



## **NSLI-Y Russian Academic Year 2011-2012 Program Description Implemented by American Councils for International Education**



**Target Language:** Russian

**Program Location:** Kazan, Russia

**Program Implementer:**  
American Councils for International Education

**Overseas Host Institution:**  
Kazan Technological University, Kazan, Russia

**Accommodations:** Host Families

**Pre-Departure Orientation:**  
Washington, DC, immediately before  
international departure

**Program Dates:**  
Mid August 2011 to early June 2012

**Target Language Instruction:**  
15 hours per week

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### **Program Overview**

The NSLI-Y Russian Academic Year 2011-2012 Program implemented by American Councils seeks to rapidly increase students' Russian vocabulary and their ability to communicate with confidence in the target language. This is done by improving participants' Russian in the following four language skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening. These four language skills are developed through classroom instruction, other selected classes taught in the target language, cultural presentations and activities, volunteer work, and host family stays. Language classes provide an authentic and safe environment for students to extensively study Russian. Classroom instruction is supplemented by various cultural activities coordinated by the host institution and the Resident Director. Special attention is placed on immersion opportunities for participants to interact with their Russian peers.

### **Living Arrangements/Participant Support and Supervision**

Participants live with host families during the academic year program. Host families live within reasonable commuting distance from the school. Participants are supported by a bilingual Resident Director who lives in the host community and provides support and supervision to the students throughout the program. Other accommodations, such as hotels or dormitories, are provided during overnight excursions away from the host community. Students are provided with cell phones for emergency use.

### **Textbooks and Materials**

The host institution carefully chooses textbooks according to their academic group's level of Russian. Textbooks are supplemented with authentic and current language materials, which may include short stories, newspaper articles, radio listening exercises, DVD movies, or other relevant materials in Russian. Prior to departure from the United States, beginner learners are required to complete a two-step online course which introduces them to the Cyrillic alphabet, helps them learn how to read Russian, and teaches conversational words and phrases.

### **Language Assessment**

NSLI-Y is a rigorous language learning experience. In order to maintain good standing in the program, all participants are required to complete language assessments at key intervals and as requested by American Councils. Participants are also required to take tests, quizzes and other assessments as part of the in-country program. Participants may be asked to take one or more language tests prior to program assignment. Failure to complete this or other language assessments may result in the cancellation of the scholarship.

### **Cultural Activities**

The program includes three types of cultural activities: cultural presentations and activities, volunteer projects, and self-guided exploration. All cultural activities are coordinated with language classes as much as possible in order to further strengthen students' vocabulary and at the same time offer an understanding of Russian contemporary society, culture, history and environment. Volunteer projects provide practical and real life

opportunities for students to use their Russian language skills and interact directly with the local community. In coordination with their Resident Director and host institution, students visit places of interest in their host city to further complement their language study.

**Final Project**

Participants are required to develop and complete an independent study project on a topic of their own choosing, focusing on aspects of local history or culture. Projects are evaluated on a pass/fail scale at the end of the program by the Resident Director, teachers and other American Councils staff.

*Please keep in mind that program details may be subject to change.*