

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, East European, and Eurasian Studies (REEES) has been awarded a federal STARTALK grant that allows us to host an intensive, residential (i.e., on-campus), four-week summer Russian language program—the Pitt STARTALK Summer Russian Language School—for selected high school students, at no cost to the students and their families. REEES partners with three high schools that currently offer excellent Russian language programs: Pittsburgh Brashear in the city of Pittsburgh, and Pritzker College Prep and Noble Street College Prep, two public charter high schools in Chicago. We also accept applications from students at other U.S. high schools. The Pitt STARTALK Summer Russian Language School will host 20 rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors, who are or will be taking Russian at their high schools.

The program consists of a four-week Russian language program, which will be held on 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. Adult supervision will be constant. Students will each receive a meal plan (breakfast, lunch, and dinner). All costs associated with the program—housing, meals, tuition, participation in field trips 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 that you are completely aware of its requirements. Your student will be spending four weeks away from home. In addition to intensive classes during the week, students will be engaged in extracurricular programming on the weekends. Students will not be allowed to leave the program during the weekends.

We know that this is a large time commitment for both you and your student, but it offers a 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 the Pitt STARTALK Russian Program Director, Olga Klimova, at vokl@pitt.edu.

Best regards,



Gina M. Peirce
Assistant Director, Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies
University of Pittsburgh

Pitt STARTALK Russian Program: Student and Parent/Guardian Agreement

Students: Please read the letter on the previous page 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, please sign and date the fields below. You will then need to scan this page and email it with your other application documents, following the guidelines provided at the top of the online application form.

I understand that this program requires that I live in a dormitory on the University of Pittsburgh's main campus for the entire four-week summer session, 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 four-week summer session, and I am fully committed to my student participating.

Name of Parent/Guardian

Signature

Date