



RUSSIAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION, INC.

70 WEST 36TH STREET, SUITE 701 • NEW YORK, NY 10018
TEL. 212.687.6118 • FAX. 212.687.5558
WWW.RUSSIANAMERICANFOUNDATION.ORG

NSLI-Y RUSSIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE EXPERIENCE IN MOSCOW JULY 16 – AUGUST 27, 2011

What are the Components of the NSLI-Y Moscow Summer Intensive?

1) Formal Russian language development

The Participants will attend Russian language classes Monday – Friday for 3 hours daily. Participants should expect about 3-4 hrs of additional HW weekly. The classes will take place on-site of the Academy with some excursions off-site for practical immersion.

2) Formal and Informal Cultural and Heritage development

The Participants will be introduced to key icons of Russia's cultural history (Authors, Composers, Visual and Performing Artists) as well as its rich folk-traditions through interactive and engaging workshops for 3 hours daily. The workshops will take place either on-site of the Academy or on-site of Moscow's cultural institutions such as museums, studios, theaters, etc. The Participants will also experience Moscow's rich history and life in modern day Moscow through group sight-seeing trips, visits to cultural performances and interaction with locals and peers. The Participants will be further encouraged to explore Moscow on their own, in small groups, during their free time.

3) Peer interaction

On the weekends, the Participants will be living with local host families in Moscow. The Participants will be placed 1-2 to a family. This will enable the Participants to experience present day life in Moscow, as well as to have authentic language practice with their peers. A strong effort will be made to place Participants in accordance with their age/interests to encourage friendships with locals which will continue beyond the program.

4) Practical internship experience

An emphasis will be made to demonstrate to the Participants the practical/professional value of advancing their knowledge of Russian language. Each student will have a 2-3 day internship opportunities at various Moscow based companies, enabling them to experience Moscow's vital and growing business environment. Participants will also be introduced to the life and activities at US Embassy in Moscow and will learn more about the vast opportunities available for those who speak various languages.

What costs are covered by the NSLI-Y Program?

All international travel, classes, cultural excursions, housing, meals, and a mobile phone in Moscow for emergency use will be provided at no cost. It is the responsibility of each participant to have a valid passport at the time of the program, which is valid **a minimum of 1 year after the date of the NSLI-Y Program's end**. Participants are responsible for covering costs associated with obtaining the U.S. passport, photos, and required medical examinations and immunizations. It is recommended that participants have some spending money for incidentals that they may desire.

Do I need special Health Insurance?

Please be reminded that Russia's standard of medical care differs from what is expected in the US. Each Participant will be automatically enrolled in the Health Plan offered by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at no cost. It will be your responsibility to become familiar with all its rules and regulations. In order to help protect the health and safety of Moscow Intensive's Participants, as well as in



RUSSIAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION, INC.

70 WEST 36TH STREET, SUITE 701 • NEW YORK, NY 10018
TEL. 212.687.6118 • FAX. 212.687.5558
WWW.RUSSIANAMERICANFOUNDATION.ORG

meeting Russia's immigration laws and the Academy's regulations, RAF requires an applicant to have the physical and mental capacity, with or without a medical accommodation, to perform the essential functions of a Participant for a full period of 6 weeks in Moscow without unreasonable disruption due to health problems. Please refer to the Medical Section of the application for detailed instructions.

What is the selection process?

Once the completed materials are received as ONE package, RAF selection committee will review each application based on the following:

1) **Step 1** - A student will be required to submit:

- A separate application
- Three mandatory essays
- Two letters of recommendation from teachers
- Copy of the report card and school enrollment

2) **Step 2** - RAF **MUST** receive all applications and materials in the office by **April 15, 2011**.

3) **Step 3** - RAF selection committee will review all applications, conduct personal interviews with semi-finalist and will make final determinations by **May 6, 2011**. Determinations will be made based on a point system in the following areas: A) Exhibited interest in the Russian heritage, language and culture, B) Academic excellence, C) Demonstrated maturity. If you are selected as a semi-finalist, you will be asked to obtain a thorough medical and dental clearance and complete RAF's medical forms by **May 20, 2011**.

