

Regulations Governing the Indiana University Russian Flagship Program

Part I. General Program Requirement

The Russian Flagship at Indiana University is a rigorous language proficiency program designed to prepare undergraduate students for careers as global professionals in both the public and private sectors. By the time of graduation, students should reach a professional level of proficiency in the Russian language¹ in addition to earning their University degree. Note that reaching this level of proficiency may take four years but often takes five years. This program requires serious commitment and hard work, but the post-graduation career benefits and opportunities afforded to successful Flagship students are worth the effort.

COURSEWORK:

1. As one of only six Russian Flagship programs in the United States, the IU Russian Flagship maintains a high set of academic requirements for students:
 - a. Students are required to complete Russian Flagship coursework in addition to their regular coursework each semester.

If a student enters the Russian Flagship as a first- or second-year Russian language student, the student is expected to be enrolled in and complete a minimum of 4 credit hours of Russian language classroom instruction per semester (total 8 credit hours per academic year). If the student enters the Flagship as a third-year Russian language student or above, the student is expected to be enrolled in and complete a minimum of 3 credit hours per semester (total 6 credit hours per academic year).

- b. Students must receive a minimum grade of “B+” in their Russian language classes, including summer studies and study abroad. In addition, they also must maintain at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA.

The academic records of all Russian Flagship students will be reviewed at the end of each semester. If a student’s Russian language grade or cumulative GPA falls below these listed thresholds, the student will be put on Russian Flagship probation. Failure to meet minimum language course grades and/or GPA requirements may render the student ineligible to receive summer or overseas funding and/or result in dismissal from the program.

- c. Students are required to participate in a minimum of one hour of Flagship tutorial sessions per week.
 - d. In order to meet proficiency benchmarks, students may need to enroll in and complete at least one domestic intensive summer language training program.

¹ Superior level based on the ACTFL proficiency scale or Level 3 based on the ILR proficiency scale. For more information see: <https://www.actfl.org/publications/guidelines-and-manuals/actfl-proficiency-guidelines-2012>; <http://www.govtilr.org/skills/ILRscale1.htm>.

Students are encouraged to enroll in the IU Summer Language Workshop² or a similar domestic intensive language program (e.g., Middlebury, Arizona State University, or the University of Pittsburgh). Competitive merit-based Flagship funding will be available for students enrolled in domestic intensive summer language programs. Students should be sure to discuss their summer language study plans with IU Russian Flagship staff, because not all U.S. summer language programs qualify for the Flagship Student Support. (Note, Flagship funding is not comprehensive and does not cover all program costs.)

- e. Students are required to complete at least one 8-week-long intensive overseas Russian-language program that covers the equivalent of one year of language instruction (at the secondary level or above) prior to participating in the Russian Overseas Flagship Capstone Program.

To be qualified for Flagship Student Support, students are encouraged to participate in the Flagship approved overseas program organized by the American Councils for International Education – advanced Russian Language and Area Studies Program (RLASP) in Almaty, Kazakhstan. If the student wants to participate in a different overseas program, they can do so, although they will not be eligible for Flagship funding. Whichever program a student chooses, he or she should consult with IU Russian Flagship staff before making any plans. Note that, due to security restrictions or other factors, some sites may not be available for Flagship students.

- f. Students are required to complete the Russian Overseas Flagship Capstone Program located in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The program is administered by the American Councils for International Education and takes place over the course of one academic year. The Capstone Program provides intensive professional language training as well as professional development in the form of personalized internships.

In order to qualify for the Capstone Program, students must reach advanced proficiency as determined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) – an oral proficiency interview based on the ACTFL scale.

ASSESSMENT:

- 2. Each Russian Flagship student will undergo language proficiency assessments at least twice per academic year. Students enrolled in summer language programs or study abroad programs will be required to undergo additional assessment.
 - a. As part of their continued participation in the IU Russian Flagship Program, students must meet specific language proficiency targets set for each semester or each course of study (e.g., intensive summer programs, study abroad, etc.).

² For more information see: IU Summer Language Workshop <https://languageworkshop.indiana.edu/>

- b. Each student must show steady progress toward meeting established proficiency targets. Students who do not meet proficiency targets may be put on probation or dismissed from the program.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

3. Russian Flagship students are expected to participate in language-immersive activities appropriate to their proficiency levels. Number and type of activities will be determined during the advising meeting with Russian Flagship staff.

