

The Summer School “Talents for Talents: Track2” is a combination of a 3-week Russian language courses in Ekaterinburg and a 1-week guided trip to Saint-Petersburg. First, concentrate on mastering your Russian and exploring the Urals. Then, start your “journey inside the journey” and cross the whole country by train!

Long Russian train adventure and Petersburg’s touristic attractions – MAXIMIZE your Russian vacation!

In Ekaterinburg: from 24th of July – 12th of August

* Whether you are coming by plane or by train, in the early morning or at the deepest night – no worries, your arrival to the Hostel will be as straight and easy as possible! You will be picked up by volunteers from the support staff in a comfortable University taxi. Your buddy – this is the way we call our volunteers – will help you to check-in, and settle the time you meet again for further proceedings, including the tuition payment, getting to know your neighborhood (supermarkets, restaurants, ATMs, etc.), exchanging money, etc.

Monday, 24th of July

The first day is a big day! At 08.30 am your buddies will meet you and other foreign students near the Hostel to accompany you to the University. While there meet the manager of our Summer School, Kseniia. She will collect all the necessary documents for your registration papers and will assist you in resolving every issue that you might encounter during your stay in the country. Then the Official Opening Ceremony will take place. Get to know the staff of the Summer School, be inspired by the welcome speech given by the Project Director, Maria Guzikova, and save the positive mindset for the first challenge – written and oral placement tests are ahead of you today.

Evening is all about fun! A city-tour and a welcome Ice-breaking Party at your Hostel are on the list.

During the Weekdays

Mornings and Afternoons

* Being split into a few groups according to your proficiency level (7-12 people in a group), you and other students will have language classes everyday (except weekends and holidays) for 4-6 academic hours per day. With our charismatic and friendly teachers you will never get bored! Paying a lot of attention to proper use of tricky Russian grammar, vast vocabulary and subtleties of pronunciation, your tutors will focus on the practical use of language.

Twice a week you will have seminars on Russian Studies with leading professors of UrFU. Under their supervision you will discuss Business and Economics of Russia; Russian Culture and Literature; History and Sociology of Russia and Russian Media and Politics. Deep understanding of Russian lifestyle and way of thinking, its social and cultural contexts are to be gained as a result.

To facilitate your adaptation in the authentic language environment and give you the feel of the traditional Russian folklore culture, three Workshops on Russian traditional toy, song and dance will be organized. Surprise your friends by singing in perfect Russian and bring home a unique hand-made Russian souvenir. You’ll enjoy this new exciting way to enhance your outlook and cross-cultural experience – guaranteed.

To get an insight into the glorious history of Russia and the Urals you will be invited to take part in guided tours to the main touristic highlights and magnificent locations of Ekaterinburg and its surroundings: the well-known Europe-Asia borderline, The Romanov’s Monastery, and much more. These major excursions will take place on weekdays (before/after the language courses) on a comfortable bus – for you to enjoy the ride – accompanied by a professional English-speaking guide.

Evenings

After classes and excursions, we would like you to feel absolutely free and spend your big-time in Ekaterinburg just as you enjoy. You may prefer to have some rest at your Hostel, or practice what you have learned during classes, or set off to explore the city and have fun.

If you run out of ideas, our buddies will offer you a number of optional activities which will help you to get in touch with the real Russian life-style. Cinemas, theaters, museums, festivals – just have a look at “What else we can do list” (will be provided upon your arrival) and let your buddy know your preferences.

At the weekends

The weekends are a wonderful opportunity to leave the classroom behind to see more of the significant sites that the Urals has to offer and join the optional Day Trips. Visit Nevyansk, a small town in 97 km from Ekaterinburg is reach in curious attractions including the mysterious leaning tower of Akinfy Demidov, artifacts from Old Believers, and breath-taking landscapes of Central Ural. Or join the tour to Koptelovo village and feel what a real Old-Russian village is. The village Koptelovo was founded in the 17th century and is located 150 kilometers from Ekaterinburg, close to the town of Alapaevsk. Koptelovo is a unique open-air museum of peasantry, and it’s the only place where you can visit an old hut built in the 17th century – without any single nail! And of course, no one will be left unaffected by old Russian peasant songs. You will try to dance and sing with the “old babushkas”. The day in Koptelovo will be imprinted in your memory forever!

On your way to Saint-Petersburg: 12th evening -14th morning of August:

Have you ever heard about Russian trains? They are not as epic as Indian ones, and not as precise as German, but they have become proverbial indeed. For 35 hours, you will dive into the heartwarming and particular world of Russian long train journey going from Ekaterinburg to Saint-Petersburg.

Be ready to drink a lot of tea, get acquainted with Russian fellow travelers in the car and contemplate old picturesque villages and forests from the window.

In Saint-Petersburg: 14th – 20th of August:

Which kind of trips are the most fun and exciting? That’s right – those made with your friends and family! After 3 weeks in Ekaterinburg, you and your foreign colleagues, as well as the staff of the Summer School will become a big friendly international family – an ideal match for common adventure!

The beauty and touristic attractions of Saint-Petersburg do not even need an additional comment. We’ll just add that while there, you will stay in the very city center: right on the famous Nevsky Avenue. You will explore the cultural and historical heritage of Petersburg with the guided tours we arrange for you. And in your free time we will take you for casual evening walks, watching opening bridges, visiting the roof tops, vegs festivals, and more – we want you to enjoy and feel this vibrant and dynamic city!

Cost: 800 euro for 4 weeks

Included:

- Russian language training course;
- Workshops on Russian Studies;
- Workshops on Russian traditional toy, song and dance;
- Staying in the comfortable Hostel in Saint-Petersburg;
- Train tickets to the branded train “Demidov Express” (SpB-Ekb);
- Support during the train journey and stay in Saint-Petersburg;
- Learning materials;
- Visa and registration support;
- Transfer from the airport Koltsovo (Ekaterinburg) to the UrFU Hostel;
- Free Internet access, printing service;
- UrFU's certificate upon completion.

Excursions and activities included into the Program:

- *In Ekaterinburg:*

Driving City-tour;

A visit to the Europe-Asia border;

Welcome-party;

Guided tour to the Museum of Fine Arts;

Guided tour to the biggest jewelry factory of the Urals “Yuveliry Urala”.

- *In Saint-Petersburg:*

Driving City-tour;

Guided tour to the State Hermitage Museum (tickets are included);

Guided tour to the Peter and Paul Fortress (tickets are NOT included);

Guided tour to the State Museum St Isaac’s Cathedral (tickets are NOT included)

Optional tours:

- *In Ekaterinburg + Urals:*

The Romanov's Monastery;

A visit to the skyscraper “Vysotsky”, the second tallest building in Russia outside Moscow;

Day Trip to Nevyansk;

Day trip to Koptelovo village;

Russian cuisine evening;

Russian banya.

- *In Saint-Petersburg:*

Sightseeing motorship tour;

Visit of the State Peterhof Museum;

Visit of the Russian Museum;

Visit of the Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood

HOW DO I APPLY?

1. Apply before 30th of May 2017
2. Download and fill in the application form from russtudies.urfu.ru.
3. Send us a) your filled-in application, b) a scanned copy of the international passport, and c) a short motivational letter describing your experience of learning Russian language - via email to the school manager Kseniia (russtudies@yandex.ru)