



# The Year Abroad

Studying in Russia, Ukraine and Poland  
2016-2017



**UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE**

Department of Slavonic Studies

‘The Year Abroad offered me a look “behind the scenes” at one of the most fascinating countries on earth.’

Joss, a fourth-year student

## The Year Abroad

Most students in the Department of Slavonic Studies go to Russia or Ukraine or Belarus for all or part of the Year Abroad. Since the launch of our Polish Studies programme, some are beginning to study in Poland as well. Your options are almost endless. You can enrol in a one- or two-term language course; embark on a course in a subject related to your degree in a university or other academic institution; take up a teaching post or a job in a firm; or volunteer for a charity or NGO. Students spend their Year Abroad doing an extraordinarily wide range of things over a breathtakingly wide expanse of territory, from Kyiv to Moscow, from Siberia to Vladivostok.

Arrangements for the Year Abroad should be made well in advance. The Department of Slavonic Studies recommends that you begin the process at the end of your first year and during the summer vacation. As your plans develop, please consult with the Departmental Year Abroad Adviser, Mrs Natasha Franklin, to make sure that your proposed plans are acceptable on academic and financial grounds, in accordance with MML Faculty regulations.

You can travel to Poland as part of the Erasmus programme, so this document will focus more on studying in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. Please bear in mind the following guidelines:

- Your course must be first approved by Mrs Franklin, the Departmental Year Abroad Adviser, before it is submitted to the MML Faculty for approval towards the end of the Lent term of your second year.
- Because many students undertake a course of study in Russia via programmes negotiated by [Russian Language Undergraduate Study Ltd \(RLUS\)](#), this process is often very straightforward. Please note the following about the RLUS option:
  1. The Departmental Year Abroad Adviser and the Secretary of the Department of Slavonic Studies act as advisers for RLUS. Provided you meet the relevant deadlines and observe RLUS regulations, you will

receive assistance in dealing with travel, visa, medical, financial, accommodation and insurance matters. You will also be briefed by RLUS prior to your departure and will have access to RLUS officials resident in Russia.

2. If you choose to go to Russia via RLUS, you will have to complete and return an application form (available from the Departmental Office) towards the end of the Michaelmas term of your second year, i.e. around the end of November. You will be expected to make payment in full to RLUS for autumn courses by the end of July and for spring courses by mid December. You will be reimbursed by the MML Faculty's Year Abroad Office for your tuition element only. **Be sure to keep all payment receipts.**
- If you wish to negotiate an individual arrangement with an institution of higher education beyond the RLUS option, please note the following points.
    1. The Department has compiled an extensive list of institutions of higher education in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus that Cambridge students have attended during their Year Abroad over the past decade. These institutions are approved for Year Abroad study. At the earliest opportunity, please ease consult with Mrs Franklin to see if your proposed university or institute is on this list. Then provide her by email ([nvf1000@cam.ac.uk](mailto:nvf1000@cam.ac.uk)) with the full details of your plans, including a copy of the contract, by the middle of Lent term of your second year and prior to the submission of your application form to the Year Abroad Office. You should simultaneously give full details to your College Tutor and your Director of Studies.
    2. You must ensure that you will have, at the end of your course, a certificate of attendance that you can supply to your College Tutor, your Director of Studies, the Slavonic Departmental Year Abroad Adviser and the Faculty Year Abroad Officer.
    3. You cannot assume that the Faculty Year Abroad Office will automatically approve your individual arrangement. If your contract is not approved, it cannot be counted as part of your Year Abroad. Be sure to attend all Year Abroad Office presentations and to submit all forms that the Office requires.

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4. If you follow the steps above and your contract is approved, the MML Faculty will also at that time agree to meet the cost of course fees up to an accepted cost threshold, which is based on the normal cost of a course in Russia. If you apply to go on a course which exceeds the norm, the Faculty may not be in a position to reimburse the cost in full.
  5. Payment of tuition fees is conditional on you providing full receipts for course fees from the institution concerned. Your claim for reimbursement of tuition fees should be sent to the MML Faculty's Year Abroad Office together with form YA.FEE.
  6. The regulations of the MML Faculty Board stipulate that a full Year Abroad shall not be less than eight months.
  7. In the case of individual arrangements, the Departmental Year Abroad Adviser limits herself to approving contracts on academic and financial grounds in accordance with MML Faculty regulations. The Departmental Secretary and the Year Abroad Adviser take no responsibility for, and offer no assistance for anything else connected with, your stay abroad (e.g. visas, medical and travel arrangements, financial matters, living conditions, personal safety, quality of teaching, deviations of courses from advertised programmes, etc.). It will be up to you to meet MML Faculty regulations.

There will be four preparatory year abroad classes for all second-year students in the Michaelmas and Lent terms. Please attend them all.

Check the Year Abroad section of the Departmental Noticeboard on the third floor of the Raised Faculty Building for information on language courses/jobs in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Poland and on the Year Abroad in general. Refer to the [RLUS website](#) for the latest information on courses, briefing documents, forms etc. Visit the Year Abroad Office and the Year Abroad Office's Moodle site for job advertisements in Russian, Ukraine and Poland.

A few crucial concluding thoughts:

- Ensure that your passport will be valid for at least **six months** before and after your stay in Russia. If your passport is kept at home, please make sure you can supply full details to RLUS, the Departmental Secretary or the Year Abroad Adviser on request. **If necessary, apply for the renewal of your passport now.**

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- If you are going to Russia or Belarus, you will need a visa for any visit. (UK and EU citizens do NOT need a visa to visit Ukraine as a tourist. For extended periods of study in Ukraine, however, a student visa is required.) A visa may or may not be provided by the study or work placement you plan to take up. **Please consult the Departmental Year Abroad Officer as to which type of visa will be most appropriate for your activity.**
  - Ensure that you will be able to meet the financial obligations of the RLUS course(s) or of your individual arrangement(s) with an institution of higher education.
  - Ensure that your college is kept fully informed of your plans.
  - If appropriate, ensure that any medical treatment or dental work you may require is completed before your leave for your Year Abroad.
  - Please note that neither the Departmental Year Abroad Adviser nor the Departmental Secretaries will enter into any correspondence with parent(s) or guardian(s) — so ensure that your parent(s) or guardian(s) are in full agreement with your plans, are aware of the details and regulations pertaining to your individual arrangement and/or RLUS course(s), and are familiar with MML Faculty and Slavonic Department regulations on the Year Abroad.
  - Of course, during your Year Abroad, you will be preparing a dissertation or undertaking a translation project. Please make sure that you read the [MML Guidelines for the YAP](#), which contain all the necessary information and advice on preparing the dissertation, translation or linguistics project.

Счастливого пути! Щасливої дороги! Szczęśliwej drogi!