ADVISING:

4. Each Russian Flagship student will attend at least one advising meeting per semester with the Russian Flagship advising committee made up of two Flagship staff members (Director, Program Coordinator, or Curriculum Coordinator).

Part II. Funding Opportunities

Students participating in the IU Russian Flagship program are eligible for up to \$20,000 in funding throughout their time as Flagship students. This funding, in the form of scholarships, is merit-based and non-comprehensive. Flagship funding is considered “last-dollar” funding. This means that students are encouraged to seek and apply for other sources funding to finance the Flagship Program. Flagship students are eligible for a number of internal and external scholarships, including, but not limited to: Boren Scholarships, Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies Scholarships, Foreign Language and Area Studies Program Scholarships, Gilman Scholarships, Critical Language Scholarships, IU Foundation Scholarships, IU Honors College Scholarships, Office of Overseas Studies Scholarships, and ROTC Scholarships.

1. Russian Flagship Student Support cannot be used for academic-year domestic study and is only awarded for: (1) the Capstone Year abroad, (2) intensive overseas summer studies offered by the American Councils for International Education - Advanced Russian Language and Area Studies Program (RLASP), and (3) intensive summer Russian language studies at the IU Summer Language Workshop and similar Flagship-approved domestic intensive summer language programs.

Note that other scholarships and awards must supersede the Russian Flagship Student Support; however, Russian Flagship Student Support may be used to supplement other scholarships and awards.

2. Flagship Students must work with the IU Student Financial Aid office to ensure that Flagship Student Support does not cancel or reduce financial aid that the students receive from other sources.
3. Russian Flagship Student Support is only available to students who have been formally admitted to the IU Russian Flagship Program and are registered in the Student Certification System (the National Flagship Database). To be eligible for Flagship Student Support, students have to

demonstrate serious commitment to achieving a professional level of language proficiency; students also have to be in good standing.

4. If a student receives Russian Flagship Student Support, but does not complete the program for which the scholarship was awarded (i.e., the Capstone Year or an intensive summer language program), the student will be responsible for paying back a prorated portion of the Russian Flagship Student Support.
5. Russian Flagship staff will assist students with scholarship applications; however, Flagship students are encouraged to take charge of their own financial well-being and to learn the skills of financial management and grant (and/or award application) writing.

Part III. Russian Flagship Student Conduct

The Russian Flagship is comprised of an elite vanguard of students united by ambition and a commitment to achieving maximum learning outcomes. By electing to join this exclusive group, students promise to work hard, achieve program benchmarks, and abide by the highest ethical standards.

1. In addition to abiding by the *IU Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct*, Russian Flagship students are expected to model proper academic and personal behavior to their peers including: learning practices, discipline, and communication with faculty, tutors, and staff.
2. As budding young professionals, Flagship students are expected to develop self-management skills, to take responsibly for their academic progress, and to independently manage their participation in the program by staying on top of deadlines, meeting requirements, and funding applications.
3. If the above contract requirements are not satisfactorily met, or if a student fails to demonstrate strong academic commitment, good academic and personal behavior, regular attendance and communication with program faculty and staff, such a student may face serious consequences including probation and, depending on the circumstances, immediate dismissal from the program.

Part IV. Student Data

Flagship students consent to their progress being tracked and monitored for the duration of the Flagship Program through registration in the Student Certification System.

Student Certification System Requirement

Students applying for Language Flagship Scholarships are required to complete (or update) a profile in the Student Certification System (SCS), a database managed by the National Security Education Program (NSEP) in the U.S. Department of Defense, which funds the Russian Flagship Program at Indiana University. NSEP uses the SCS to track student enrollments and determine the amount of funding, including funding for Language Flagship Scholarships, to provide for the Russian Flagship Program. **It is extremely important that Russian Flagship students keep their profiles in the Student Certification System up-to-date.**

Russian Flagship students who have not completed a profile in the Student Certification System are not eligible to apply for Language Flagship Scholarships.

If you understand and agree to the policies and conditions stated above, please sign and return this acceptance form to:

**Russian Flagship Program
1039 Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47405**

I have read and accept the above Russian Flagship Program rules and policies. I understand that the goal of the Flagship is to produce professional-level Russian speakers and I am committed to working hard to reach this level of proficiency. I also understand that an integral part of this program is participation in a year-long study abroad program in Kazakhstan, and that I am expected to participate in intensive summer studies and pre-capstone study abroad, as well as co-curricular learning activities.

Signature

Date

Name (please print)