**Concept of Master Program “Socio-Economic and Politic Development of Modern Asia”, Field of “Asian and African Studies”.**

**Topicality and Aims of Master Program**

Due to active expansion of connections between Russian and Asian states, diversification of interaction forms and extension of influence of leading Asian states on international processes in recent years vividly increased the necessity in specialists who professionally recognize socio-economic, political and culture-historic development of East and Southeast Asia and Arabic World.

In order to solve transborder and transcultural issues such specialists should obtain a set of professional interdiscipline knowledge, including the spheres of ethnical psychology, history, economy, socio-politic processes, cultural anthropology, etc. The necessity in such specialists is significant, primary in the government institutions of federal and local levels that developing political and economic relationships with Asian states, such as China, Japan, Korea, Arabic countries, states of South and Southeast Asia. It is obvious that specialist who properly understands macroeconomic and microeconomic processes, may not be able to fulfill his tasks in China because of specificity if negotiation process, inability to adapt to national environment, non-acquaintance of state’s language, etc. A certain line of problems and failures in relationships between Russia and Japan, Korea and Arabic World is also connected to the critical shortage of specialists in the field of Asian Studies.

Therefore in the recent decade the studying of different specializations that are connected with applying of fundamental knowledge on regional Asian level (economists, political scientists, etc.) noticeably expanded, wherein a return to the system of classical training in the field of Asian Studies alongside with innovational methods and implementations may be observed. It means that basic field of study becomes exactly fundamental Asian Studies, and only then – profiling a specialist in Asian Studies to the fields of economy, ethno-religious traditions, politics, etc.

Present master program provides opportunity to continue the studying process not only for specialist in Asian Studies, but also for bachelors of general socio-humanitarian field. In this terms students who entered the program from external high institutions and do not possess the knowledge of Asian language can obtain basic linguistic skills in conditions of additional two year course that may utterly exceed their potential of scientific research and practical work in terms of received specialization.

In general, in the recent decade despite evidential raise of interest to Asian Studies, in the process of Russian training of masters in Asian Studies a few serious problems were spotted. Firstly, a visible lag in content and conjunction of studying programs in compare to world’s leading universities (Oxford, Cambridge, London University, UCL, SUNY, Berkley, Sheffield, Leeds, Hong Kong University, etc.) Secondly, a lack of connection between fundamental knowledge about Asia and practical applying of it in interstate relationships, negotiations, business affairs. Thirdly, a lack in the forms of research, introduction of new theories and concepts in master students’ training, etc. Though on the bachelor’s level Russian Asian Studies (predominantly in terms of HSE) complies with world’s leading schools, it vividly loses on the master’s level. Exactly in order to solve such problems a partnership with foreign leading universities of this field was chosen as a keystone of studying.

**Principal innovation of the following master program – a partnership with the largest centers of studying in the field of East and Southeast Asia: School of Oriental and Asian Studies (UK), Sheffield University, Cambridge University, City University of Hong Kong, Shanghai University, Seoul Technological University, Jordanian university, etc. Master graduates who accomplished studying in Hong Kong receive two diplomas (double degree program) – of NRU HSE and Hong Kong.**

Following master program gradually enriches possible educational directions of NRU HSE Asian Studies bachelor graduates. Firstly, a major emphasis on practical knowledge was set, hence part of the program may be realized on Asian territory and, secondly, the employment of advanced experience and knowledge from the largest international schools of Asian Studies is presumed. This program would allow to diversify directions of bachelor graduates from different specializations, including ones that are not directly connected with Asian Studies.

Nowadays in Russia there is no similar English language master program of Asian Studies. This is the first master program of this field of studying and still the only joint one with foreign university of such level.

**The studying on this master program is operated in English language.**

**Basic content of master program**

The program is devoted to the core tendencies of development of Asia and bordering regions. Geographically it is concentrated basically on China, Korea, Japan, Southeast Asia states and Middle East, besides the most important transcultural trends, for instance, the influence of Islamic and Buddhist cultures on international interactions and on public administration types are additionally analyzed

The program presupposes the studying of modern socio-economic, political and culture-historic processes that occur in Asian states. A special attention is paid to transnational relationships, interactions between Asian states and Western countries and Russia, analysis and development forecast, demographic, ethno-religious processes, study of economic, military and political elites, development of modern technologies, processes of globalization and social modernization.

