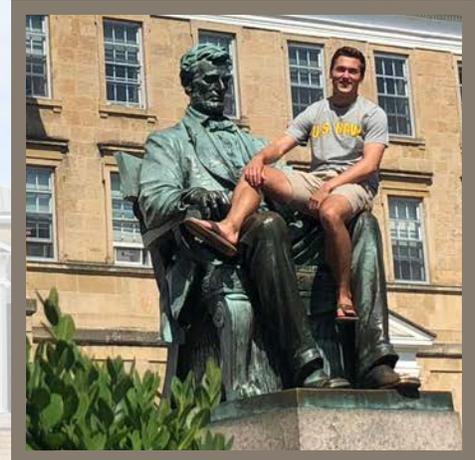


My Project GO Story

With a class of only 5 students, you get to know each other exceedingly well. The intensive Russian language program was even more fun through the friends I met. I've made many memories I won't ever forget - from watching Russian Sunday cartoons meant for five-year-olds, to our classroom heated review games where I've mastered Russian trash talk. It took me two weeks to learn how to spell hello in Russian, yet I'd gladly go through that struggle again.



Joshua

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Memorable Moments

Funniest: We had our share of Russian for the week and were certifiably brain dead. Our teacher acknowledged this and took it as a cue for us to watch the Russian version of Winnie the Pooh for the remainder of the class. Being a 5 year old never felt so good.

Most challenging: The language oral proficiency interview at the end of the program was by far the most challenging.

Favorite: My class and I made an end-of-the-semester dish for the award ceremony potluck. Cooking the Russian potato salad with the people I spent 8 weeks straight with made for a very enjoyable and Russian-free evening.

The Madison Experience

Must see/do: Take the time to explore Madison. This is what made the experience so enjoyable.

New Perspective

I was surprised to learn... The Russian bad luck superstitions are very different from ours.

Examples: You shouldn't whistle inside or go back to your home to retrieve something you forgot.

Also, when Russians say "good luck" it is customary to reply with "go to the devil", which I personally find a step up from "go break a leg."

Russian culture: Russian culture is very misunderstood. They aren't nearly as cold and calculating as Hollywood makes you think.

Rather, they are very expressive and interesting!

Advice to students considering this program: When they say intensive, they mean intensive. Be ready for an awesome time but also a great deal of work.

How this experience will help me in my future career: My dream job is to become a Navy Seabee, but if I could use the Russian language learned through Project GO, it would be doubly amazing.