

Russian Immersion

Christine Tsai suggests destinations to learn the language of Tolstoy

Russia, also known as the Russian Federation, is a transcontinental country extending across Eurasia. Made up of 46 provinces and 21 republics, Russia is the largest country in the world, and consists of more than 142 million people who nearly all speak Russian. While Russian is the official state language, there are currently 27 co-official native languages throughout the republics.

As Russia is such a vast country, students have many options as to where they can learn the language, but the majority of schools are based in Moscow and St. Petersburg. Moscow, the capital of Russia, is a vibrant and dynamic city where students can visit Red Square or the Kremlin. The Kremlin, which has always been perceived as a symbol of power and might of the Russian state with the national idea expressed in stone, stands high on the hill towering over the left bank of Moskva River.

St. Petersburg boasts of 342 bridges to pass over its 800 canals, rivers, and lakes. Here, students will be overwhelmed by architectural monuments, such as the Peter & Paul Fortress, the Decembrists' Square with the monument of Peter the Great, St. Isaac's Cathedral, and Isaakiyevskaya Square. This is also home to the largest fountain in the world, the Grand Cascade, which is just one of 200 fountains located throughout the city.

Founded in 1994, **ALM Co. Ltd.** in St.

Petersburg provides Russian language courses for foreigners, teaching training, and English language courses. Not only does ALM offer Russian language courses for visitors, but it also provides visa invitations, excursions, and family homestays. Because the company has both foreign and Russian administrators, both international students and teachers find themselves in a very friendly atmosphere.

With eight locations throughout Russia, **AMBergh Education** is a Swedish company that works in association with major universities and language schools in Russia to offer a wide range of courses and support to individuals or groups. Whether the student is at the beginner, intermediate, or advanced level, AMBergh Education can find courses that will suit each student's needs. Students are also able to take part in excursion and sightseeing programs to get better acquainted with the different regions of Russia.

The Derzhavin Institute in St. Petersburg is officially accredited by the Russian Department of Education and Science and recognized by the Russian Association of Teachers for Russian Language and Literature whose main purpose is the dissemination of Russia language abroad through seminars and conferences. The Derzhavin Institute provides a variety of Russian language programs for foreign students of all levels of language profi-

ciency and backgrounds. Apart from standard courses, the institute provides tailor-made programs, such as Russian for Law Students, Russian and Russian Folklore, and Russian and Literature.

Lessons are held in dynamic, innovative classrooms with a maximum of eight students per group. The students are divided into groups according to the level of their language proficiency. Ten carefully graded language levels, from beginner to advanced, allow for the accurate placement in groups. The experienced and friendly staff of native-speakers can help students with their visa application, accommodation, bank account, and any other requests.

Situated in the center of St. Petersburg, **Educentre** prides itself on its ability to deal with the student's individual needs. The school offers both standard and intensive courses in groups or on an individual basis, ranging from 20 to 30 hours a week. The Full Immersion Course combines 30 hours of classroom teaching with 10 hours of practical language

