

Welcome to REECAS!

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

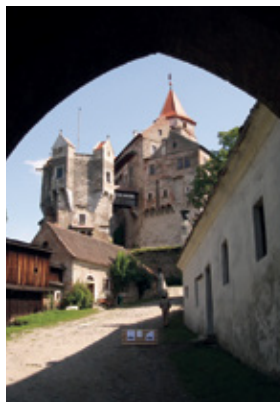


MA Program

University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

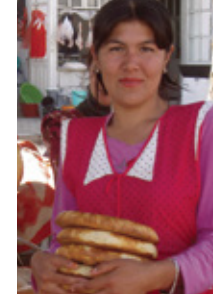
The Master of Arts Degree in Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies involves interdisciplinary study, which allows students a great deal of flexibility in designing a course of study to meet varying career goals calling for area expertise.

Each student's program combines instruction in at least one language with interdisciplinary training. The



REECAS MA program is a 2 year program, and is designed (1) to provide a terminal degree for students preparing for careers in government, non-governmental organizations, journalism, business or teaching at the pre-college level; and (2) to provide area training for students wishing to pursue a PhD degree.

The curriculum, which is especially strong in the social sciences, history, languages and cultures, encompasses courses in twenty-four departments, two programs, four schools, and three colleges. Students can take advantage of



independent study or other graduate certificates in fields such as global health or international development to compliment their area courses.

Language instruction is offered in Russian through the advanced level, in all three Baltic languages, and in most modern languages of East Europe and Central Asia. Students can also arrange independent study in relevant languages that are not offered regularly. Intensive programs offer the opportunity to do a full year's language work during summer quarter.

Required courses

JSIS A 504/Introduction to REECAS (5 credits)

This course provides a basic intellectual foundation for interdisciplinary graduate-level study of Russia, East Europe and Central Asia. Students read important texts and are introduced to major debates on the history, politics, and culture of the region. Instruction is provided by REECAS faculty members from the major scholarly disciplines.

JSIS A 511/Research Design and Methods (5 credits)

In this course, approaches to posing and answering research questions are discussed in order for students to develop their own research proposal.

JSIS A 515/Thesis Seminar (2 credits)

A course designed to help students to refine their thesis topics and write up findings, allowing them to benefit from peer review.



Other coursework

Twenty-five to thirty credits divided between a major (minimum of 15) and a minor (minimum of 10). While students normally focus their studies on one major geographical region, the program provides the flexibility to take courses on other

regions as well. Typically, the choice of disciplines would include history, economics, geography, political science, security studies or literature and culture.

Language

Students must enter the program having studied a regionally relevant language for at least two years. They must then complete an additional two years of language study while in the program. Students focusing on Russia must complete 4th-year Russian. Students focusing on other countries in the REECAS region may fulfill their requirement with 4 years

of the corresponding language, when available, or by studying an additional language to total 4 years. Native speakers of a regionally relevant language are exempt from this requirement upon passing a proficiency test.

Students must also use sources in the language(s) of the REECA-region in drafting their thesis.



Thesis and oral exam

At the end of their course of study, students will submit an original thesis and take an inter-disciplinary oral exam. The oral exam will be devoted to questions about the thesis as well as a general examination of major and minor disciplines.

Special thanks to Daniel Waugh, Lisa Mangum and Marta Mikkelsen for photographs.

Please visit the Ellison Center website for additional information about the MA 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 MA experience through its vast array of event and publication offerings as well as its employment and fellowship opportunities.

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