

RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES, BA

The major in Russian and East European Studies (12 c.u.) offers an interdisciplinary framework for exploring the languages, literatures, cultures, histories, and societies of Russia, Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus, and the Balkan and Baltic regions. Students fulfill the language requirement by studying any language of the region offered at Penn, and the major's flexible structure allows for focused study across different periods, places, and disciplines. Coursework spans the humanities and social sciences, and students are encouraged to incorporate a summer or semester of study abroad to strengthen their language skills and gain firsthand experience in the region. An honors option is available for qualified students pursuing independent research.

The minimum total course units (<https://www.college.upenn.edu/credits-needed-major/>) for graduation in this major is 32. Double majors may entail more course units.

For more information: <https://rees.sas.upenn.edu/undergraduate> (<https://rees.sas.upenn.edu/undergraduate/>)

For information about the General Education requirements, please visit the College of Arts & Sciences Curriculum (<https://www.college.upenn.edu/curriculum/>) page.

Code	Title	Course Units
College General Education Requirements and Free Electives		
Foundational Approaches + Sectors ¹ + Free Electives		20
Language Prerequisite: 4 semesters or equivalent		
Major Requirements ^{2,3,4}		
The REES major currently requires 12 courses beyond the basic language requirement of 4 semesters or equivalent.		
Introductory Core		1
REES 0010	Central and Eastern Europe: Cultures, Histories, Societies	
	or REES 0011 The Power of Language: A Linguistic History of Central and Eastern Europe	
Or, any course numbered REES 0000-0099		
Historical Foundations		1
REES 0100	Portraits of Old Rus: Myth, Icon, Chronicle	
REES 0105	Portraits of Tsarist Russia: Intrigue, Innovation, Institution	
REES 0310	The Rise and Fall of the Russian Empire, 1552-1917	
REES 0311	The Soviet Century, 1917-1991	
REES 1174	National Antiquities: Genealogies, Hagiographies, Holy Objects	
Or, any course with attribute REES Historical Foundations		
Attribute: ARHF (http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/arhf/)		
Literary Traditions		1
REES 0110	Portraits of Russian Society: Art, Fiction, Drama	
REES 0190	Russia and the West	

REES 0410	Masterpieces of 19th-Century Russian Literature	
REES 0411	First-Year Seminar: Masterpieces of 19th-Century Russian Literature	
REES 0430	Masterpieces of 20th-Century Russian Literature	
REES 0471	Russian Short Story	
REES 0478	Banned Books: Writing Against Censorship	
Any course with attribute REES Literary Traditions		
Attribute: ARLT (http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/arlt/)		
Modern Culture		1
REES 0130	Portraits of Soviet Society: Literature, Film, Drama	
REES 0131	Putin's Russia: Culture, Society and History	
REES 0240	Russian and East European Art and Cinema since 1900	
REES 0270	Russian History in Film	
REES 1173	Russian Modernism: Art, Life, and Culture	
Any course with attribute REES Modern Culture		
Attribute: ARMC (http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/armc/)		
Social Thought		1
REES 1172	Marx, Marxism, and the Culture of Revolution	
REES 1530	Communism	
REES 1531	Socialism	
REES 1631	Anarchism: Theories and Ethnographies	
REES 1680	Sex and Socialism	
Any course with attribute REES Social Thought		
Attribute: ARSO (http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/arso/)		
Electives ^{3,5}		7
Select 7 Electives		
Any course numbered REES 0000-4999		
Any course numbered RUSS 1000-4999		
Any course with attribute REES Elective		
Attribute: ARNE (http://catalog.upenn.edu/attributes/arne/)		
Total Course Units		32

¹ You may count no more than one course toward both a Major and a Sector requirement. For Exceptions, check the Policy Statement (<http://www.college.upenn.edu/sectors-policy/>).

² Students must receive a grade of C+ or above in a course for it to count toward a core requirement or elective in the REES major.

³ Up to 4 c.u. from study abroad and/or summer programs may be counted toward the REES major. An additional 2 c.u. may be approved, under rare circumstances and only with advance permission, for students who devote more than one semester/summer toward such programs. All external credit is subject to approval by the Undergraduate Chair.

⁴ Only students who receive a final grade of A in REES 4998: Honors Thesis will be recognized with honors in the major in REES.

⁵ Subject to approval by the Undergraduate Chair, language courses in any regional language may be counted as electives toward the REES major if they are not already counted toward the language prerequisite.

Honors

Applicants must have a minimum overall 3.3 and a GPA of 3.6 in the major.

Code	Title	Course Units
REES 4998	Honors Thesis ⁴	1

The degree and major requirements displayed are intended as a guide for students entering in the Fall of 2025 and later. Students should consult with their academic program regarding final certifications and requirements for graduation.