The world is your campus.

If you want to broaden your horizons to explore the world of the Kremlin, Russian novels, and how the Russian Revolution happened, then our program is for you. Russian, spoken throughout the region, is designated by the US government as a critical language and will lead to careers in security studies, computer science and technology or environmental studies.

Program Overview

• Bachelor of Arts
• Major, Minor

Stetson’s Program in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies will train you to analyze and interpret the territory, peoples, history, languages and cultural practices of the Eurasian landmass from a multidisciplinary perspective. This region is vitally relevant: from Berlin to Vladivostok, from the Baltic to the Black Sea, from the environmental crisis of Lake Baikal, to Putin’s geopolitics, to the latest critically-acclaimed Russian film.

Founded more than 60 years ago, our program offers you the opportunity to explore the region that once formed part of the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union in a truly multi-disciplinary way. You will learn more about Russian foreign policy, the abolition of serfdom, Tolstoy’s War and Peace and avant-garde painting in order to grasp how Russia and its neighbors fit into global patterns of political, economic, and cultural interactions.

Our interdisciplinary curriculum will provide you with the linguistic and interpretive skills necessary to excel in many different fields, from foreign policy to the arts. Majoring in S.P.R.E.E.S. will open the doors to many rewarding careers.

Program Highlights

As a student in S.P.R.E.E.S., you will become proficient in the Russian language by taking a broad array of courses at Stetson University. You will also spend a semester or summer in the Russian-speaking world, including places like Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Ukraine—and Russia itself.

But S.P.R.E.E.S. is more than an academic program—it is your community and your career network at Stetson. Our house on campus contains a classroom and a library and hosts our active Russian Club. Tutoring, lectures, concerts, and student events take place in our foyer and gallery space, all over tea and cookies. Our
Year in Food series has students making pelmeni, dumplings, and blini, pancakes, and our annual Farewell Party initiates students into Dobro Slovo, the national undergraduate honors society for Slavic Studies. Practice speaking Russian over tea, listen to a lecture by a faculty member on Ukraine, and don one of our signature SPREES t-shirts, too!

Typically, our students spend a year or more teaching or working in Russophone countries before heading to graduate training. Former students are working as military intelligence officers, judicial clerks, authors and English teachers in Russia, Peace Corps volunteers, employees of Lockheed-Martin, English literature teachers in Kyrgyzstan.

Facility
Our faculty are actively engaged in research, present their work widely and enjoy working with students at all levels.

Michael Denner, Ph.D., Northwestern University
Mayhill Fowler, Ph.D., Princeton University; Director of SPREES
Eugene Huskey, Ph.D., London School of Economics
Ekaterina Kudrayavtseva, Ph.D., University of Southern California
Jelena Petrovic, Ph.D., University of New Mexico
Karen Ryan, Ph.D., University of Michigan
Daniil Zavlunov, Ph.D., Princeton University

Success Stories
Christine Jacobson ‘11
I loved many aspects of my education at Stetson University, but the time I spent at the SPREES house on Amelia Avenue was by far the most valuable and precious to me. The SPREES program and its amazing faculty prepared me to pursue Russia-related jobs throughout my early career. From teaching English in Moscow to working with the Bolshoi Ballet Academy in New York City, I’ve continued to build on the foundation in Russian area studies laid at Stetson. I now have a masters degree in Russian, Eastern European and Central Asian Studies from Harvard University and am pursuing a career as a Slavic Studies Librarian.

Neri Ordaz ‘16
My time at Stetson taught me to appreciate a complex and a very diverse region which has often been greatly misunderstood. I learned that there is a world beyond my personal space where I could use Russian to communicate, observe, and explore. All these skills and experiences have aided me as I teach English in Kyrgyzstan. I have become a cultural explorer and communicator.