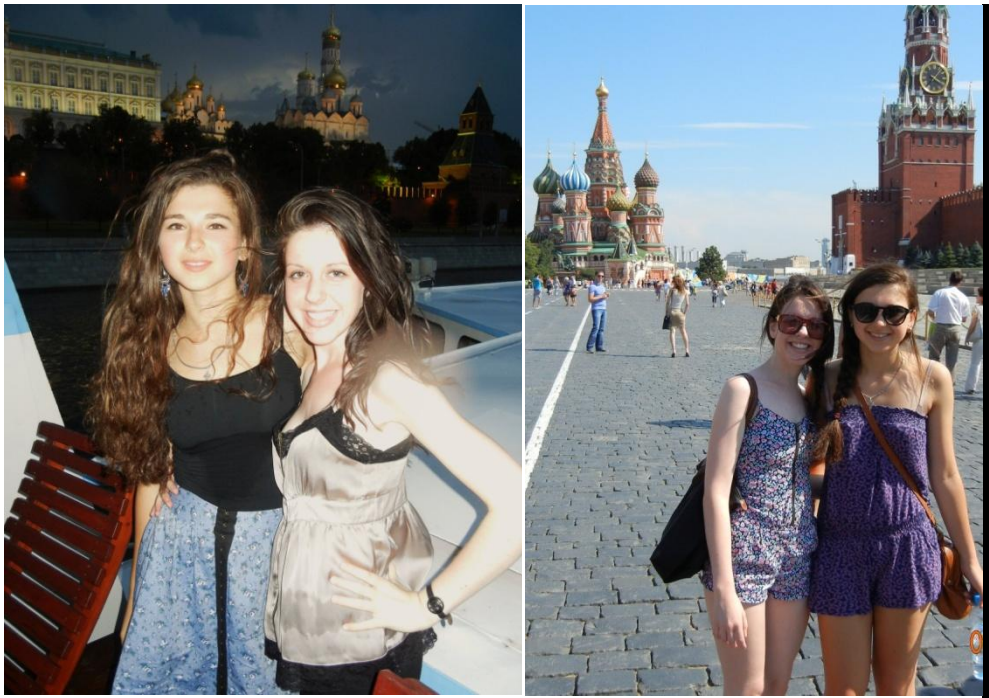


## JANE, STATEN ISLAND, NY

Participating in the NSLI-Y Moscow Summer Intensive has exposed me to the beauty of Russia's rich culture, bettered my understanding of the language that pours through Moscow's streets, and exposed me to my heritage's biting history. Visiting renowned museums, local photo exhibits, and archaic estates during class or with my host family, a timeline of Russia's past freely flashes before my eyes. I feel personally acquainted with Bulkagov, Tchaikovsky, and the characters of Chekhov's *Cherry Orchard*. Starting class with learning the alphabet and progressing to memorizing Pushkin's famous poems, I feel my language improving on a daily basis.



Living in a dorm with ballerinas from America, sprinkled with stays from international dance troupes, has allowed me to appreciate the culture's finest aspect: Russian arts. The Russian National Dance Show at V.D.N.H., Slava Zaitsev's Fashion House and the Don Quixote ballet were phenomenal. Relaxing in traditional Russian summer homes "*dachas*" or enjoying an exhilarating Circus show followed with dinner at a Georgian restaurant, the weekend getaways were electrifying!

I am so thankful to the U.S. Department of State, NSLI-Y Youth Programs, and the Russian American Foundation for making this unforgettable experience possible. The company visits have inspired me, the classes have intrigued me, and the program participants have become my family.