The study of master students on this program presupposes the facultative knowledge of East languages and the applying of sources on these languages, however does not exclude the study of master student who do not possess the described language skills.

**The basic content of the program is connected with following aspects:**

* Modern world order and Asia, the processes of globalization and modernization
* Socio-economic and political transformation of Asian societies
* Systems of modern public administration, hierarchy, political regimes and clan interactions
* National and religious identity in Asia
* Principal challenges in modern Asia: ethno-religious conflicts, ecological problems, water resources, inequality in socio-economic development
* International relations in Asia, international organizations, traditional systems of interstate relationships
* Policy of Russia in Asia and basic forms of interactions between Russian and Asian partners

**The justification of master students of this field**

Recently the interest towards the study of Asian states noticeably increased. However nowadays in the terms of teaching of Asian Studies Russia is 20-25 years away from worldwide tendencies.

A vivid reinforcement of interest towards studying at Asian Studies specializations is spotted. The most powerful direction of such interest is China, Arabic World countries, Japan, Korea and India, Southeast Asia states. China represents the core aim of this interest; academic competition to become a specialist in Chinese Studies reaches digits of 10-12 students. A demand to Arabic Studies is huge as well, intense interest in this terms is expressed by Russian Muslims.

Our country’s labor market is experiencing a shortage in specialists who enjoy the Asian Studies (humanitarian) competence, simultaneously possessing a knowledge of Asian language which appears to be one of the main tools for this profession, the specialists who understand macroeconomic and microeconomic processes, are aware of the specificity of negotiations in the East, capable to adapt to national environment, realize differences between Western and Eastern approaches to policy and economy.

Due to the transformed political and economic situation in the world, Asian Studies is getting more resemble to applied science which is based on the fundamental knowledge. Nowadays Asian Studies combines both academic and fundamental aspects (ethnic and historic traditions, philosophic-religious tendencies) with practical aspects (in particular methods and ways of working in Asian states in spheres of policy, economy, business).

Professional activities of future master graduates have great prospects, they may be demanded at

* State organizations and departments activities of which are connected to interactions with Asian and African States (Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Educations and Science, local authorities)
* International and intergovernmental organizations, in particular SCO and UN commissions
* Expert, industrial and state research organizations that conduct the analysis of political and economic situation in Asia
* High education institutions that research and teach disciplines connected with Asian states and languages
* Information agencies and mass media (ITAR-TASS, RIA-News, VGTRK, Russian Today, etc.)
* Research institutions (RAS Institute of Far East, RAS Institute of Asian Studies, RA IMEMO, etc.)
* Large-scale companies with state participation, including Gazprom, Lukoil, Transneft that has economic interest in connection extension in Asia

Basic forms of professional activities of master graduates are connected with an occupation as an employee in the fields of enterprises, trade and economic relations, business, as an expert-analytic in state, stock, private and other companies, teacher of Asian studies disciplines of high and professional education, attaché, mass media specialist, etc.

For the reason that master program develops analytical and scientific competencies, it can be orientated in the training of scientific staff, teacher and industrial analytic. In this case students are advised to improve scientific and analytic abilities within scientific project laboratories and groups, and also while preparing a masters dissertation.

**The graduate from master program should obtain the following competencies:**

* Be capable of analyzing and forecasting significant socio-economic and political processes in East Asia
* Be able to comprehend on fundamental and expert-practical level major models of Asian development, their relations with traditional political culture and social reality
* Be confident in producing the recommendations for Russian authorities and large-scale business structures on the forms of communication with Asian partners in terms of expected risks and benefits

**Entry Requirements:**

Appling student provides:

1. Portfolio

2. Qualification English Language exam (testing +listening)

English language ability is mandatory.

Asian language ability is desirable and may be regarded as an additional advantage during the competition application process.

Considering the joint operation of the program, English language ability should correlate with the minimal demands for the application on similar English language program of Hong Kong University.

