

**Master's Program in Regional Studies:
Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia
Harvard University**

We believe that when we integrate various academic disciplines, we gain insights into society and culture that are not possible within a single discipline. Our Master's Program in Regional Studies was established in 1948 to embody this belief. Since that time, over 600 alumni have pursued careers in government, academia, business, and nongovernmental organizations. Between 16 and 20 students are enrolled in the program at any one time. Students take courses with our Faculty Associates, tap into our network of scholars, use our library, and attend our seminars and other activities. Some financial aid is available. Financial aid awards are based on academic merit and financial need.

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Faculty

REECA students may take classes with virtually any member of the Harvard faculty whose course offerings relate to their individual plan of study. Selected members of the faculty are available as REECA thesis supervisors. Please consult the REECA Program Guide for more information about thesis supervisors. Davis Center Faculty Associates are listed at http://daviscenter.fas.harvard.edu/people/faculty_assoc.html.

Courses

Course offerings vary from year to year. Please see http://daviscenter.fas.harvard.edu/student_programs/reeca_courses.html for sample listings and links to Harvard's online course catalog.

Individualized Program of Study

A limited enrollment in the program (~10 students per program year) facilitates individual guidance and personal attention. Each student works individually with the Academic Advisor to develop a program of study, taking into account his or her career goals, previous training, experience, and academic qualifications.

Course Requirements

16 half-courses (semester courses) are required for graduation; typical course load is 4 courses per semester. The 16 half-courses are distributed as follows:

- Two half-courses in four of the following six areas.
 - Economics
 - Government (Political Science)
 - History
 - Upper-level Russian
 - Any level non-Russian language of the region
 - Linguistics
 - Literature

Note: at least two of the four areas must be in the social sciences.

- One half-course addressing questions of national identity and state structure of the region (this course may also count toward a discipline requirement, where appropriate)
- Approved electives to bring total credits to 16 half-courses

Russian Language Qualifying Exam

Before graduating from the program, all REECA students must pass a 3-hour exam translating excerpts from the Russian press and scholarly journals into English using a dictionary. The Russian Language Qualifying Exam is offered three times each year, and students may take it more than once.

Studying Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Most REECA students fulfill their discipline requirements with courses on Russia, and use elective courses to pursue other regional interests.

Students who enter the program with an unusually strong background in Russian studies may choose to focus primarily on another region of the former Soviet Union or Eastern Europe.

The Program on Central Asia and the Caucasus (<http://centasia.fas.harvard.edu>), the Ukrainian Research Institute (<http://www.huri.harvard.edu>), and the Center for European Studies (<http://www.ces.fas.harvard.edu/index.html>) are valuable resources for students who plan to focus on a non-Russian region.

Master's Thesis

Since 1993, students in the REECA program have written master's theses under the supervision of a faculty member. The thesis is intended as the capstone of the two-year program. It is supervised by a Harvard faculty member and is based to a significant extent on sources in one or more languages of the region. Many students conduct in-country thesis research between program years with the help of a research travel grant from the Davis Center. The thesis carries a letter grade and counts as two half-courses.

Selected Thesis Topics

“Reconciling Reform with Reality: Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in Russia”

“The Trials and Tribulations of the Soviet Timur: Historiography, Ethnogenesis, and the Scholarly Origins of Uzbekistan's National Hero”

“Nation-Making in Russia's Jewish Autonomous Region: Initial Goals, Unwitting Contributions, and Surprising Results”

“A War of Laws: The Crimean Question, Tensions, and Ukrainian-Russian Relations”

“The Political Economy of Mass Privatization in Kazakhstan”

“The Re-emergence of Ethnic-Nationalistic Concepts in Modern Russian Philosophical and Political Thought”

“Russian Experimental Jury Trials: A Preliminary Examination”

“Questions of Identity: Islam and Ethnicity in St. Petersburg and Moscow”

“Claiming Autonomy in Russian Federalism: A Study of Conflict in Russia's Main Oil and Gas Producing Region”

“Scaling the East: Orientalism in 19th-Century Russian Music”

“Growing Against the Odds: Russian Small Business Development and the Role of External Finance”

Cross-Registration and Joint Degrees

REECA students may cross-register for individual courses at other Harvard Schools (Business, Design, Divinity, Education, Law, Public Health, Kennedy School of Government), the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

There is no formal option for REECA students to participate in a joint degree program at this time. Concurrent degrees can sometimes be arranged on an ad hoc basis. Interested students should contact the Program Office to explore this possibility.

Career Planning

REECA students have full access to the services of Harvard's Office of Career Services (<http://www.ocs.fas.harvard.edu/index.htm>), including its career library, counselors, and undergraduate and graduate recruiting programs.

The REECA Program Office develops and maintains area-related career resources and facilitates networking with REECA alumni.

Prerequisites for the REECA Program

- BA (or equivalent)
- Superior undergraduate record
- Strong indication of promise
- 3 years of undergraduate Russian (strongly recommended)
- General GRE (use code 3451 for score reports)
- TOEFL (for non-native speakers of English only)

Profile of Typical REECA Student

Most REECA students have a background in Russian studies, Russian literature, or international studies. In recent years students have ranged in age from 21-37, with the average age being 27.

The average undergraduate GPA is approximately 3.5 on a 4.0 scale. Composite GRE scores (average of Verbal, Analytical, and Quantitative percentile scores) is 67%.

Most students have taken 3 or more years of college Russian and have spent a summer or a semester studying in Russia.

Some REECA students have worked one or more years in the region after graduation from college.

Most students envision a career in international business, consulting, law, government, or academia, and some plan on obtaining a law or business degree in addition to a master's degree.

REECA Program Admissions Calendar

- **Late Summer:**

Online applications and paper application forms for the following academic year become available from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Office of Admissions and Financial Aid (www.gsas.harvard.edu, admiss@fas.harvard.edu, Byerly Hall 226, 8 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138; 617-495-5315)

- **Late December/Early January:**

Completed applications are due.

- **March:**

Offers of admission are made.

- **September:**

Classes begin.

Note: Admission may generally not be deferred to a subsequent academic year. Foreign Area Officers should contact the Program Office if interested in beginning classes in the spring semester.

REECA Financial Aid

In 2006-07 tuition and fees total \$32,882. Depending on the cost of rent, a single student can expect to require approximately \$1,200-\$1,500 per month for room, board, and miscellaneous expenses.

Graduate School of Arts & Sciences Grants

A limited number of two-year GSAS grants for full or part tuition and fees, as well as some living stipends, are awarded each year to incoming REECA students based on academic merit and financial need.

FLAS Fellowships

A limited number of one-year Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships covering full tuition and a stipend of \$15,000 are awarded to US citizens and permanent residents each year on a competitive basis University-wide, subject to program funding by the US Department of Education. Eligible prospective students should file a FLAS fellowship application along with their application for admission.

Summer FLAS awards of up to \$4,000 tuition and \$2,500 stipend are available to US citizens and permanent residents for language study between program years.

For more information on FLAS, please visit the GSAS web site at <http://www.gsas.harvard.edu/> and click on "Prospective Students", then "Financial Aid."

Graduate Research Travel Grants

The Davis Center offers grants to Harvard graduate students for research travel to the former Soviet Union or Eastern Europe. Students who are not eligible for FLAS summer language fellowships may apply for a travel grant to support formal language study in a foreign country.

The maximum stipend is generally \$3,000 (including visa and invitation costs) and can be used for a minimum stay of four weeks. See http://daviscenter.fas.harvard.edu/student_programs/grad_trav_grant.html for application form and additional information.