

Why You Should Study Russian

RUSSIA IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST COUNTRY

- Stretches across Europe, the Middle East, and Asia and bordering on North America.
- Almost twice the size of the U.S..

RUSSIA IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST IMPORTANT COUNTRIES

- One of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and has veto power.
- Controls 40% of the world's long range nuclear warheads.
- One of the world's richest countries in raw materials. It produces 20% of the world's oil and natural gas.
- One of the four BRIC nations (Brazil, Russia, India, and China), the most promising emerging economies forecasted to surpass the major economic powers of today by 2050.
- Currently the only nation capable of reaching the international space station.
- The US government has classified Russian as a critical needs language vital for national security interests.

RUSSIAN IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S TOP FIVE LANGUAGES

- Fifth on the list of languages spoken by the most people, after only Mandarin, English, Hindi, & Spanish.
- An estimated 280 million people speak Russian, and 5.5 million of them live in the U.S.
- Russian is the most geographically widespread language of Eurasia, the most common native language in Europe, and a *lingua franca* from Eastern Europe to Central Asia.
- Russian is one of the five official languages of the United Nations.
- A quarter of the world's scientific literature is published in Russian.
- Russian is an official language of outer space, and was the first language spoken there. NASA requires astronauts speak Russian.
- Russian is the 11th most spoken foreign language in the U.S. A million Americans speak Russian at home, and almost half of them speak English poorly.

RUSSIANS EXCEL IN ALMOST EVERY FIELD

- **Science:** Pavlov (the dog), Mendeleev (Periodic Chart), Gagarin (1st man in space), Tereshkova (1st woman in space), Sakharov (Soviet atomic bomb), etc.
- **Military:** Kutuzov (defeated Napoleon), Zhukov (defeated Hitler), Kalashnikov (AK-47 & AK-74) , etc.
- **Music & Dance:** Tchaikovsky, Stravinsky, Prokofiev, *Ballets russes*, Baryshnikov, Nureyev, etc.
- **Literature:** Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Chekhov, Solzhenitsyn, Nabokov, Pasternak, etc.
- **Art and Film:** Rublev (icons), Chagall, Kandinsky, Malevich, Eisenstein (Potemkin), Tarkovsky (The Mirror), Mikhalkov (Burnt by the Sun), etc.
- **Sports:** Pavel Datsyuk, Sergey Fedorov, Alexander Ovechkin, Evgeny Plushenko, Maria Sharapova, Anna Kournikova, etc.

WHY YOU?

- Knowledge of Russian and Russian culture can help you advance in almost any field.
- There is less competition in the job market for those who gain fluency in Russian than for speakers of many other languages.