**Master program is orientated on:**

* Bachelor degree graduates from the School of Asian Studies and other departments of NRU HSE, especially from economic and social departments (international affairs, economy, political science, history, sociology, philosophy, media communication)
* Graduates from bachelor and specialist programs of other high educational institutions of Russia and other states
* Mass media employees, the activity of who demands the obtaining of appropriate level of high education

Thus it is proposed that first education diploma may not correspond with profile of Asian Studies. During the studying on master program student by his or her own will may obtain basic skills of one of the Asian languages which would be reflected in the graduation documents, or may limit his or her activities in Asian Studies exclusively to Western materials in correspondence with Western language skills.

**Studying language**

The master program is operating in English language. Basic study materials and textbooks are in English with the use of materials in Asian languages in correspondence with the direction of studying (Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Arabic). Literature in Russian language is implied as an additional material.

**Teaching of Asian languages**

The knowledge of Asian language in terms of entry to the master program is not obligatory, however regarded as extremely desirable.

It is supposed that the majority of master students who entered the program possess the language skills at the level which is sufficient for reading literature and sources of the program’s type (3-4 years of language studying depending on form and intensity, for example, for students from bachelor program of School of Asian studies HSE the level is 3 years of language studying).

Master students may voluntary study in terms of APE (Additional Professional Education) one of the following courses:

* Basic course of Asian language (beginner’s level)
* Asian language of scientific-analytical texts (experienced level)

Master students who do not possess the knowledge of Asian language are studying at the master program on the basics of foreign materials that maximum closely transmit the content of primary sources on Asian languages. After the graduation they receive the fixed sample diploma with mark “Without Asian language skills”.

Master students who completed a two-year Asian language study course within optional additional course receive a fixed sample diploma with no additional marks and also receive a certificate of language courses graduation.

**Learning paths, program’s structure and choice of courses**

Enrollment to the program is executed in the single way: student enters the master program of School of Asian Studies on the budget or contractual base and studies according to the single curriculum during the first year.

General structure presupposes that student enters the master program in HSE and studies in Russian for at least one year. On the second year of studying a student may choice one of two options: to continue studying in HSE or to travel to one of the partner-universities: City University of Hong Kong, Shanghai University, Seoul Technological University, Jordanian University, etc. If student travels to Hong Kong, then there he or she completes a full (one-year) master program. After returning to HSE student passes exams and presents the dissertation. As results, student receives two diplomas.

The selection to the foreign part of the program derives from both consideration of the documents and master student’s amplification with the statement of the theme of his or her scientific work. For entering the foreign part of the program foreign language skills certificate or results of the foreign language entrance exam (executed in HSE) are also necessary.

Students who do not have an opportunity to travel to the one year foreign part of the program, may travel for studying to one of the partner-universities.

If student does not enter the foreign part of the program, he or she studies at similar courses in HSE. In School of Asian Studies are organized remote lectures and seminars by teachers from partner-universities with the help of videoconferences and bilateral system of communication, and also by visiting teachers from those foreign universities.

The content of programs, as well as studying materials are conformed.

If student on the second year of studying travels to the foreign part of the program, he or she choices the courses and studies according to the local curriculum considering following:

1. student should gain 24 credits in total, from which 12 are from obligatory courses and 12 from elective ones.

2. student should successfully past tests and exams in foreign university.

3. gained credits are counted according to the following chart.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Country | First Year | Second Year |
| Credits for first year of studying | Russia | 60 |  |
| Credits for second year of studying (for courses attended) | Partner-university or Russia |  | 20 |
| Practice and scientific-research work, including field research | Russia or partner-university |  | 16 |
| Final state examination, including the preparation of master dissertation | Russia or partner-university |  | 24 |
| Total data |  | 60 | 60 |

**Master program supply with the professor-teaching staff**

The basic of the master program’s staff supply is professor-teaching staff from School of Asian Studies HSE and professor-teaching staff from foreign partner-universities.

Besides, it is planned to invite to the studying process (on the basics of external joint cooperation) for presenting the professional applied courses, practice guide, etc., staff members from leading universities of Asia-Pacific region and Middle East.

It also planned to actively apply the system of remote presenting of separate courses by the means of videoconference equipment (E-Lecture). This would allow to fully employ the professor-teaching staff from foreign partner-universities without their physical presence on the territory of Russian Federation. Some courses would be presented by visiting teachers from Hong Kong on the basics of School of Asian Studies.

**The Head of the master program** is Doctor of Sciences in General History, Professor of School of Asian Studies NRU HSE, Olga V. Volosyuk.