

My Beginner level Russian class would entail two hours of morning classes, lunch with fellow students, and another two hours in the afternoon. One of my favorite parts of the program was every Wednesday we would have lunch with the Intermediate level Russian students. This was a great opportunity to learn about more advanced Russian as well as Russian culture. We also had the amazing opportunity to speak with students from Kazakhstan and learn the culture of other Russian speaking countries.



Bryan

University of Michigan–Ann Arbor

Computer Science

Navy

Memorable Moments

Funniest: Sometimes, I would try to say something in Russian while using an English idiom. It sounded weird, and the word made no sense.

Most challenging: The language part of the program was the most challenging. There were huge lists of vocabulary every week that we had to memorize.

Favorite: By the end of the program, I was able to hold a basic conversation in Russian. It was so rewarding.

The Madison Experience

New favorite dish: All of the Russian food we tried, I liked. But, I loved Borsch. It's a cold soup made from whatever is found in the kitchen!

Must see/do: If you're entering Beginner Russian, I would suggest trying to get a basic understanding of the language before class starts.

Before traveling, I wish I would have known... how expensive it is to park your car in Madison.

New Perspective

I was surprised to learn... How intense the Russian language is. There was a lot more grammar to learn than I expected.

Advice to students considering this program: When they say it's an intensive language program, they're not lying. It's much more intensive than it seems, so make sure you really want it.

How this experience will help me in my future career: I hope to work in intelligence using my language skills to better understand pertinent adversary information.