NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF RUSSIAN AND SLAVIC STUDIES

M.A. Program Handbook

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GUIDELINES FOR MASTERS STUDENTS IN NYU’S DEPARTMENT OF RUSSIAN & SLAVIC STUDIES

I. Registration, Course Listings, and Initial Advising

Course registration is done via NYU’s Albert system:
http://www.nyu.edu/registrar/registration/albert-registration.html

See Albert for a full listing of NYU’s course offerings and course locations. List of classes offered in R&SS will be posted each term on the website and on the department bulletin board.

Until you choose a thesis advisor, the Director of Graduate Study (DGS) will advise you on course selection and other issues. Please make an appointment to meet with the DGS in the first month of the term that you enroll.

II. Coursework, Language Requirements, and Incompletes

The M.A. degree requires successful completion of 8 courses (32 points), a prospectus, and a thesis. Students enrolled full-time can expect to complete the degree requirements in three semesters; part-time students may take two years. Students are required to take the following two courses in their first year of study: in fall term, Defining Russia (RUSSN-GA 2121), and in spring term, Grad Research Seminar and Practicum (RUSSN-GA 2137). In extraordinary circumstances, if a student is unable to take the Grad Research Seminar and Practicum in the spring term of their first year, they should contact the DGS to make alternative arrangements.

Students may earn up to 4 of the required 32 points through a research course (RUSSN-GA 3991) with a faculty member who has agreed to oversee the independent study. Any student signing up for RUSSN-GA 3991 must tell the DGS which faculty member is overseeing the research course. This course cannot be taken more than once during the course of graduate study.

With the approval of the DGS, students may earn up to 8 of their 32 credits in courses that are not taught in or cross-listed by the Department of Russian & Slavic Studies (students may also petition for permission to earn more than 8 credits outside of departmental offerings and cross-listings).
Upon beginning the M.A. program, all degree candidates who are not native speakers of Russian must contact Ms. Irina Belodedova, Director of Undergraduate Studies, to arrange for a **Russian language assessment**. Based on this assessment, students will be advised of their proficiency level and their needs. Those who do not achieve the level of Advanced (equivalent to three years of college Russian instruction) will be required to audit the appropriate undergraduate language courses.

Students must plan to begin taking these courses during their first semester in the program so that they will be able to meet the following goals: At the end of their first year students should aim for language proficiency equal to at least four semesters of college Russian. Then, before being granted the M.A., students must attain the level of Advanced in all skills (speaking, oral comprehension, reading and writing).

Students can demonstrate oral and writing proficiency by either (1) Passing Advanced Russian I, II, or III or (2) Passing a departmental oral and written proficiency exam. Students can demonstrate reading proficiency by (1) Passing Reading Contemporary Russian II or (2) Passing a departmental reading proficiency exam. The proficiency exams are administered three times a year by the GSAS or individually arranged, well in advance, with the director of the Russian language program (Ms. Belodedova).

In order to remain in good standing, graduate students must maintain a Grade Point Average of 3.3 (B+) or above.

**Please note that only graduate courses can be taken for credit** (i.e., those with numbers starting with RUSSN-GA). Advanced undergraduate courses can sometimes be audited (for no credit) with permission of instructor.

**A student may have only one grade of Incomplete** on his or her record at any time. NYU regulations stipulate that an unresolved grade ("I" for Incomplete) reverts to "F" one year after the beginning of the semester in which the course was taken, unless an extension of the Incomplete has been approved by the Office of Academic and Student Affairs (for example, an "I" from fall 2018 will become an "F" on the first day of fall term 2019). Students may petition the Department for an extension on the Incomplete for up to one additional calendar year, though this must be done before the grade lapses to "F." For details on these rules see [http://gsas.nyu.edu/about-gsas/policies-and-procedures/policies-and-procedures-manual-and-forms.html](http://gsas.nyu.edu/about-gsas/policies-and-procedures/policies-and-procedures-manual-and-forms.html)

**III. Joint Programs and Concentrations**

a) **Joint M.A. in R&SS and Journalism:**
This is a 42-credit program, with 20 credits being taken in R&SS and 22 in NYU’s Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute, including a 2-credit directed reading for the Masters thesis. In addition to passing the Russian language requirement, students should take the Defining Russia seminar, four electives from R&SS as well as five journalism courses, including Writing, Research, and Reporting I (typically taken in the first semester), Writing, Research, and Reporting II (typically in the third semester) and three electives (at least two of which on reporting), and complete a Masters project. For more information about the proposed two-year curriculum of that program, including internships, obligatory week of media training before the start of
the second semester, and reporting abroad, see http://journalism.nyu.edu/graduate/courses-of-study/global-and-joint-program-studies/curriculum/ or contact global.journalism@nyu.edu.

b) M.A. degree in Russian and Slavic with a concentration in International Relations:
This is a 34-credit program, with 14 credits being undertaken in IR coursework. Students write a jointly supervised M.A. thesis (one advisor from IR and one affiliated with the Department of Russian & Slavic Studies), fulfill the principal requirements for the Russian Studies M.A. (the language requirement, Defining Russia RUSSN-GA 2121, and four other electives), and take the following courses in International Relations: INTRL 1600 Global and International History, INTRL 1700 International Politics: Concepts and Theories, INTRL 4000 M.A. Thesis Seminar (2 credits), and an INTRL elective. For a description of the M.A. program in International Relations, see http://ir.as.nyu.edu/page/graduate or contact the Program’s director, Dr. Michael Williams: mjwilliams@nyu.edu

IV. Prospectus and Thesis

The Prospectus is a 3-4 page single-spaced document, comprising a hypothesis section containing the proposed central argument of the thesis, a table of contents with chapter outlines, a preliminary bibliography, and the names of two readers (whom the student has contacted ahead of time). Students choose two readers and develop a topic in the second semester of study as part of the required course on prospectus-writing (Grad Research Seminar and Practicum, RUSSN-GA 2137). The prospectus is submitted at the end of the semester following a prospectus colloquium (not to be confused with the departmental thesis colloquium, described below). The prospectus colloquium will take place in the final session of RUSSN-GA 2137, with an audience composed of seminar participants and department faculty.

