

Master's Programme "Russian Studies"

Portfolio application includes

1. *Resumé/CV*

To include recent photo, information about education, work and research experiences, publications (if any), participation in projects, conferences, research grants, language and computer skills, and other achievements. Resumé might be written in Russian or in English.

2. *Letter of motivation (no more than 500 words)*

This letter should describe reasons for applying to the programme in the context of applicant's long-term career goals and background.

3. *Scans of diplomas and academic transcripts*

If an applicant have not yet received Bachelor's diploma, an official copy of the most recent academic transcript should be included.

4. *Letters of recommendation (at least one from someone familiar with your academic work)*

Please provide your recommenders with [HSE's letter of recommendation guidelines](#)

5. *Copies of published papers if available (in academic journals, collective monographs and conference papers etc.); final university thesis is allowed but considered optional.*

Publications should be presented as *pdf* copies. Its relevance to the intended area of studies is evaluated by the commission.

6. *Awards, grants and participation certificates from student's conferences, academic contests, etc.*

7. *Scan of valid English proficiency exam results*

Native speakers of English and students who have completed an entire degree exclusively in English do not need to submit proof of their English ability. All other applicants should submit test results no more than two years old.

8. *Other valid international educational certificates (GRE or GMAT) if available.*

9. *An essay (in English, 1500 to 2 000 words). Topic to be selected from the list in Supplement 3. The essay should contain references to sources.*

Application procedure includes an interview with the applicant (acceptable by skype). Assessment criteria for the application portfolio and the academic essay see below (Supplement 1).

Supplement 1.

Assessment criteria for the application portfolio

	Assessment	Scores (up to)
1.	Letter of motivation	0-10
2.	Diploma	0-10
3.	Letters of recommendation	0-10
4.	Published papers	0-15
5.	Awards and participation certificates	0-10
6.	Academic essay (grade announced after interview)	0-15
7.	Interview	0-25
8.	Certificate of proficiency in English	0-5
Maximum score		100

Supplement 2. Criteria for evaluation of academic essay

A maximum score for the essay is 15 points. The grade is structured in the following way (maximum score for each criterion).

Statement of the subject of research	Clarity of the structure of essay	Knowledge of key theories, literature, authors, quality of interpretation and analysis of sources	Validity and correctness of conclusions	Quality of text: proficiency in English, style, etc.	TOTAL (max. score)
1	2	5	3	4	15

Supplement 3. Topics for the academic essay

1. How would you evaluate development of Russia after the dissolution of the USSR? In which respect it was successful, and which not?
2. It is often asserted that “culture is path-dependent”, i.e., that cultural values and stereotypes are resistant to change, even when economy and technology develop. Do you believe that Russian culture is path dependent? Why or why not?
3. In recent years, Russia is rising in international indices rating economic development but descends in ratings pertaining to democracy. How would you interpret this seeming controversy?
4. The famous verse of poet Fyodor Tutchëv asserts that *Russia cannot be measured by a common yardstick*. Does it imply that comparative research is not applicable to studying Russia? Can you suggest one or more “yardsticks” to measure contemporary Russian realities?
5. Can we call today’s Russia a “modernized” society? What in today’s Russia is “modern” (pre-modern, post-modern) and why?
6. Russians often insist that their country should move into the future in its own path, and does not need to be taught and reprimanded. What would you nevertheless recommend them to borrow from international experience, Western or Oriental?