



STUDENT LIFE

THE CAREER CENTER

Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies

FROM STUDY TO SKILLS

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

REES concentrators develop both general and technical skills applicable to a wide range of careers. For example, cross-cultural communication skills may be equally useful

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 

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.

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

Communication Skills

K-12 teacher
Language school operator
Legislator
Translator
Acquisitions editor
Journalist
Foreign correspondent (all media)
Newsletter writer

 = Further Study Required

For more career information, see O*Net at online.onetcenter.org

CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS

REES 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

Newnan Advising Center

1255 Angell Hall
734-764-0332
lsa.umich.edu/advising

NEXT STEPS/RESOURCES

To begin exploring opportunities for overseas study and work, go to: lsa.umich.edu/cgis or 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

To identify internships or job opportunities, visit Career Center Connector: careercenter.umich.edu/article/c3

The Career Guide series was developed by the University of Michigan Career Center, Division of Student Affairs, in cooperation with the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. ©2011 Regents of the University of Michigan

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

Maize Pages list hundreds of organizations for students to get involved in: maizepages.umich.edu

Connect to Community lists volunteer opportunities in local organizations: 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