What happens if I am accepted ?

Once accepted, the 10 Participants will begin their introduction and immersion process through formal and informal methods, as well as logistic preparation for the trip.

1. Each participant will be required to
 - a. complete and sign a contract, program rulers guide and various other enrollment forms,
 - b. provide recent forms attesting to a medical and dental state of health signed by a physician and dentist,
 - c. provide a US passport valid for 1 year after the last day of travel and a completed visa application with photos.
2. Each participant will be enrolled in the U.S. Department of State NSLI-Y community where they can interact with other Participants nationally of past and present NSLI-Y trips. Participants may be further asked to enroll and participate in US State Department communities and on-line forums.
3. Each participant will be required to volunteer at least 40 hours in various community and cultural programs, as well as team building, in various capacities at Russian American Foundation.
4. Each participant will be required to take a Russian language placement exam prior to departure, progress tests during the program and a test upon return to the US administered by the US State Department organization.
5. Each participant and their families will be invited to 3 formal mandatory orientation sessions.
 - PDO#1 - Description of program and expectations, including daily and weekly schedule.
 - PDO #2 – Academy rules, introduction to country, what to expect, safety and regulations, cultural nuances and differences.
 - PDO # 3 – Family Q&A, briefing on the program.
6. Other requirements may apply.



RUSSIAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION, INC.

70 WEST 36TH STREET, SUITE 701 • NEW YORK, NY 10018
TEL. 212.687.6118 • FAX. 212.687.5558
WWW.RUSSIANAMERICANFOUNDATION.ORG

What can I expect in terms of safety and guidance in Moscow?

Moscow today is one of the most dynamic and fascinating cities in the world. Similar to New York, it is a big city and regular awareness, common sense, and carefulness is expected at all times. Those applying to this program should be mature, focused, and able to follow RAF's rules for organized and free time in a foreign country. Participant families will be encouraged to attend 3 special informational orientations to better prepare them for the trip. An American Chaperone will accompany the students – and will be responsible for overseeing the group's well-being in Moscow. The Academy is a safe and secure facility located in the center of Moscow. Nevertheless, the participants will need to always be aware that they are in a foreign country with different rules, laws, standards, and expectations of behavior. The students will always have access to an adult for guidance and references, but it is important to note that students will NOT be individually chaperoned. Attendance will be taken at all mandatory activities and at curfew. Otherwise, students will be allowed to explore Moscow on their own in small groups. No travel beyond Moscow and its suburbs will be allowed.

Where will I live in Moscow

The students will live at Moscow's Bolshoi Ballet Academy together with 16 students of RAF's NSLI-Y Russian Language and Culture RAF and Bolshoi Way Program. The Academy is centrally located in Moscow on Frunzenskaya Street #2. Its campus occupies a full block and houses academic classrooms, dorm rooms, cafeteria, medical offices, and activity rooms. The building is secured by a fence, as well as 24 hour security posted at the entrance. The Campus will serve as the home for all formal activities; language classes, culture and heritage classes, residency, meals (2 dinners will be held off campus). The Academy offers a central and safe location near metro, ability to meet all programmatic needs of the program, and Academy Staff which is trained specifically to oversee and educate youth of such, including international students.

An adult chaperone will travel with the group and will be available to Participants for all program related issues. Please note the chaperone will not be responsible for individually supervising any of the Participants and/or meeting their individual/personal needs. In addition, Academy will have on-site administrative person and a full-time resident advisor overseeing the group.

What happens if I am not selected?

Of course RAF hopes that this is an ongoing program. In the meantime, if one is not selected to participate in the 2011 trip, RAF will hope to notify you of any future opportunities.

If I have additional questions, who do I contact?

Please forward all your questions to Anna Dameniuk at NSLI-YHeritage@russianamericanfoundation.org.