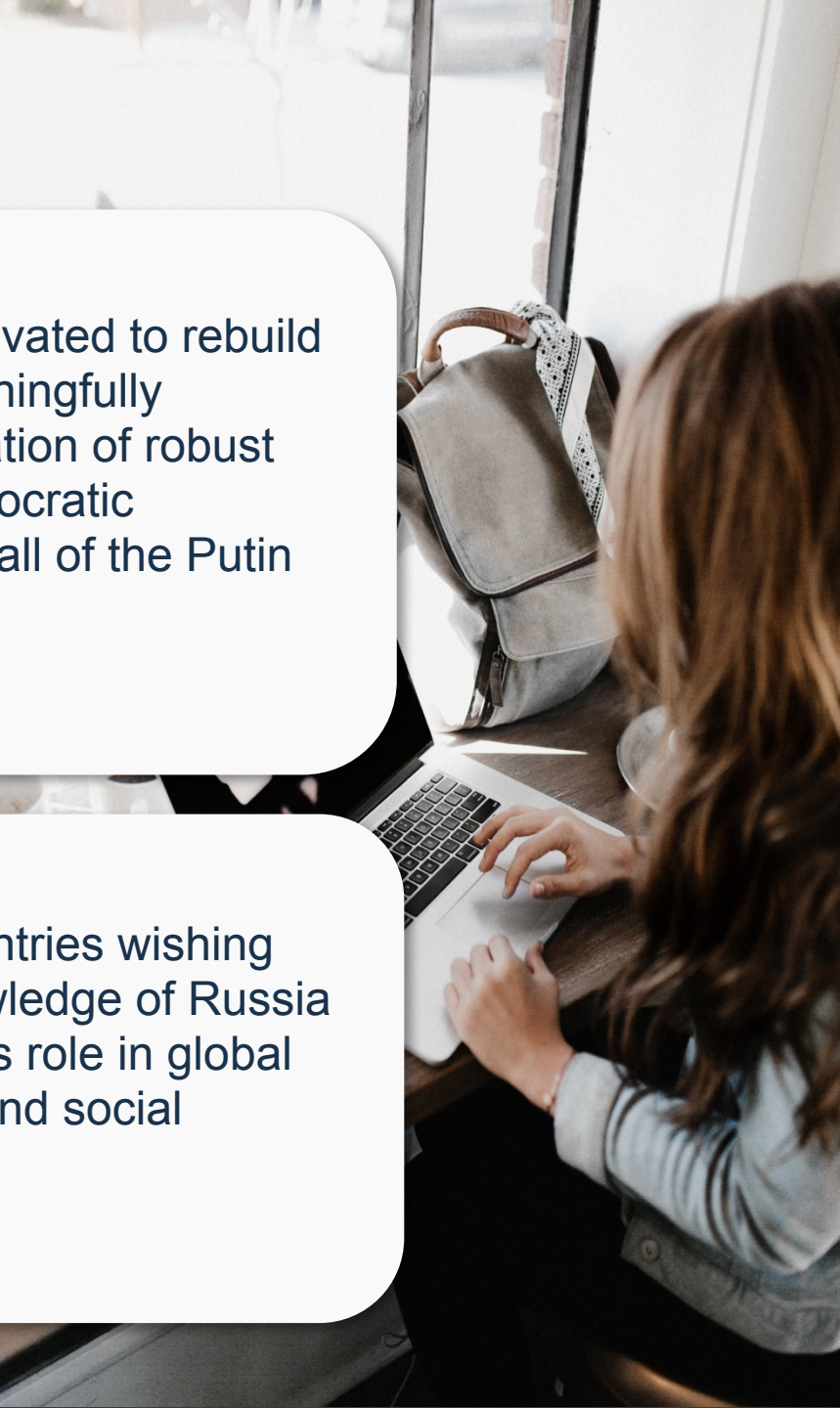
## Testimony from Jan Dubecky, PhD student at the Faculty of Arts

*“ The Faculty of Arts at Charles University offers a variety of study programs focused on teaching the Russian language. Concurrently, these programs emphasize understanding social, political, and spiritual developments in Eastern Europe. Students may thus select programs focusing on areas such as interpreting, teaching the Russian language in schools, or applying the language in the economic sector. The study program is further enhanced by opportunities for international mobility (within the Erasmus+ program), significantly deepening students' knowledge. Graduates are thereby fully prepared for the practical use of the language at the C1-C2 level. ”*



# APPLICANTS

We expect our alums to use gained expertise for the benefit and development of their countries and the whole world



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

Citizens of other countries wishing to improve their knowledge of Russia and the region and its role in global political, economic, and social developments

# ADMISSION PROCESS

## APPLICATION SUBMISSION

- **BA DIPLOMA  
or EQUIVALENT**  
required documents
- **APPLICATION  
DEADLINE**  
1<sup>st</sup> round – end of February  
2<sup>nd</sup> round – beginning of August  
exact dates published [on the website  
www.nemtsovmaprogram.org](http://www.nemtsovmaprogram.org)
- **SUBMIT »**  
application form

