

Russian - Language and Culture

Lecturer: Sara Mazzucchelli

Language

English

Course description and objectives

This course is designed for beginners and introduces students to the fundamentals of spoken and written Russian, while providing insight into selected aspects of Russian culture.

Particular attention is devoted to the Cyrillic alphabet, pronunciation and reading skills during the first weeks of the course, providing a solid foundation for subsequent grammatical and communicative development.

By the end of the course, students will be able to read and write using the Cyrillic alphabet and communicate in simple everyday situations through basic spoken and written Russian. They will also become familiar with selected aspects of Russian culture and society.

The syllabus below outlines the main topics and language contents covered during the course. The sequence and scope of individual topics may be adjusted according to the pace of the class and the students' learning needs.

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 16/09/2026	18.15 - 19.45	302 (Sarfatti)
2	Fri 18/09/2026	16.30 - 18.00	302 (Sarfatti)
3	Fri 25/09/2026	16.30 - 18.00	302 (Sarfatti)
4	Fri 02/10/2026	16.30 - 18.00	302 (Sarfatti)
5	Fri 09/10/2026	16.30 - 18.00	302 (Sarfatti)
6	Fri 16/10/2026	16.30 - 18.00	302 (Sarfatti)
7	Fri 30/10/2026	16.30 - 18.00	302 (Sarfatti)
8	Fri 06/11/2026	16.30 - 18.00	302 (Sarfatti)
9	Fri 13/11/2026	16.30 - 18.00	302 (Sarfatti)
10	Fri 20/11/2026	16.30 - 18.00	302 (Sarfatti)
11	Fri 27/11/2026	14.45 - 16.15	33 (Sarfatti)
12	Fri 27/11/2026	16.30 - 18.00	33 (Sarfatti)
13	Tue 01/12/2026	18.15 - 19.45	302 (Sarfatti)
14	Fri 04/12/2026	14.45 - 16.15	33 (Sarfatti)
15	Fri 04/12/2026	16.30 - 18.00	33 (Sarfatti)

Syllabus of the course

Unit	Communicative Topics	Language and Cultural Contents
I	Greetings and introductions. Exchanging personal information.	The Cyrillic alphabet, pronunciation and basic transliteration conventions. Basic reading and writing skills. Personal pronouns and simple sentence structure. Introduction to Russian language and the slavic languages.
II	Asking and answering simple questions. Talking about languages, nationality and professions.	Present tense of common verbs. Basic interrogative and negative forms. Formal and informal address. Russian naming conventions and cultural etiquette.

III	Talking about people, everyday objects and places. Numbers and simple descriptions.	Gender and number of nouns. Introduction to the Russian case system and declension. Basic vocabulary for everyday communication. Selected aspects of Russian geography and history.
IV	Talking about locations and possession. Talking about daily life.	Introduction to selected grammatical cases and common prepositions. Expressing possession. Vocabulary and expressions for everyday communication. Cultural aspects of Russian cities and daily life.
V	Talking about food and drinks. Eating out.	Vocabulary related to food and meals. Introduction to the accusative case. Listening and short guided speaking activities. Russian food culture and traditions.
VI	Talking about the weather and past and future events.	Introduction to the past and future tenses. Time expressions. Review and consolidation of the main language structures covered during the course. Selected aspects of Russian literature.

Suggested bibliography

Ja ljublju russkij jazyk. Я Люблю Русский язык. I love Russian. For Beginners. A1. Liden & Denz, 2025

Available seats

The course will be activated subject to a minimum number of participants. Participation is limited to **110** places. Registration will no longer be possible once this limit has been reached or after the registration period has closed. Registration may be cancelled exclusively through the yoU@B Diary no later than the registration deadline for the course.