Graduate Certificate in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies

Why study Russian, East European, and Eurasian studies?

The Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (REES) graduate certificate is a 12-credit hour program designed for graduate students in CLAS departments and in professional schools who for a variety of reasons are unable to enroll in a full-length M.A. Degree. The certificate program helps such students develop context-based interdisciplinary knowledge and expertise of the REES area, and allows for that expertise to be officially recognized on the students’ KU transcript, enhancing the graduates’ career opportunities.

As a prerequisite to beginning the certificate course sequence, students need to demonstrate a working knowledge of a REES-area language equivalent of at least 2 years of university study.

Admission to Graduate Studies

An applicant seeking to pursue graduate study in the College may be admitted as either a degree-seeking or non-degree seeking student. Policies and procedures of Graduate Studies govern the process of Graduate admission. These may be found in the Graduate Studies section of the online catalog.

Please consult the Departments & Programs (catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/) section of the online catalog for information regarding program-specific admissions criteria and requirements. Special admissions requirements pertain to Interdisciplinary Studies degrees, which may be found in the Graduate Studies section of the online catalog.

Admission Criteria

Most applicants hold Bachelor’s degrees in the social sciences or humanities with grade-point averages of 3.0 or higher. Students professional degrees are also eligible to apply. Some students may consider completing the certificate in conjunction with academic or professional study in another department or school.

Eligibility criteria for admission to the graduate certificate program follow Graduate Studies’ admission policy (policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/admission-to-graduate-study/). Non-native speakers of English must meet English proficiency requirements as described here (graduate.ku.edu/english-proficiency-requirements/).

Application Materials & Procedures

For all KU and non-KU applicants, please visit the REES Graduate Certificate page (crees.ku.edu/graduate-certificate-0/). Submit all graduate applications online (graduate.ku.edu/prospective-students/).

If you wish to learn more about the certificate program in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies at The University of Kansas, please visit the REES graduate certificate website (crees.ku.edu/ma-program/), (crees.ku.edu/graduate-certificate-0/) or contact Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Vitaly Chernetsky (crees.ku.edu/vitaly-chernetsky-0/) at crees@ku.edu.

Send all other requested application materials to the program:

The University of Kansas
Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies
Bailey Hall
1440 Jayhawk Blvd., Room 320
Lawrence, KS 66045

The Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (REES) graduate certificate is a 12-credit hour program of study designed primarily for graduate students in CLAS and the professional schools. The program allows the students to acquire context-based interdisciplinary knowledge and expertise of the REES area. The certificate allows for that expertise to be officially recognized on the students’ KU transcript, enhancing the graduates’ career opportunities.

The main academic objectives of the graduate certificate include introducing and training graduate students in the current methodological approaches to the study of the REES area; allowing the students to acquire a deeper knowledge of the area from different disciplinary perspectives; and guiding the students in integrating their knowledge of the area, methodology, and a REES-area language. As a part of the capstone seminar, graduate certificate students write an original research paper on a REES-area topic that utilizes research in both English and the target language.

As a prerequisite to beginning the course sequence that leads to the certificate, the student must demonstrate a working knowledge of a REES-area language equivalent of at least 2 years of university study.

The CREES graduate certificate includes a 12-credit hour course sequence (4 3-credit hour courses). Out of the 4 courses, 2 are mandatory: the methodology seminars, REES 898 and REES 899.

- REES 898 is taken during the student’s first semester, as it lays out the foundation for interdisciplinary area studies in REES.
- 2 electives must be chosen from a list of REES-themed offerings from 2 different disciplines, of which 1 can overlap with the coursework taken by the student in his or her home department. The courses must be 500-level or higher and have at least 50% REES content.
- REES 899 is taken following the completion of the elective courses. The capstone seminar, in which the student identifies an original research topic, and under the professor’s supervision, produces a capstone paper of publishable quality, a part of which is a working bibliography which includes both English and foreign-language sources. REES 899 is used to demonstrate student knowledge of area studies content and methodology, and the capstone paper is the primary outcome of this course.

REES 898 and REES 899 are taken by both REES MA students and REES graduate certificate students. These students work together on acquiring tools for researching and writing about the REES area, and then applying these tools towards individual projects.