

Welcome to REECAS!

The Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies (REECAS) Program at the University of Washington, founded in 1947, is one of the oldest and most distinguished programs of its kind in the country. In a period of continuing and unpredictable geopolitical change, REECAS defines as its mission the promotion of in-depth interdisciplinary study of all major postcommunist subregions — Eastern and Central Europe, the Baltic region, the Caucasus, Central Asia and Russia — in order to understand the legacies of the imperial and communist past as well as to analyze the emerging institutions and identities that will shape Eurasia's future. This mission is strongly and actively supported by the UW administration. We are able to provide a foundation for serious research on the region by offering regular instruction in 14 regional languages, including several that are often unavailable elsewhere. With over 50 participating faculty members in the humanities, the social sciences and several professional schools, REECAS represents an unparalleled resource for students who are interested in the societies, languages and cultures of central Eurasia. Through a commitment to historical understanding, innovative teaching and interdisciplinary research, we strive to further contemporary scholarship and to educate students about this crucial region of the world.

STEPHEN E. HANSON
BOEING INTERNATIONAL PROFESSOR
DIRECTOR AND CHAIR



Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies
Jackson School of International Studies
University of Washington
203B Thomson, Box 353650
Seattle, WA 98195-3650

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA
Permit No. 62



MA Program
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

The Master of Arts Degree in Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies involves interdisciplinary study, which allows students a great deal of flexibility in designing a course of study to meet varying career goals calling for area expertise.

Each student's program combines instruction in at least one language with interdisciplinary training.



The REECAS MA program ordinarily lasts two years and is designed (1) to provide a terminal degree for students preparing for careers in government, non-governmental organizations, journalism, business or teaching at the pre-college level; and (2) to provide area training for students wishing to pursue a PhD degree.

The curriculum, which is especially strong in the social sciences, history, languages and cultures, encompasses courses in sixteen departments, two programs, four schools and three colleges. Independent study may be arranged to do work in other fields, such as international health or



communications, where there may be no regularly offered area courses.

Language instruction is offered in Russian through the advanced level, in all three Baltic languages, and in most modern languages of East Europe and Central Asia. Students can also arrange independent study in relevant languages that are not offered regularly. Intensive programs offer the opportunity to do a full year's language work during summer quarter.

Required courses

SISRE 501/Introductory Research, Methodology and Bibliography (5 credits)

This course introduces the history of the REECAS region, bibliographic and other scholarly resources in the field as well as the development of research techniques. It emphasizes critical thinking skills, methods of accessing and evaluating information over the broad range of disciplines encompassed by the interdisciplinary major, hands-on acquaintance with resources; and critical evaluation and discussion of analytical writing.

SISRE 502 - 503/Thesis Seminar (2 credits each quarter)

This two-part thesis seminar in the second year of study will help students to develop their thesis topics, allowing them to benefit from peer review.



Other coursework

Twenty-five to thirty credits divided between a major (minimum of 15) and a minor discipline (minimum of 10). While students normally focus their studies on one major geographical region, the program provides the flexibility to take

courses on other regions as well. Typically, the choice of disciplines would include history, economics, geography, political science or literature and culture.

Language

Including the two years of languages required for admission, students must complete four years of relevant study (or equivalent proficiency). Students focusing on Russia will be expected to complete 4 years of Russian. Students focusing on East Europe or Central Asia and

studying an area language for which the fourth year of instruction is unavailable may complete the requirement by taking another relevant area language.

Students must also use sources in the language(s) of the REECA-region in drafting their thesis.

Thesis and oral exam

At the end of their course of study, students will submit an original thesis and take an inter-disciplinary oral exam. The oral exam will be devoted to questions about the thesis as well as a general examination of major and minor disciplines.



Special thanks to Daniel Waugh, Lisa Mangum and Marta Mikkelsen for photographs.

Please visit the Ellison Center website for additional information about the MA program, entrance requirements, financial assistance and upcoming events.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please call or email the REECAS program.



The Ellison Center, a National Resource Center funded by the Title VI Program of the US Department of Education, enriches the REECAS MA experience through its vast array of event and publication offerings as well as its employment and fellowship opportunities.