Major in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies

Why study Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies?

The interdisciplinary study of Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia creates informed citizens with in-depth understanding of this geopolitically and culturally critical world region, central to political, economic, cultural, and environmental issues of the present and the future. The University of Kansas Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies (REES) program covers a broad geographic region, home to rich and diverse cultures that have had an enormous impact on today's world. Our program, collaborative and interdisciplinary in nature, offers you a unique opportunity to study both contemporary politics and medieval history, environmental problems and great works of literature and art, as well as multiple other related subjects. It offers opportunities to study abroad in a variety of culturally rich, exciting places. Crucially, it prepares you for a wide range of careers in research, business, government, and the nonprofit sector, with the opportunity to make a profound impact on both national and international level.

Undergraduate Admission

Admission to KU

All students applying for admission must send high school and college transcripts to the Office of Admissions. Unless they are college transfer students with at least 24 hours of credit, prospective students must send ACT or SAT scores to the Office of Admissions. Prospective first-year students should be aware that KU has qualified admission requirements that all new first-year students must meet to be admitted. Consult the Office of Admissions (http://admissions.ku.edu) for application deadlines and specific admission requirements.

Visit the Office of International Student and Scholar Services (http://www.iss.ku.edu) for information about international admissions.

Students considering transferring to KU may see how their college-level course work will transfer on the Office of Admissions (http://credittransfer.ku.edu) website.

Admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Admission to the College is a different process from admission to a major field. Some CLAS departments have admission requirements. See individual department/program sections for departmental admission requirements.

Requirements for the Major

Bachelor of Arts in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies Course Requirements

Students take intensive REES language and course work to enhance their traditional disciplinary study. The most common REES major combinations are with Global & International Studies, Slavic Languages & Literatures, Political Science, and History.

Prerequisite Language Skills (29)

Students selecting this co-major must complete 4th semester proficiency in a Russian, Eastern European, or Eurasian language (take the courses for majors):

- Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian:
  - BCRS 208 Intermediate Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian II 3
- Czech:
  - CZCH 208 Intermediate Czech II 3
- Polish:
  - PLSH 208 Intermediate Polish II 3
- Russian:
  - RUSS 208 Intermediate Russian II 5
- Slovenian:
  - PERS 210 Intermediate Iranian/Dari/Tajik Persian I 3
- Turkish:
  - TURK 208 Intermediate Turkish II 3
- Uyghur:
  - UYGR 202 Intermediate Uyghur II 3
- Ukrainian:
  - UKRA 208 Intermediate Ukrainian II 3
- Yiddish:
  - YDSH 216 Intermediate Yiddish II 3

Understanding Russia and Eastern Europe or Societies and Cultures of Eurasia (3)

Satisfied by one of the following:

- REES 110 Understanding Russia and Eastern Europe
- REES 111 Understanding Russia and Eastern Europe, Honors
- REES 220 Societies and Cultures of Eurasia
- REES 221 Societies and Cultures of Eurasia, Honors

REES language at the advanced level (3)

(5th semester)

Distribution (18)

18 hours of distribution courses as follows:

Geographic distribution: at least one 3 credit course in each grouping: Russia and Eastern Europe, South and Central Europe, and Central Eurasia.

Disciplinary distribution: at least one 3 credit course in each grouping: Arts, Culture, and Religion; History; and Social Sciences.

Out of the 18 distribution hours, 12 should be upper-division courses (300 level and higher).

Out of the 18 distribution hours, at least 3 credit hours (one course) should be taken in the Slavic Languages and Literatures Department, at 500 or above, and involve the use of a REES language (3 hrs)

Of the 30 credit hours required for the REES major, 15 may overlap with the student's other major in case the student chooses to pursue a second major.

Capstone (6)

Satisfied by the following, completed in the senior year.

Research Methods in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies. Satisfied by:

- REES 492 Research Methods in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies 3
Research Seminar in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies.
Satisfied by:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Major Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REES 496</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4th-semester language proficiency specifically in a Russian, Eastern European, or Eurasian language, plus one additional semester of an advanced language course (i.e. 5th semester language course).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Majors are strongly encouraged to study abroad. Please see your advisor about this opportunity.