Students working toward a joint M.A. in R&SS and Journalism or a concentration in International Relations International Relations are absolutely welcome, but not required, to take the Grad Research Seminar and Practicum, RUSSN-GA 2137, and/or to submit a prospectus to the DGS.

The M.A. thesis is an original work of scholarship approximately 35-50 pages in length, written under the direction of a departmental faculty member (adviser).

You are responsible for informing the DGS of these choices (readers and topic) by email at the same time as you submit your Thesis Prospectus (i.e., at the end of the spring semester or the second semester at NYU). You are also responsible for setting up a schedule to meet with your adviser so that s/he can help you plan, read drafts, etc.: do not choose an adviser and then disappear!

Finally, you are required to submit a portion of your thesis for workshopping by students and faculty at the departmental thesis colloquium, held approximately a month before the departmental (not GSAS) thesis submission deadline in the semester you are graduating. Plan to pre-circulate your thesis to the full departmental Google Group (russian_full_deptgroup@nyu.edu) no later than a week prior to the announced
colloquium date, to be determined toward the beginning of the semester in which you plan to graduate.

V. Departmental Life: The Jordan Center

Since 2011, the Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia has been the major center of intellectual activity pertaining to the Department of Russian and Slavic Studies, featuring speakers, panels, and events of interest to scholars, students, and members of the general public. The mission of the Center is to make Russia intrinsic to all aspects of scholarly investigation: from history to visual culture, literature to economics, anthropology to politics. Students are expected to attend as many Jordan Center events as possible, familiarizing themselves with cutting-edge scholarship and methodologies as part of their progress to the M.A. degree. To join the Jordan Center mailing list, please contact the Jordan Center Administrator, Joanne Algranati (ja121@nyu.edu).

M.A. students in the Department are in charge of an annual graduate student lecture at which they collectively select, invite, and host an academic speaker. The selection process will take place during the Spring semester with a view to scheduling a speaker in the following Fall. The process will work as follows: graduate students make email pitches for different speakers via the M.A. student Google Group (russian_graduate_studentsgroup@nyu.edu), organize an email vote, and report their selection (a first-choice speaker and two back-up options) to the Jordan Center Administrator and the DGS. Students are subsequently responsible for inviting the speaker, arranging for their travel and housing (with the help of the Jordan Center Administrator), publicizing the talk, introducing the speaker, and coordinating a post-talk dinner.

VI. Registration and Graduation

Leaves of Absence. A student who is obliged to withdraw temporarily for national service, serious illness, or compelling personal reasons may request a leave of absence. If granted, the leave maintains the student’s place in the Graduate School and assures continued enrollment at the end of the period of the leave. Students on leave do not have access to University, GSAS, or department facilities. For complete rules governing leaves of absence, refer to the GSAS Policies and Procedures Manual.

Maintaining Matriculation. Students who have completed their course work may register for MAINT-GA 4747 and pay the matriculation fee (in 2018-2019, $499 per semester) and the registration and services/academic support fees (in 2018-2019, approximately $1,269 for U.S. students and $1,220 for international students) through the semester of their graduation. Payment of the fees entitles students to use the libraries and other research facilities, consult faculty members, and participate in University activities. Waivers of the maintenance of matriculation fees may be available for enrolled doctoral students funded through the MacCracken Program during the term of the award and for four semesters immediately after the award term. A waiver of maintenance of matriculation fees may also be available for students whose graduate program requires a period of absence from the campus for fieldwork or who have a well-documented and extreme financial hardship as a result of

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events beyond a student’s control. For complete rules governing waivers of maintenance of matriculation, please refer to the GSAS Policies and Procedures Manual.

**Graduation.** Degrees are awarded three times a year, in September, January and May. Each date has its own registration deadline, which is *approximately two months before the date when the degree will be awarded*: you are responsible for planning ahead. See the NYU registrar’s website for current deadlines. When you register to graduate, you should check your transcript to ensure that you have earned the correct number of credits and that you have no outstanding Incompletes. Once you have determined your graduation date, apply for graduation through Albert/ the Registrar and let the department (DGS and Administrator) know you have done so.

Be aware that both your readers will need sufficient time before the official departmental deadline to read and approve your thesis, especially if you have not been turning in drafts regularly along the way. Do not expect readers to return a draft immediately to meet a tight deadline. Two weeks before the end of the graduation semester, the approved thesis must be submitted to the Department Administrator.

When applying to graduate, you must give the DGS a cover page for your thesis, which must conform to the example sheet attached here. This is the paper that your adviser and the DGS will sign to approve your thesis.
The Rise and Fall of Valentin Rasputin’s Village Prose Literature

submitted as thesis
(Director: Prof. Eliot Borenstein)

the final requirement for the degree of

Master of Arts

New York University
May 2, 2006

submitted by
Stephanie Sullivan