California State University, Northridge (CSUN) is offering an exceptional opportunity to college students to develop foreign language skills in Russian. Students who take advantage of this program will gain cross-cultural experience that will give them a competitive edge in today's growing international business community. We encourage you to join us for the STARTALK Russian Language & Culture Immersion Program at California State University, Northridge.

Program Faculty and Level of Proficiency

The STARTALK Russian Language & Culture Immersion Program faculty consists of enthusiastic native-speakers, with strong pedagogical skills and experience in immersion program work. Students will be integrated into a rigorous academic environment that will enhance their speaking, reading, listening and writing skills in Modern Russian. Instruction will be provided at the following levels:

**Beginning Russian:**
Students with no previous language study or with no more than one semester of study.

**Intermediate Russian:**
One year or two semesters of Russian language study.

**Advanced Russian:**
Two years or four semesters of Russian language study.

Selected participants will be tested to determine the exact level of their proficiency and placed in appropriate learning cohorts. Those admitted must commit to fully apply themselves to the program and to follow it to completion. Participants pledge to speak exclusively in Russian throughout the program.

Contact Information

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For additional information, and to access the application, please visit our website:

http://www.csun.edu/humanities/startalk
Program Objectives and Overview

Funded by the National Security Language Initiative, the STARTALK Russian Language & Culture Immersion Program at California State University, Northridge, seeks to provide an intensive language and cultural learning experience to students through a standards-based and thematically organized curriculum. Target language is used exclusively for instruction along with the use of authentic materials and technology. Student-centered communicative activities are used to engage students in the process of active learning during contact hours. There are benchmarks for each unit to assess the development of the students’ communicative abilities through a variety of performance-based assessments, both written and oral.

The program focuses on blending the process of language learning with enhancing students’ cultural awareness. Thus, in addition to instruction, the program incorporates a variety of cultural components which are considered to be an integral part of students’ cultural learning experiences. These events include: Russian guest speakers, Russian cuisine classes, several field trips to the Russian enclaves of the Greater Los Angeles, LA County Museum of Art as well as Russian lunches and exposure to the Russian Folk Music. Field trips involving visits to the local Russian communities will provide real world communicative practice.

STARTALK Russian Language & Culture Immersion Program is a 5-week residential summer program during which (Monday through Friday) students receive 3 hours of in-class language instruction in the morning and 2 hours in the afternoon. In addition, students participate in planned cultural and sporting activities and field trips in the target language in the evenings and weekends. Students’ cultural awareness is fostered through a series of lectures by guest speakers-experts on various aspects of Russian culture.

Housing and Accommodation

STARTALK Russian Language & Culture Immersion Program participants will reside on the student housing campus (15 min. walk from the main campus) for the duration of the program in two bedroom suites (two students per bedroom), which include spacious bathrooms, full kitchens, balconies, Wi-Fi, and access to recreational facilities (swimming pools, basketball courts, and a sand volleyball court). In addition to the housing complex facilities, students will have access to the food, sporting and library facilities) on the main campus. These will include: cafeteria, cafes, state-of-the-art gym, swimming pool and library. For more information on student housing, see: http://housing.csun.edu/

Semester Units Available

Upon completion of the program, students may be eligible to receive 6 credit units.

For students who wish to receive credit units for their summer study at CSUN, the following fees apply:

- For non-CSUN students, it is $396 per unit.
- For enrolled CSUN students, it is $307 per unit.

(Fees subject to change.)