

Welcome to the REECAS Track of European Studies!

The Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies (REECAS) Program at the University of Washington, founded in 1947, is one of the oldest and most distinguished programs of its kind in the country. In a period of continuing and unpredictable geopolitical change, REECAS defines as its mission the promotion of in-depth interdisciplinary study of all major postcommunist subregions — Eastern and Central Europe, the Baltic region, the Caucasus, Central Asia and Russia — in order to understand the legacies of the imperial and communist past as well as to analyze the emerging institutions and identities that will shape Eurasia's future. This mission is strongly and actively supported by the UW administration. We are able to provide a foundation for serious research on the region by offering regular instruction in 15 regional languages, including several that are often unavailable elsewhere. With over 65 participating faculty members in the humanities, the social sciences and several professional schools, REECAS represents an unparalleled resource for students who are interested in the societies, politics, languages and cultures of Eurasia. Through a commitment to historical understanding, innovative teaching and interdisciplinary research, we strive to further contemporary scholarship and to educate students about this critical region of the world.

Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies

Jackson School of International Studies

University of Washington

203B Thomson, Box 353650

Seattle, WA 98195-3650



BA Program

University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies at the bachelor's level is a degree track within the European Studies Major. REECAS provides interdisciplinary coverage of Russia, East Europe and Central Asia, an area about which the University offers a particularly wide range of undergraduate courses. This interdisciplinary approach allows students a great deal of flexibility in designing a course of study to meet their career goals. Each student's academic program combines instruction in Russian, an East European language or a Central Asian language with interdisciplinary area training. The curriculum encompasses courses in many

academic departments, including Anthropology, Comparative Literature, Economics, Geography, History, Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, Political Science, Scandinavian Studies, Slavic Languages and Literatures and Sociology.

Both the Center for West European Studies and the Ellison Center for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies provide students with a stimulating environment that extends far beyond the classroom. They sponsor or co-sponsor conferences,



seminars, public lectures and cultural events, bringing to campus specialists from all parts of the world. Students are also encouraged to participate in various community programs involving Russian, East European and Central Asian history, culture and current affairs.

In addition to the European Studies minimum requirements, all students in the program must fulfill existing College of Arts and Sciences general education requirements.

Core Sequence

A core of 20 credits to include:

- JSIS 201 – The Making of the 21st Century (5 credits);
- JSIS A 301 – Europe Today (5 credits);
- JSIS A 302 – European Politics and Cultures (5 credits);
- A survey course on modern Europe (5 credits).



Electives

A 15 credit minimum to include:

- One REECAS survey course;
- One global elective course;
- One modern REECAS course.

Please consult JSIS Student Services for advice on appropriate elective courses.

In the case of students who count a single course under more than one category, it may be necessary to take additional electives to meet the general major requirement of a minimum of 60 credits.

Language

A. Two years of language study or equivalent language proficiency in an area language. Language instruction is offered on a regular basis through the advanced level in Russian and most major modern languages of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Often it is possible to arrange independent study in relevant languages that are not regularly offered. Intensive programs offer the opportunity to do a full year's language work during summer quarter.

B. 10 credits of additional approved language coursework at the 300 or 400 level, either taught in the language or involving the language intensively. Third year language courses also fulfill this requirement.

Native speakers may substitute EURO-REECAS courses for these 10 credits.

Study Abroad

One quarter (10 credit minimum, at least 9 – 10 weeks) of foreign study in a relevant country is required, normally during the junior year. An additional 5 credits is possible, which is usually applied toward the elective credit requirement.

In appropriate circumstances, credit for an internship or work experience and associated independent study may be permitted.

Senior Research

JSIS A 494 Senior Seminar (5 credits) is a seminar course of varying content in which students research and write a paper of substantial length. Students learn how to formulate an interesting problem and make extensive use of the university's resources for research.

or

JSIS A 495 Thesis Seminar (5 credits) is the course in which students write their senior thesis to demonstrate and to use the knowledge gained in core courses, electives, study abroad and the research seminar. Additionally, students make intensive use of foreign language skills in their research.

Special thanks to Daniel Waugh, Allison Dvaladze and Marta Mikkelsen for photographs.



Please visit the Ellison Center website for additional information about the BA program, entrance requirements, financial assistance and upcoming events.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please call or email the REECAS program.

☎ 206-543-4852 ✉ reecas@uw.edu
WEBSITE: ellisoncenter.washington.edu



The Ellison Center, a National Resource Center funded by the Title VI Program of the US Department of Education, enriches the REECAS BA experience through its vast array of event and publication offerings as well as its employment and fellowship opportunities.

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