

Module title: Introductory Russian

Module code: RUS4203

Credit value: 30

Level: 4

Pre-requisite modules:

Content Description

This module is aimed at students with either no or very little previous knowledge of the Russian language. It has been designed to provide students with a sound knowledge of essential Russian grammar and vocabulary and to develop four key language skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. This module presents and covers all the basic elements of the Russian language, including the alphabet, pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar. The course is well balanced between the presentation of the main grammatical concepts by the tutor in grammar classes and by activity-based grammar tutorials, mixed-skills revision and oral and reading classes. The module is intended primarily for Russian language specialists and for other students following programmes within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. This module counts towards the QMUL Model.

Module Aims

1. To introduce Russian language, enabling communication to take place across culture and nationality.
2. To develop students' ability to understand basic spoken information and to initiate and maintain conversations and discussions relating to most everyday contexts.
3. To develop students' ability to understand the gist and some detail of short authentic written texts in a variety of genres.
4. To provide students with the adequate tools in which to construct short written texts in appropriate style, enabling them to communicate information, to narrate and describe effectively.
5. To foster an analytical and critical perspective through the analysis of a variety of written and spoken texts.
6. To foster an inclusive and collaborative environment in which to enhance learning and develop communicative skills, such as oral presentations (individual or in group) and knowledge transfer during pair work activities.
7. To improve students' ability to draw comparisons between already known languages, helping in the development of cognitive skills that go beyond the discipline itself.
8. To introduce students to a range of local and global issues of relevance in the Russian-speaking world via the study of varied authentic learning material (literary passages, newspaper articles, film extracts, radio programmes, extracts from the TV news, etc.) and encourage them to reflect upon them.
9. To foster understanding of ethical and political issues pertaining to modes of representation (both verbal and visual).
10. To equip students with analytical, argumentative and communicative skills that are of value not only within the academic institution but also to their future careers.

Learning Outcomes

Academic Content:

A1 Able to speak, understand, read and write Russian with a degree of fluency compatible with an introductory level of study.

A2 Demonstrate a sound knowledge of the essential grammatical concepts of Russian which will permit further study at intermediate level.

A3 Have acquired an appropriate range of Russian vocabulary to deal with a number of different communicative situations.

A4 Able to communicate confidently on a broad range of possible every-day life situations, in both oral and written form.

Disciplinary Skills – able to:

B1 Understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance (e.g., personal information, likes and dislikes, shopping, local geography, studies, employment).

B2 Communicate in simple, everyday situations requiring a direct exchange of information and requests for information.

B3 Interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly.

B4 Write a series of simple phrases and sentences linked with simple connectors, displaying greater control of grammatical structures.

Attributes:

C1 Learn Continuously in a Changing World.

C2 Engage Critically with Knowledge.

C3 Clarity of Communication.

Activity Hours

Activity Type	Time spent (hours)
Lecture	11
Seminar	11
Guided independent study	128
Total	150

Indicative Reading List

- The course textbook for Introductory Russian is Beginner's Russian With Interactive Online Workbook, by Anna S. Kudyma, Frank J. Miller, Olga E. Kagan (Hippocrene Books, 2010)
- Along with the book, students have access to an interactive website full of videos, audio, and self-correcting exercises. <http://www.russian.ucla.edu/beginnersrussian/>
- The course is supplemented by learning materials, weekly handouts and assessed grammar quizzes prepared by the tutors and available via QMPlus.
- The main grammar book is A Comprehensive Russian Grammar, by Terence Wade and David Gillespie (Wiley-Blackwell; 3rd Edition edition, 2010)