

WHY LANGUAGES? WHY CULTURES? WHY HUMANITIES?

90% of U.S. employers reported relying on employees who speak more than one language—with one in three of these businesses reporting a significant “language skills gap.”

Cultural competency is one of the essential skills sought by employers, and humanities degrees are desirable in the labor market.

Humanities Majors report high rates of satisfaction with their jobs and overall quality of life. They are employed at the same rates as other fields.

After graduating, our REES Majors and Minors have pursued careers in media and journalism, fine art and museum curation, translation, law, higher ed, international business, communications, management, marketing, and university administration.

QUESTIONS?

Contact the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Angelina Ilieva, at ilievaa@uchicago.edu

STUDY ABROAD

INTERNSHIPS

GLOBAL HONORS

THESIS HONORS

Major and Minor Requirements



Speak a Slavic Language?
Take a placement test and receive back credit.
Ask the director of language programs, Dr. Erik Houle, erhoule@uchicago.edu.
Don't see your language?
Email us!

FIND US AT:



Foster Hall 406
1130 East 59th St.



@uchicago_slavic
on Instagram



Our current
course offerings



As I near the end of my time at UChicago, I finally realize the true purpose of a liberal arts education: the narratives we use, the stories we tell, the lenses through which we view events—they matter. Their consequences are far-reaching, emotionally and materially. That is what I have learned from the entirety of my education at UChicago, but most especially from the Slavic Department. The Slavic courses have been those where I learned the most and where I had professors who were always excited about the material and passionate about teaching it to others. I was always excited to come to class and always left feeling like I had really learned something and gained a new perspective."

—Shelby Senger

RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

The Major and Minor in Russian and East European Studies (REES) are in the **DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES**

Our Department has a long-standing reputation as one of the major research programs in the field. Members of the faculty are leading experts in Soviet cinema, 19th-century Russian literature, Russo-Ukrainian war, the history of artistic and political movements, folklore, émigré studies, Nabokov, Holocaust studies, media studies, gender theory, environmental humanities, and medical anthropology. Our award-winning language faculty offer courses tailored to students at all levels, including heritage learners.



AUTUMN '25 COURSES

LANGUAGES

Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, Bulgarian, Czech, Polish, Russian, Ukrainian

LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION

REES 24220 *Anxious Spaces* (Sternstein)

REES 29013 *The Burden of History* (Ilieva)

NEW COURSE

REES 20030 *Short Russian Novels* (Nickell)

this course reads novellas by Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, and other major writers. Fulfills the GATEWAY requirement for REES majors matriculating in 2025!

"I would also like to thank the entire faculty of the Russian and Eastern European Studies department for allowing me to pursue this project, and actively fostering my own intellectual growth. Everyone I have studied under at the department, at every point, has encouraged me to bring my own interests and thinking into their courses, and has pushed these interests to new and exciting places I did not previously anticipate. No other department at the University of Chicago better embodies the core values of the institution: critical thinking, intense curiosity, interdisciplinary investigation, creativity, and above all the development of my own intellect and personality."

-Dillon Lazar

WHAT DO STUDENTS DO IN REES???

In 2024-2025 our majors and minors:

Discovered new favorite writers, filmmakers and artists from across the region and over many centuries

Created zines, maps, and films for REES courses

Received an award for a thesis on nuclear testing sites and literature in Kazakhstan

Received a thesis award for research on Russian philosophy

Won a Cambridge Gates Scholarship for Polar Studies

Received a departmental award for overall excellence in REES

Worked as student research assistants to faculty

Received Quad and Metcalf grants to conduct research

Won a Fulbright grant to Bulgaria

Joined an archaeological dig in Romania

Double majored in REES and: Philosophy, Comparative Literature, Environmental Studies, Anthropology, Political Science, and much more!

WHY STUDY RUSSIA AND EASTERN EUROPE AT UCHICAGO?

Chicagoland is home to the largest Czech, Polish, and Serbian diaspora communities in the world. It also hosts some of the largest Ukrainian and Russian communities in the United States. Students can experience authentic cultures through museums, restaurants, festivals, volunteering and more--all right here in Chicago!

Our students have spent summers in Russia, Poland, Croatia, Serbia, Ukraine, and Czechia with Foreign Language Acquisition Grants and Summer International Travel Grants.

Fulbright applicants to Eastern European countries have a higher chance of receiving their awards (!) due to smaller, highly competent applicant pools.

EXCITING PREVIEW OF WINTER AND SPRING COURSES!

Returning the Gaze (Ilieva)

East European Folklore (Ilieva)

Magic Nations (Ilieva)

Writing *The Idiot* (Nickell)

Riding Around the South Side (Nickell)

Gogol/Hohol (Okun)

Re-Branding the Balkan City (Petković)

Pale Fire (Sternstein)

Czech New Wave Cinema (Sternstein)

Ecocide (Tsymbalyuk)

Ukrainian Art/Museum Studies (Tsymbalyuk)