## ADMISSION EXAM

- **ORAL EXAM**  
discussion on Russian  
history, politics, and society  
in English and Russian
- **EXAM DATES**  
1<sup>st</sup> round – April  
2<sup>nd</sup> round – end of August  
online exam available upon  
request (request must be  
submitted with application)

**30** applicants  
to be admitted

## FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS



admission process contact  
[prijimacky@ff.cuni.cz](mailto:prijimacky@ff.cuni.cz)



# ADMISSION EXAM

SUBJECT	SCORES	LANGUAGE
Post-Soviet Russian Politics and Society	40	Russian
Russian History	40	Russian
Motivation	20	English

**50** threshold score

the **passing score** is determined by the results of the admission campaign



## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1

Russian language skills — C1, C2

2

English language skills — B2

3

Knowledge of the post-Soviet  
Russian history, politics,  
and social dynamics

# TUITION FEES

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

140,000 CZK  
annual tuition fee

# SCHOLARSHIPS

We want all interested, qualified students to be admitted and not be deterred by the tuition fees

up to €1000/month

The Boris Nemtsov Academic Center will provide 500 and 1000 €/month stipends for 6 months (can be extended for 6 months extra)

up to 5 admitted students

- ✓ high scores on the entrance exam
- ✓ can prove financial need



[Application form for scholarship](#)



Scholarships and visa support contact email  
[russianstudies@ff.cuni.cz](mailto:russianstudies@ff.cuni.cz)



# COOPERATION WITHIN ERASMUS+

ERASMUS+ framework will allow us to invite guest professors teaching special courses on sociology, transitional justice, public policy & good governance, and media and send our students to European universities for one or two semesters

[Sciences Po](#), [Bard College Berlin](#) and [Ruhr-Universität Bochum](#) are our key ERASMUS+ partners with more partnerships in development



# COLLABORATION WITH STANFORD

The Stanford U.S.-Russia Forum (SURF) is a student exchange program that brings together around 25 Russian and American students to work on joint projects.

The program implies project work coached by relevant faculty and annual student-to-student conferences in 2024, 2025, and 2026

SURF program overview

<https://cddrl.fsi.stanford.edu/content/surf-program-overview>



*“ In cooperation with the Boris Nemtsov Educational 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.*

*”*

KATHRYN STONER,  
MOSBACHER DIRECTOR OF CDDRL AT STANFORD



# LEADERSHIP



**Dr. Eva  
Lehečková**

Dean of the Faculty of Arts,  
Charles University



**Zhanna  
Nemtsova**

Co-Director,  
Boris Nemtsov Academic Center  
for the Study of Russia  
(Faculty of Arts, CU)



**Dr. Marek  
Prihoda**

Co-Director,  
Boris Nemtsov Academic Center  
for the Study of Russia  
(Faculty of Arts, CU)

# FACULTY

- Russian-speaking scholars at risk
- Czech professors
- Guest lecturers from Europe and the USA

Part of our mission is to support qualified scholars-at-risk from the region





# KEY FACULTY



**Alena Markova,  
PhD**

- Modern History of Central and Eastern Europe
- Studies of Nationalism and National Identity
- Language Policy
- Post-Soviet Transformation Processes



**Mariia Kuznetcova,  
PhD**

- History of Post-Soviet Russia
- Historical Politics and Memory Research
- Totalitarianism and Post-Totalitarian Society



**Sergei Medvedev,  
PhD**

- Political History of Russia
- Theories of Social and Political Transformation

# KEY FACULTY



**Marek Prihoda,  
PhD**

- Russian History



**Ekaterina Rycheva,  
PhD**

- Modern Russian Language and Media Language
- The Language of Advertising and Politics
- The Language of Modern Russian and Soviet Cinema



**Dmitry Dubrovsky,  
PhD**

- Human Rights
- Minority Studies
- Academic Rights and Freedoms in Russia



**Ivan Fomin,  
PhD**

- Methodology and Research Methods of Political Science and Economics

# VISITING PROFESSORS

Leading international experts on Russia and the region will teach short-term courses



**PhD in Political Science,  
Professor at Columbia University,  
USA**

- Post-Communist Political and Economic Transition
- Comparative Political Science



**PhD, Visiting Lecturer at Charles  
University**

- Understanding Digital Authoritarianism



**PhD, professor at Comenius  
University in Bratislava, Slovakia**

- International Standards for Media Regulation
- Legal Foundations of Internet Journalism



## ZHANINA NEMTSOVA

Co-director  
Boris Nemtsov Academic Center  
for the Study of Russia  
(Faculty of Arts, Charles University)  
[zhanna.nemtsova@nemtsovfund.org](mailto:zhanna.nemtsova@nemtsovfund.org)

# CONTACTS

- Secretariat of the Academic Center,  
Scholarships and visa support contact email  
**[russianstudies@ff.cuni.cz](mailto:russianstudies@ff.cuni.cz)**
- Admission process contact  
**[prijimacky@ff.cuni.cz](mailto:prijimacky@ff.cuni.cz)**
- [Master's Program](#) »
- [Boris Nemtsov Academic Center](#) »  
[for the Study of Russia](#)
- [Faculty of Arts, Charles University](#) »