

The Faculty

Dennis Browne has taught Russian language, literature and culture courses for more than 25 years. He has directed study-abroad programs to Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia, Lake Baikal in Siberia, Krasnodar and St. Petersburg. He has participated in IREX programs in Moscow and NEH Summer Institutes in St. Petersburg. Most recently, he taught in the 2010 Bates Fall Semester Abroad in Vienna, Austria. This is his third FSA to Russia.



The Swallow's Nest, a diminutive castle on the Crimean peninsula in the Ukraine.

Karen Palin teaches courses in biology, microbiology and epidemiology, with an emphasis on public health. She has been a member of a team conducting health education abroad and has evaluated study-abroad programs in which Bates science students have participated. This is her first experience as a faculty participant in the Bates Semester Abroad Program, and her course represents the first science offering for the Bates FSA program in Russia.

Fees and Credits

This program is part of the Bates curriculum. Completion of the fall semester in Russia provides students with four Bates credits and a General Education Concentration. Students must take all four courses as they are considered co-requisites of one another. All expenses, (tuition, room and board, including travel from Boston to and from St. Petersburg and program-related field trips) are included in the regular Bates comprehensive fee. Students need to bring funds only for personal entertainment, gifts and independent travel.

Applications and More Information

Applications are available from Georgette Dumais, 108 Roger Williams Hall, or the Off-Campus Study Office in 124 Roger Williams Hall. Early applications from enrolled students may be submitted to the Off-Campus Study Office by December 14, 2012, for notification in mid-January. Regular applications are due by February 1, 2013. Students in the class of 2017 should contact one of the organizers as early as possible and submit a completed application by May 10, 2013.

Administrative questions:

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Information on safety security, and crime in Russia is available on the travel website of the U.S. Department of State, travel.state.gov. Information on health issues and recommended immunizations is available on the website of the Centers for Disease Control, cdc.gov/travel. Students and families are urged to review the information on both sites.

Bates

Bates values the diversity of persons, perspectives, and convictions. Critical thinking, rigorous analysis, and open discussion of a full range of ideas lie at the heart of the college's mission as an institution of higher learning. The college seeks to encourage inquiry and reasoned dialogue in a climate of mutual respect. Bates does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, marital or parental status, age, or disability, in the recruitment and admission of its students, in the administration of its educational policies and programs, or in the recruitment and employment of its faculty and staff.

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BATES

Semester in St. Petersburg, Russia
Fall 2013



The Program



St. Petersburg is a city of canals and more than 300 bridges.

St. Petersburg is one of the most beautiful and cultured cities in the world. Founded by Peter the Great more than 300 years ago, the city was part of his project to westernize the Russian Empire and give it a new capital to rival the great cities of Europe. As you walk the city's streets, cross its bridges and stroll along its canals, the imperial vision becomes apparent. St. Petersburg has always been a city of ideas, controversies, innovations and, in the 20th century, momentous political struggles. Artists, poets, writers, musicians, scientists, architects, philosophers and revolutionaries have lived, worked, fought and thought here. Their presence can be felt in thousands of locations throughout the city, including numerous UNESCO World Heritage Sites, more than 200 museums, 70 theaters, and many classic and contemporary music and sports venues. Whether your interests are in history, arts and culture, politics or science, there is much in Peter's city for you to explore.

The Bates Fall Semester in Russia offers entering and continuing students an opportunity to live for a semester among St. Petersburg's people and to discover their city, its history and its cultural life, while studying the Russian language. *No prior study or knowledge of Russian is required.*

In late August, participants travel together to St. Petersburg. Students begin the academic program with a brief orientation to Russian language and culture. They continue their language studies with faculty at the Derzhavin Institute, located in the historic center of St. Petersburg. The Institute is housed in the beautifully reconstructed palace of G.R. Derzhavin, one of Russia's most influential and popular poets of the 18th century. All academic classes are held at this site; the program concludes in mid-December. As we progress through the semester, we travel to important historical locations in

Russia, including Novgorod and Moscow. We also journey to the Black Sea region to visit the stunning Crimean peninsula in Ukraine.

