

SAINT PETERSBURG, RUSSIA



2010 Dates and Fees:

- January 25 - February 19, 2010
- May 24 - June 18, 2010
- August 9 - September 3, 2010
- October 4 - 29, 2010

St. Petersburg Course Fee: EUR 1200 / The price of the course including tuition (invitation fee, meeting service, postage expenses, course materials)

Accommodation: EUR 380 - Bed and Breakfast with a Russian family for 4 weeks (single room)

Russia established worldwide power and influence from the times of the Russian Empire to being the largest and leading constituent of the Soviet Union, the world's first and largest constitutionally socialist state and a recognized superpower. The nation can boast a long tradition of excellence in every aspect of the arts and sciences. The Russian Federation was founded following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, but is recognized as the continuing legal personality of the Soviet Union. It has one of the world's fastest growing major economies.

The St Petersburg centre is located in the heart of the city, near the Winter Palace, Square and the Hermitage. A great variety of cultural, shopping and entertainment facilities are at hand.

St Petersburg is quite rightly known throughout the world for its beauty and culture. So unlike the Russian cities that came before it, with its strict geometric lines and an elegance reminiscent of Europe's most alluring capitals, St. Petersburg is in many ways Russia's adopted child: too European to be Russian, and yet too Russian to be European. Built on more than a hundred islands in the NEA Delta linked by canals and arched bridges, it is often called the "northern Venice," and its elegant embankments are reminiscent of those of Paris. The city's focal point is the Admiralty; its most-visited attraction, a stone's throw away, the Winter Palace. Three major avenues radiate outward from the Admiralty: Nevsky Prospect (St. Petersburg's main shopping street), Gorokhovaya Ulitsa, and Voznesensky Prospect.

However there is much more to the city than this. There is a huge variety of cultural and non-cultural entertainment, all of which is available on a limited budget. The food and transportation in the city are relatively inexpensive.

Whilst it should be stated that the standards of accommodation are considerably more basic than those found in Western Europe & Northern America, apartments are always clean and spacious and conveniently located near the metro. Alternatively, you could be placed with a Russian family (single room with breakfast for the same price).

TEFL Training Center:

In St Petersburg the CTEFL courses are run in cooperation with the Benedict School - the biggest and most popular language school in the city.

Survival Russian Lessons are also provided as part of the package, as well as airport greeting and transfer, all course materials and social program

Teaching English in Russia:

As there are many openings here for newly qualified teachers St Petersburg is the perfect place for taking a TEFL course.

For a growing number of young Russians, English is the key to a better job and a ticket to a new life abroad, hence the EFL boom. Oil, tourism, and services outsourcing are among the major industries where good English is essential.

Private English language schools abound, capitalizing on the inadequacies of the state education system. Most of the schools employ a mix of local and native-speaker teachers. Demand for the latter is so high that even all teachers are overloaded with work.



The Importance of English in Russia:

The demand for English in business is particularly high. Private schools usually send teachers to the clients' place of business. The ability to discuss business comfortably is essential. Native speakers are especially scarce in the cold winter months when the seasonal "tourist teachers" go home. Keeping an eye out for opportunities will pay dividends. Employment possibilities for native English speakers are not just confined to teaching. Proofreading and editing are not necessarily well paid jobs, but they can usually be done from the comfort of home, provided you have a computer. Networking is important, and anything that expands your base of contacts is worth trying.

Russia is not the easiest place for foreigners to work, but with a taste for adventure and some ambition, the possibilities are limited only by your imagination.

Food and Clothing:

St. Petersburg weather is COLD, so dress accordingly -- down coat, hat, gloves and possibly long johns. Waterproof boots are a must; the streets are muddy even if it's not snowing. Dress conservatively; bright colors will really make you stand out. The climate of St. Petersburg is classified as "humid continental" of the cool summer subtype. Summertime is usually cool, humid and short while winters are long and cold but with frequent warm spells. The month of July sees average temperatures of 22°C (72°F) with the highest temperatures reaching 34°C (94°F). Wintertime sees minimum temperature averages of -27°C (-17°F) with the lowest ever recorded as -35.9°C (-33°F). The city of St. Petersburg sees somewhat slightly warmer temperatures than the suburbs with varying weather conditions year-round with an average of 165 overcast days out of the entire year.



Nothing, absolutely nothing, tastes better than hot Russian crepes with caviar, mushrooms, caramel, berries, or what have you with a cup of tea on a cold winter street. Meals are the responsibility of the participant. Affordable meals may be purchased throughout the city of St. Petersburg at very reasonable prices. Russian cuisine is derived from the vast number of cultures contained within its (Russia's) expansive borders. With Eastern cooking methods (derived from the country's close proximity to the Silk Road) and staples such as fish, poultry, game, mushrooms, berries and honey with various breads supplemented by crops of rye, wheat, barley and millet (also serving as the basis for pancakes, cereals, kvass, beer and vodka), the country's flavorful soups and stews are the perfect defense against Russia's often-harsh climate. A variety of soups (both hot and cold) grace numerous, Russian dinner tables as well as various meat-based dishes (using any and all kinds of meat).

Saint Petersburgers know how to party. There is a wide and excellent selection of great clubs that will satisfy all tourists looking to spend the night out. The city hosts clubs of all music. Rock, pop, jazz, hip hop/RnB, and a lot more.

