Bowdoin College’s Summer Russian Language Learning Award

Application Deadline: January 25, 2019

This is a pilot program for summer 2019 that we hope will be able to continue in the future, pending funding. Thanks to the generosity of a loyal Bowdoin family, the College anticipates making one award for summer 2019 of up to $5,000. Funding from this award must be used to defray expenses the student incurs related to travel to and participation in an intensive Russian language study program. Preference will be given to programs conducted in Russia, but high-quality programs located in the U.S. or the countries of the former Soviet Union are also eligible. This award is intended to support immersive summer language study that will allow the recipient to reach or exceed advanced-level Russian proficiency by graduation.

Eligibility. First-years, sophomores, and juniors may apply; current seniors are ineligible. Only programs that have a major focus on Russian language study (at least 20 instructional hours in the language per week) are eligible for funding by this award. Preference will be given to students (1) who have already demonstrated a commitment to learning Russian, (2) who have not previously lived in Russia and do not plan to do so during academic year study abroad, (3) who wish to spend time in Russia, (4) who plan to participate in a summer program lasting six weeks or longer, (5) who have financial need, and (6) whose proposed summer study will allow them to reach or exceed advanced-level language proficiency by graduation.

How to Apply. Potential applicants should download the linked application coversheet, which contains detailed instructions for how to apply for this award.

Please be reminded that Bowdoin’s Honor Code applies to the fellowship application process. Additionally, applicants should be aware that the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs is involved with the campus review process. Students with serious social or academic violations, such as those that are included as part of their permanent record at Bowdoin, are advised to consult with the Professor Gillespie early in the process. Students may also consult with their dean for guidance.
Bowdoin College’s Summer Russian Language Learning Award
Application Cover Sheet

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Application Procedure:
To apply for this award, please submit two hard copies of the following materials to Professor Gillespie (12 Sills Hall):

☐ This completed application cover sheet

☐ A printout of your unofficial academic history from Polaris

☐ A detailed budget, listing all estimated expenses and a justification for each; if your budget exceeds $5,000, please provide any information you can about how you would make up the cost difference

☐ An explanation (up to two single-spaced pages) of your rationale for intensive summer Russian language study, including the following required information:
  • how your summer study plans fit with your intellectual interests, and how this experience will enhance your overall academic trajectory and long-term goals;
  • why you chose the particular program you are applying to, including as many specifics about your plans as possible (e.g., whether you will do a homestay, what courses you hope to take, how the program offerings and location will advance your knowledge of Russian language and culture)
  • any other previous or planned study away experiences, in Russia or elsewhere (if you did not or will not spend an academic semester studying away during your time at Bowdoin, please explain why)

In addition, applicants who have not yet taken any Russian language courses at Bowdoin are required to submit a recommendation letter from a previous Russian language instructor (please ask your recommender to send the letter to Prof. Alyssa Gillespie, Russian Dept., 7900 College Station, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME 04011).

Student Information:

Full name and preferred name: ____________________________________________

Bowdoin email and ID number __________________________________________

Major(s) or probable major(s) ____________________________________________

Minor or probable minor (if any) __________________________________________

Previous Russian courses taken _________________________________________

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