**Russian, East European, and Eurasian Major Hours & GPA**

While completing all required courses (above), majors must also meet each of the following hour and grade-point average minimum standards:

**Major Hours**
Satisfied by 30 hours of major courses.

**Major Hours in Residence**
Satisfied by a minimum of 15 hours of KU resident credit in the major.

**Major Junior/Senior (300+) Hours**
Satisfied by a minimum of 12 hours from junior/senior courses (300+) in the major.

**Major Junior/Senior (300+) Graduation GPA**
Satisfied by a minimum of 2.0 KU GPA in junior/senior courses (300+) in the major. GPA calculations include all junior/senior courses in the field of study including F’s and repeated courses. See the Semester/Cumulative GPA Calculator ([http://clas.ku.edu/undergrad/tools/gpa](http://clas.ku.edu/undergrad/tools/gpa)).

Below is a sample 4-year plan for students pursuing the major in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (REES). The REES major requires 4th-semester language proficiency in Russian, Eastern European, or Eurasian language, plus one additional semester of an advanced language course (i.e. 5th semester language course).

To view the list of courses approved to fulfill KU Core Goals, please visit the KU Core website ([http://kucore.ku.edu/courses](http://kucore.ku.edu/courses)).

### Freshman

**Fall**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 101 (Goal 2.1, (2 crs req), BA Writing I)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENGL 102 (Goal 2.1 (2 crs req), BA Writing II)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 101</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Quantitative Reasoning (Goal 1.2, BA Quantitative Reasoning)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Semester Language (BA Second Language)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2nd Semester Language (BA Second Language)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REES 110 or 111 (Major Requirement), or REES 220 or 221</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Goal 2.2 Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA&amp;S 292 (Research Methods (recommended))</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td></td>
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**Spring**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 ENGL 102</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Quantitative Reasoning (BA Quantitative Reasoning)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 2nd Semester Language (BA Second Language)</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Goal 2.2 Communication</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective or possible minor course (Total Hours)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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**Total Hours: 120-123**

1 The BA requires completion of two courses of collegiate-level writing instruction. Students who test out of Composition will still need to complete ENGL 102 (or equivalent) and one additional Goal 2.1 course.

2 The BA degree requires 4th-semester language proficiency. The REES major requires 4th-semester language proficiency specially in a Russian, Eastern European, or Eurasian language.

3 Visit this website ([https://collegeadvising.ku.edu/sites/collegeadvising.ku.edu/files/docs/BA QuantitativeReasoning.pdf](https://collegeadvising.ku.edu/sites/collegeadvising.ku.edu/files/docs/BA QuantitativeReasoning.pdf)) for a list of courses that fulfill the BA Quantitative Reasoning requirement.

4 The REES major requires 18.0 hours of elective course work from each of the following geographic distribution categories: Russia & Eastern Europe, South & Central Europe, and Europe & Central Eurasia; and each of the following disciplinary distribution areas: Arts, Culture, & Religion, History, and Social Sciences. There is not a specific order these must be taken, but it is recommended to take Jr/Sr level courses when possible.
A list of courses that fulfills this requirement can be found under the degree requirements tab.

Please note:

All students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences are required to completed 120 total hours of which 45 hours must be at the Jr/Sr (300+) level.

The same course cannot be used to fulfill more than one KU Core Goal. However, overlap of a KU Core course with a major or degree-specific requirement is allowed. Overlapping is recommended to allow more opportunities to explore other majors and/or minors.

Honors

Departmental Honors

Honors in Russian, East European, and Eurasian studies is open to REES majors who have earned, both at the time of entry into the program and at graduation, an overall grade-point average of 3.25 or higher, and 3.5 or higher in courses that satisfy requirements for the REES major.

Students must complete REES 492 Research Methods in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies and REES 499 (Honors) Capstone Seminar in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies with a grade of B or better. The research paper produced in REES 499 must demonstrate the student’s proficiency in at least one of the REES languages through the use of foreign language sources. The paper is evaluated by an honors committee of at least three REES faculty members who have read and commented on the research paper and heard its oral defense. The committee is constituted by the student in consultation with either the director or associate director of CREES.

Study Abroad

Though not required, study abroad is strongly encouraged. Courses taken abroad may count toward the major if approved by the REES advisor.

Consult the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (http://www.crees.ku.edu) or the Office of Study Abroad (http://www.studyabroad.ku.edu) for information about programs.