



# University of Pittsburgh

*University Center for International Studies*  
*Center for Russian and East European Studies*

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## The University of Pittsburgh's STARTALK Summer Russian Language School

Летняя школа

Dates: June 18 - July 14, 2017

Location: University of Pittsburgh, Main Campus

Students accepted into the *Letniaia shkola* will study Russian language and culture in an immersion experience. You will live in dorms with your classmates, eat meals together, attend classes in the morning, and engage in cultural and extracurricular activities in the evenings. On select weekends, students will participate in fieldtrips to Russian cultural locales around Pittsburgh. All the while, you'll be practicing your Russian!

The Pitt STARTALK Russian language program is open to students from Pittsburgh Brashear, Pritzker College Prep, Noble Street College Prep, as well as students at other US high schools. While lessons are interactive, hands-on and fun, they are also serious study, and very intense.

This program is cost-free for accepted students. Tuition, housing, meals, and all academic materials are covered by the program.

## 2017 University of Pittsburgh Summer Institute

### Russian Summer Program Application

**Due: FRIDAY, March 31**

*Make sure you read all the directions for this application very carefully. Not following directions could jeopardize your chance to participate in program. Fill out this application in blue or black ink. If you are at a partner high school, please submit your application to your Russian-language teacher by Friday, March 31; if you are not at a partner high school, please send a scanned PDF of your application to Dawn Seckler at [dawn.seckler@pitt.edu](mailto:dawn.seckler@pitt.edu).*

A complete application will include:

- This form
- Your Personal Statement (typed)
- Your Russian language statement (if you have previous experience with the language)
- The agreement signed by the student and the student's parent or guardian
- Students who are not at one of the partner high schools, should ask a high school instructor to submit a letter of recommendation to [dawn.seckler@pitt.edu](mailto:dawn.seckler@pitt.edu) by the application deadline.

#### Information

1. What is your name (first and last)? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is your unweighted GPA? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is your weighted GPA? \_\_\_\_\_
4. If you take Russian in high school, what was your first semester grade? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is your current grade in Russian this semester? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Are you available for the entire duration of the program (June 18 - July 14, 2017)? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Personal Statement

*In a typed Word Document of 250 words or more explain why you want to participate in this program. Be honest with us and be honest with yourself. Do not just say what you think you want us to hear.*

*Consider the following questions (these are just ideas, not required questions): What impact will this program have on you academically and personally? What strengths and skills do you have that would make you successful during this program? Why do you want to study Russian this summer? What do you enjoy about learning Russian? How will you succeed in this intensive academic environment that will require that you live away from home for four weeks?*

#### Russian Language Statement

*In 50-100 words, tell us a little bit about yourself in Russian. Как тебя зовут? Сколько тебе лет? Где ты живёшь? Кто в твоей семье? Что ты часто делаешь? И т.д.*

**\*\*If you have not yet studied Russian, please simply write, 'N/A'\***

**\*\*Instructors: please do not review or help students with these statements.\*\***

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your child has expressed interest in applying to a very prestigious summer program at the University of Pittsburgh. The University of Pittsburgh's Center for Russian and Eastern European Studies (REES) has been awarded a STARTALK grant that allows us to host an intensive, residential (i.e., on-campus) 4-week summer Russian language program—The “Letniaia Shkola,” or Summer Russian Language School—for select high school students, at no cost to the students and their families. REES partners with three high schools that currently offer excellent Russian language programs: Pittsburgh Brashear in the Pittsburgh region and Pritzker College Prep and Noble Street College Prep, two public charter high schools in Chicago. We also accept applications from students from other US high schools. The PITT STARTALK Summer Russian Language School will host 20 rising sophomores, juniors and seniors, who are or will be taking Russian.

The program consists of a 4-week Russian-language program, which will be held at the University of Pittsburgh, Main Campus in Pittsburgh's Oakland neighborhood. Students will live in a dorm for the entire duration of the program (including weekends). Three resident assistants for the program will also be living in the dorm to provide adult supervision, and, the dorm has 24-hour oversight by a guard at the front door who monitors all entry to and exit from the dorm. Students will each receive a meal plan (breakfast, lunch, and dinner). Adult supervision will be constant. All costs associated with the program—housing, meals, tuition, participation on fieldtrips and activities—are covered by a STARTALK grant awarded to The University of Pittsburgh.

In order for your student to participate in this program, we must first make sure you are completely aware of its requirements. Your student will be spending 4 weeks—June 28- July 14, 2017—away from home. In addition to intensive classes during the week, students will be engaged in extracurricular programming on the weekends. This program is being offered at no cost to you or your student, but your student is expected to pay with hard work and effort.

We know that this is a large time commitment for both you and your student, but it is something that offers tremendous opportunity for your child. Please discuss this program and weigh its potential benefits and drawbacks.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by telephone or email.

All the best,



Dawn Seckler  
Associate Director, Center for Russian and East European Studies  
(412) 648-9881  
[Das200@pitt.edu](mailto:Das200@pitt.edu)

## Agreement

*Read the letter attached to this application with your parents or guardians. It is extremely important that everyone knows exactly what to expect out of this program, particularly with the commitment of time. If you have gone over the letter with your parents or guardians, and they consent that you can participate, sign and date the fields below.*

I understand that this program requires that I live in a dormitory on the University of Pittsburgh's main campus for the entire 4-week summer sessions and I am fully committed to dedicating that time to studying Russian. I will also do my best to stay in good academic standing and maintain superior standards of behavior.

\_\_\_\_\_

(name of student)

\_\_\_\_\_

(signature)

\_\_\_\_\_

(date)

I understand that this program requires the student to live away from home on the University of Pittsburgh's main campus for the entire 4-week summer sessions and I am fully committed to my student participating.

\_\_\_\_\_

(name of parent)

\_\_\_\_\_

(signature)

\_\_\_\_\_

(date)