

## **Intermediate Russian: the tale of two Russian cities: Moscow and St Petersburg**

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**Start date** 7 July 2017**End date** 9 July 2017**Venue** Madingley Hall  
Madingley  
Cambridge**Tutor** Vera Tsareva-Brauner**Course code** 1617NRX075**Director of Programmes**

Emma Jennings

**For further information on this  
course, please contact**Public Programme Coordinator, Clare Kerr  
[clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk) or 01223 746237**To book** See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 746262

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### **Tutor biography**

Vera Tsareva-Brauner is a Coordinator of Cambridge University Russian Language Programmes (CULP) where she teaches a variety of Russian language courses from Ab Initio to Advanced and Russian Through Film and Culture to Cambridge undergraduates, post-graduates and post-doctoral students.

Vera is also an Affiliated Lecturer at the Department of Slavonic Studies, Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages where she teaches and examines a number of language papers. She is also an external examiner for Russian at Keele University, UCL and Eton.

Vera graduated from St Petersburg University with BA (Hons) and MA, and later did her post-graduate degree at Manchester University.

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## Course programme

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### Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	<i>Informal Quiz</i> <i>Presentation: Moscow and St Petersburg - two capitals, two cultural and national identities.</i>
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

### Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	<i>Presentation: History, Architecture and Arts of Moscow and St Petersburg.</i>
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	<i>Film.</i>
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	<i>Literary Heritage of Moscow and St Petersburg. Translating two poems from Russian (by Alexander Pushkin and Anna Akhmatova).</i>
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	<i>Working with set text (sent to students earlier)</i>
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

### Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	<i>Grammar workshop</i>
10:30	Coffee

11:00 – 12:30      *Working with two podcasts about Moscow and St Petersburg. Closing discussion.*

12:45                  Lunch

**The course will disperse after lunch**

**Aims:**

1. To increase the students' linguistic confidence by giving them an opportunity to discover the history and culture of two very different Russian cities and explore their differences. Students will take part in discussions, will be given a number of presentations and watch some short films, as well as work on translations of short poems by Alexander Pushkin, Anna Akhmatova and analyse a set text which will be sent to students in advance.
2. To encourage students to take part in group discussions and group work at the level they feel comfortable with;
3. To enhance their understanding of Russian historical and cultural diversity;
4. To improve students' confidence in comprehension of spoken contemporary Russian through audio-visual material;
5. To clarify and practise some grammar points;

**Content:**

During the course of the weekend, which will, depending on participants' proficiency, be conducted mostly in Russian, students will be expected to read and understand Russian, to listen to and comprehend original audio-visual material, to take part in the discussions and to participate, individually or in small groups, in the language workshop part of the sessions, where they will be presented with tasks and engage in language activities at different levels of difficulty.

For the reading session, the students will be asked to study a text (with glossary) in advance. The session will involve language analysis, translation of some difficult passages and a general discussion of the content.

The students will be encouraged to take part in some interactive language activities that are aimed at increasing their confidence in Russian of various registers.

**Presentation of the course:**

Activities will include presentations by the tutor, video recordings and interviews, some extracts from classical Russian opera (*'Boris Godunov'* by Musorgsky and *'Queen of Spades'* by Tchaikovsky), as well as some Soviet songs, a quiz, as well as working with some texts – both set and unprepared (poems).

**Outcomes:**

**As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:**

1. Improve confidence and general comprehension of Russian language of various registers.
2. Learn more about Moscow and St Petersburg: their history, culture and everyday life both in the past and today.
3. Get a better understanding of Russian cultural diversity.
4. Communicate in Russian more confidently in a number of registers.

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## Reading and resources list

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Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

*The Cambridge Companion to Modern Russian Culture* (edited by Nicholas Rzhevsky), Cambridge University Press, 2012.

*The Art and Architecture of Russia*, by George Hamilton, Yale University Press, 1983.

*Moscow – a Cultural History*, by Caroline Brooke, Oxford University Press, 2006.

*History of Moscow*: from <https://www.worldtravelguide.net/guides/europe/russia/moscow/history/>

*St Petersburg: a Cultural History*, by Solomon Volkow, New York, 1996.

*St Petersburg: Russia's Revolutionary Capital*, available at [https://www.inyourpocket.com/st-petersburg-en/kyjf\\_74605f](https://www.inyourpocket.com/st-petersburg-en/kyjf_74605f)

*Moscow and St Petersburg: a Sequence of Capitals*, by Olga Grotsai and Herman van der Woosten, in *GeoJournal*, Amsterdam, 2001.

*Rivalry between Moscow and St Petersburg – the Contrasting Ideologies of Conservatism and Westernism in Russia Embodied in the Two Capitals*, by Anil Cicek, *International Journal of Russian Studies*, 2013, No. 1. Available at [http://www.ijors.net/issue2\\_1\\_2013/articles/cicek.html](http://www.ijors.net/issue2_1_2013/articles/cicek.html)

In Russian:

Без Москвы, Лев Лурье, С-Петербург, 2014

**Note** Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

*Information correct as of:* 24 May 2017