Climate:

St Petersburg's climate is mild, though unpredictable. Winters are cold, with freezing winds and snowfall, and temperatures average about 9°F to 10°F (-13°C to -1 2°C) in January and February (the coldest months), sometimes dropping lower. June to August is usually the warmest time of year, though temperatures are still relatively low and average in the mid-60s Fahrenheit (about 20°C). Summer tends to be the most popular time to travel to St Petersburg.

Accommodation:

Via Lingua is able to provide accommodation for teacher trainees at a very low price at the Benedict School Hostel. This will typically consist of a 3 room apartment shared with 2 or 3 other trainees. Whilst it should be stated that the standards of accommodation are considerably more basic than those found in Western Europe & Northern America, apartments are always clean and spacious and conveniently located near the metro. Alternatively, you could be placed with a Russian family (single room with breakfast).

Communication, Telephone and Internet:

Using your mobile phone from home in Russia: Russian mobile companies use two standards GSM (European standard) and CDMA (American standard). To use your existing cell phone in Russia, check out which standard it is operating in. GSM is far more popular in Russia and all the leading national operators use it in their networks. CDMA is used only by several local providers (in Moscow and St.Petersburg), so your phone will not work outside of these cities. Besides the problems you might find with your phone standard, your existing mobile might also be locked by your service provider. This will prevent you from being able to replace your old phone number with a new Russian SIM card. However, some telecoms shops can unlock it for a \$10-20 fee. You can go to Internet cafes to get access to the Web. They can be easily found, by walking down the street or by looking them up in the yellow pages. They are usually open 24 hours a day and offer many additional services like scanning and saving data. 1 hour of connection usually costs about \$1-\$2 US dollars.

Excursions and Cultural Highlights:

With the possible exception of the Louvre, there is no museum in the world that rivals the Hermitage in size and quality. Its collection is so large that it would take years to view it in its entirety--at last count, there were nearly three million works on exhibit. The museum is especially strong in Italian Renaissance and French Impressionist paintings, as well as possessing outstanding collections of works by Rembrandt, Picasso, and Matisse. Visitors should also take advantage of its excellent Greek and Roman antiquities collection and its exhibits of Siberian and Central Asian art. Not least among the attractions of the Hermitage is the museum itself, with its fine interior decoration and architectural detail. As the Hermitage is so enormous, its collection so strong and diverse, and its interior so attractive in its own right, many visitors find that the very best way to tour the museum is to make several briefer visits rather than one frenetic and exhausting marathon tour. While there is much to be gained by simply allowing the curiosity of one's eye to take at least occasional precedence over a list of works and collections dictated by a guidebook or even a guide.

The origins of the Hermitage can be traced back to the private art collection of Peter the Great, who purchased numerous works during his travels abroad and later hung them in his residence. Catherine the Great expanded the collection considerably, and she and her successors built the Hermitage collection in large part with purchases of the private collections of the Western European aristocracy and monarchy. By the time Nicholas II ascended the throne in 1894, he was heir to the greatest collection of art in Europe.

After the Revolution of 1917, the museum was opened to the public, and its collection was further augmented by the addition of modern works taken from private collections. Today, the Hermitage has

embarked on a major renovation effort. Its collection is in the process of being reorganized, and many of its works have for the first time become available for traveling exhibits outside of the country.

The Winter Palace

The Winter Palace is undoubtedly the most famous building of imperial St. Petersburg, not only as the residence of the Tsars and the backdrop for the 1905 and 1917 Revolutions, but also as the home of the Hermitage, the world's largest museum of art.

The present structure, completed in 1762 and designed by Bartolomeo Rastrelli, was commissioned by the Empress Elizabeth. Its opulent baroque facade, stretching two hundred meters, is a veritable cornucopia of pilasters, bays, and statuary. The palace served as the winter residence for every ruler of Russia since Peter III, who installed himself there along with his mistress, the Countess Vorontsova. After his wife Catherine the Great seized the throne, she redecorated and appropriated her husband's old quarters. While her son Nicholas I lived in a modest apartment there, his wife Alexandra commissioned the famously luxurious Malachite Room, later to be used as the meeting place for Kerensky's Provisional Government. Nicholas II had his quarters immediately above this room until 1904, when he moved from the increasingly discontented capital to Tsarskoe Selo. In July of 1917, the Provisional Government took up residence here, thus setting the stage for the October Revolution. After consolidating its power, the Bolshevik government transferred its capital to Moscow, and since that time the Winter Palace has been associated primarily with its role as the Hermitage Museum.



Special Offers:

Via Lingua has announced the first annual "**Ernestine Moore**" **Scholarship Award** to be offered to a deserving candidate in 2009 to any of the Via Lingua locations for a one-month intensive TEFL Course, including Free Job Placement! Ernestine Moore was a lifelong advocate of education and worked tirelessly to promote educational opportunities for children and young adults. Through her personal and professional advocacy in the field of Social Work and Children's Rights she had a lasting contribution to her field and all those around her. She lived and practiced Service Learning. The author of the widely adopted college textbook "Child Welfare and Family Services: Policies and Practice", Ernestine was a staunch supporter of Via Lingua and its dedication to global learning and multicultural understanding for all ages.

Double-up discount

Book together with a friend for the same course and you can both claim a 100 EUR discount on the advertised price. Offer applies to all course dates and locations. We can also arrange for you to share the same accommodation if required.

Our school has a long history of working with young learners and we are therefore able to offer an additional day, at the end of the course, when we introduce you to teaching materials and strategies for use with this age-group.