All academic programs offered at the UM help students develop valuable transferable skills. The University of Michigan Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (CREES) is dedicated to advancing and disseminating interdisciplinary knowledge about the peoples, nations, and cultures of Russia, Central and Eastern Europe, and Eurasia, past and present. In our increasingly global world, the breadth offered by a CREES concentration makes it an ideal liberal arts major.

As an REES concentrator you will develop a broad range of skills, from competence in at least one foreign language, to analytic abilities, awareness of other cultures, and interpersonal skills that can be applied to a wide range of careers.

**Related fields include** Anthropology, Economics, Business, History, Political Science, Public Policy, Screen Arts and Cultures, Slavic Languages and Literatures, Near Eastern Studies, and Sociology.

**SKILLS AND ABILITIES**

**Research/Project Development Skills**
- Integrating different approaches
- Working with original sources
- Identifying areas for research
- Planning long-term projects
- Proposing hypotheses
- Applying methodologies from many disciplines

**Analytical Skills**
- Reading critically
- Reading for content and tone
- Comparing different translations
- Perceiving patterns
- Synthesizing information
- Identifying and questioning assumptions

**Cross-Cultural Skills**
- Sensitivity to issues of ethnicity and nationalism
- Working with people from different cultures
- Acknowledging value systems
- Understanding historical origins of present societies
- Applying interdisciplinary knowledge to a region
- Interpreting cultural norms

**Communication Skills**
- Advanced language training
- Translating and interpreting
- Writing clearly
- Conveying complex ideas
- Making oral presentations

**BUILDING YOUR SKILLS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM**

Employers seek out individuals who can demonstrate excellent verbal and written communication skills, teamwork and interpersonal skills, initiative, and a strong work ethic. Student organizations and campus employment offer valuable opportunities to add to the skills you are developing in your classes. Study abroad experiences are particularly helpful to improve language proficiency and gain intercultural skills. Other options include off-campus employment, volunteering in the community, or working abroad. Finally, a summer internship may be the best way of all to test out a career field and develop marketable skills.
FROM SKILLS TO CAREER

REEES concentrators develop both general and technical skills applicable to a wide range of careers. For example, cross-cultural communication skills may be equally useful whether working as a foundation project manager, a corporate recruiter, or a freelance journalist. Many concentrators go on to graduate or professional school. The list below is a sample of careers undertaken by Russian, East European and Eurasian graduates.

### Research/Project Development Skills
- Legislative researcher
- Intelligence agency researcher
- Population policy researcher
- Marketing services manager
- Professional association director
- Archivist
- Manuscript curator
- Museum curator
- Folklorist

### Analytical Skills
- State Department area specialist
- Investment analyst
- Foreign acquisitions lawyer
- International affairs lawyer
- Commercial loan investigator
- Political risk consultant
- International banker
- Development officer
- College professor

### Interpersonal/Cross-Cultural Skills
- Anthropologist
- Sister city program coordinator
- Foreign service officer
- Customs/immigration officer
- Ombudsperson
- Insurance salesperson
- Relocation coordinator
- Corporate trainer
- Relief agency worker
- International foundation programs officer
- Diversity trainer
- Study abroad advisor
- International volunteer

For more career information, see O*Net at [online.onetcenter.org](http://online.onetcenter.org)

### CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS

REEES offers several options for undergraduates, all of which provide great flexibility in choosing an interdisciplinary course of study. Undergraduate courses in anthropology, economics, history, political science, screen arts and cultures, Slavic languages and literatures, and sociology provide many options for focusing on Russia, Eastern Europe, and/or Eurasia as an undergraduate concentrator or minor. Concentrators need to gain proficiency in a regional language. REES offers fifteen-credit minors in Russian Studies and Eastern European Studies.

In addition, CREES is one of only a few U-M units that offers a Concurrent Undergraduate-Graduate Study Program that allows students to earn a B.A. or B.S. and REES M.A. in five years. Study abroad in a relevant country is highly encouraged, but not required. Refer to the LSA Bulletin or the Center website for further information on prerequisites and requirements.

**Center for Russian, East European, & Eurasian Studies**
International Institute
1080 South University Ave., Suite 3668
734-764-0351
[ii.umich.edu/crees](http://ii.umich.edu/crees)

**Newman Advising Center**
1255 Angell Hall
734-764-0332
[lsa.umich.edu/advising](http://lsa.umich.edu/advising)

### NEXT STEPS/RESOURCES

To begin exploring opportunities for overseas study and work, go to: [lsa.umich.edu/cgis](http://lsa.umich.edu/cgis) or [global.umich.edu](http://global.umich.edu)

To begin connecting to professionals in fields that interest you, create your own LinkedIn account:
[careercenter.umich.edu/article/getting-started-linkedin](http://careercenter.umich.edu/article/getting-started-linkedin)

To identify internships or job opportunities, visit Career Center Connector: [careercenter.umich.edu/article/c3](http://careercenter.umich.edu/article/c3)

On-campus jobs (work-study and non work-study jobs) are listed at: [studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX_Home.aspx](http://studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX_Home.aspx)

Maize Pages list hundreds of organizations for students to get involved in: [maizepages.umich.edu](http://maizepages.umich.edu)

Connect to Community lists volunteer opportunities in local organizations: [connect2community.umich.edu](http://connect2community.umich.edu)

**The Career Center**
3200 Student Activities Building
734-764-7460
careercenter.umich.edu

facebook.com/careercenter.umich
twitter.com/careercenter

[linkedin.com/company/the-career-center-at-the-university-of-michigan](http://linkedin.com/company/the-career-center-at-the-university-of-michigan)