The Courses

Students enroll in four courses. The courses taught by Bates faculty are conducted in English. The program constitutes a General Education Concentration (GEC 078).

St. Petersburg: Peter's Impossible City

Dennis Browne

Founded by Peter the Great during Russia's lengthy war with the Swedes, the city is celebrated in Russian literature and legend as Peter's "window on the west." It has also been imagined in various artistic and cultural texts as a ship, the Venice of the North and as the emperor's bride. Peter the Great himself called it "paradise." But Peter's paradise was, for most Russians of the 18th century, nothing more or less than the city of an after-death world founded by the tsar-Antichrist. Sankt Pieter Burkh – later known as St. Petersburg, Petrograd, Leningrad or simply *Piter*, as more recent inhabitants affectionately call it – has survived domestic and foreign enemies, natural and civil disasters and revolutions of all varieties. Today, Peter's "impossible city" occupies a unique place in the Russian psyche. In this course we examine the city's symbolic role in Russian culture and its role in modern Russian history from 1703 to the present.

Russian Cultures: The Microbial Perspective

Karen Palin

Microorganisms are found in every niche on our planet: in the air we breathe, the soil under our feet, the food and water we ingest. They help keep us healthy, but can also make us sick; they contribute to environmental pollution, but can also be used to remediate environmental damage. They have incredibly diverse metabolic capabilities, which we can harness in the production of foods and medicines, and for bioremediation. Microorganisms inhabited the planet long before our species arose; they helped shape civilizations and cultures, and will likely exist long after we are gone. In many ways they rule our world.

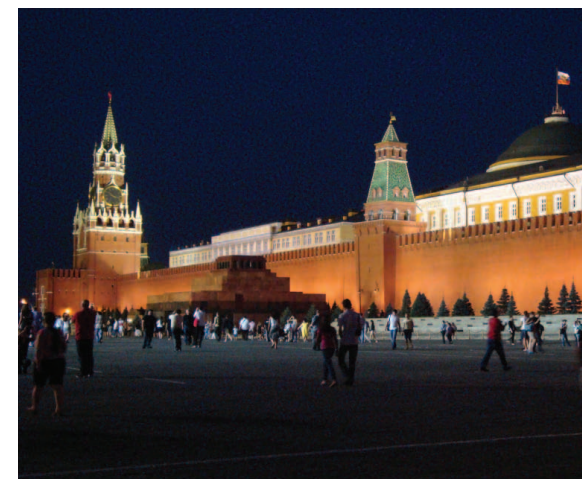
In this [S] course, we consider microbial life in the everyday Russian experience. We explore the microbial basis of traditional foods and beverages, examine the roles of microbes in the cycling of elements in composting and kitchen gardening at dachas, and consider the effects of microbial outbreaks of historic significance. We examine key discoveries in microbiology made by Russian scientists and discuss emerging and reemerging infections of current social concern with local experts doing research on contemporary public health issues. Our goal is a more thorough understanding of the importance of these amazing organisms in shaping everyday life, past and present, in Russia.

Russian Language Classes

Students earn two course credits for their study of the Russian language with faculty at the Derzhavin Institute. Students are assigned according to ability to small classes, each taught by a native Russian speaker. The courses focus on comprehension of and facility with Russian through speaking, reading and writing. Courses also emphasize an understanding of and appreciation for Russian culture.

Housing

While in St. Petersburg, students live with Russian families selected by the housing coordinator at the Derzhavin Institute. The Institute has several years' experience placing international students in homestays. All students have private rooms and take breakfast and an evening meal with the host family. Homestays are usually within walking distance of the Institute or no more than a 30-minute ride via the metro. The program provides cell phones to all students. Additional food, transportation and other living costs are covered by a stipend distributed through the semester.



Moscow's Red Square.

Travel

Travel within the Russian Federation and the states of the former Soviet Union is a key component of this FSA. We explore various sites of historic, cultural and scientific significance in and around St. Petersburg as part of our curriculum. Our travels in the region include a visit to Novgorod, a beautiful city dating back to the ninth century. We also plan an excursion to Moscow mid-semester, and a one-week trip south to the Black Sea and the Crimean peninsula. Additionally, students can travel to other regions throughout the area during the fall break.