

Russian - Language and Culture

Lecturer: Sara Mazzucchelli

Language

English

Course description and objectives

This course is intended for beginners and provides basic knowledge in both spoken and written Russian, as well as an introduction to some key aspects of Russian culture.

Students will acquire basic language skills, including reading and writing using the Cyrillic alphabet, and understanding and producing simple oral and written texts in everyday contexts. The course also offers an overview of selected topics in Russian culture.

Audience

The course is open to all Bocconi students.

Prerequisites

No prior knowledge of the language is required.

Duration

30 hours

Teaching mode

The course will be only taught in person. Online mode will not be provided.

Calendar

Lecture	Date	Time	Room
1	Wed 17/09/2025	18:15 - 19:45	204 (Sarfatti)
2	Fri 19/09/2025	16.30 - 18.00	204 (Sarfatti)
3	Wed 24/09/2025	18:15 - 19:45	204 (Sarfatti)
4	Fri 26/09/2025	16.30 - 18.00	204 (Sarfatti)

5	Fri 03/10/2025	16.30 - 18.00	204 (Sarfatti)
6	Fri 10/10/2025	16.30 - 18.00	204 (Sarfatti)
7	Fri 31/10/2025	16.30 - 18.00	204 (Sarfatti)
8	Fri 07/11/2025	16.30 - 18.00	204 (Sarfatti)
9	Sat 08/11/2025	9.30 - 11.00	204 (Sarfatti)
10	Fri 14/11/2025	16.30 - 18.00	204 (Sarfatti)
11	Sat 15/11/2025	9.30 - 11.00	204 (Sarfatti)
12	Fri 21/11/2025	16.30 - 18.00	204 (Sarfatti)
13	Fri 28/11/2025	16.30 - 18.00	204 (Sarfatti)
14	Tue 02/12/2025	18:15 - 19:45	204 (Sarfatti)
15	Fri 05/12/2025	14.45 - 16.15	204 (Sarfatti)

Syllabus of the course

Unit	Communicative Skills and Functions	Linguistic contents	Cultural contents
I	Introducing oneself and talking about personal information; professions. Developing phonetic awareness. Recognizing and writing printed Cyrillic letters.	The alphabet; phonetic and orthographic rules: vowel reduction, hard and soft consonants, voiced and voiceless consonants. Personal pronouns in the nominative case (subject forms).	The Cyrillic alphabet: origin and reforms. Greetings and polite expressions. Introduction to transliteration.
II	Asking questions: Who is it? – What is it?; Do you speak Russian?; foreign languages.	First and second conjugation verbs: infinitive and present tense of regular verbs. Negative and interrogative forms. Absence of the verb “to be” in present tense.	Russian and other Slavic languages. Formal and informal speech. Russian naming system: first name, patronymic, and surname; formation and use of diminutives.

III	At the airport; Places. Numbers from 1 to 20. Short guided writing exercises: composition of simple sentences.	Noun gender. Introduction to noun declension and grammatical cases. Strong and weak endings; Spelling rules: the Seven- Letter Rule. Plural forms of nouns.	Space and territory. Moscow: the capital, its history and spatial dimension (synchronic and diachronic perspectives). Culture and Everyday life: Russian grade system.
IV	Where is it?; where have you been?; expressing possession.	Prepositional case, endings and uses. Possessives "My". The past tense of the verb "to be"; the verb "to live."	Culture and perception of space and time in Russia. Saint Petersburg: Peter the Great and the founding of the new capital.
V	Food and drinks. Apologizing. Listening practice: short audio and video clips with slow natural speech.	The verbs "to eat" and "to drink"; distinction between animate and inanimate nouns. Accusative case of inanimate nouns: endings and usage.	Culture and daily life: the Russian school system; food, drinks, and meals. Introduction to F. Dostoevsky and his role in 19th-century Russian literature.
VI	Weather and climate. Asking "When?"; parts of the day.	Past tense of regular verbs; complements of time (with parts of the day). The future tense: compound form – usage and formation.	Introduction to L. Tolstoy and his major works. Culture and everyday life: the "dacha".

Suggested bibliography

Information on the bibliography and adopted materials will be provided during the lessons.

Available seats

This activity is limited to **110** participants. Registrations cannot be carried out once this number has been reached or after closing of the registration period.