Exchange Scheme with Higher School of Economics, St Petersburg

Where is HSE St Petersburg? - Founded 1992 - The National Research University Higher School of Economics (abbreviated to HSE and known in Russian as: Национальный исследовательский университет "Высшая школа экономики", НИУ ВШЭ) is one of the leading and largest universities in Russia. The university specializes in economics, social sciences, mathematics, computer science, media communications and design. It is located in St Petersburg, once the capital of Russia on the Baltic coast.

Who can go?

- Two places will be made available to York undergraduate students in 2017/18, with priority for History and Politics students (single honours on the four-year “with a year abroad” degree).
- This will be an additional year in your 3rd year of studies on a 4 year programme. Please speak to your Department about the possibility of transferring onto one of these programmes if you are not already registered on one.
- Please consult the opportunities by department webpage to see if your subject is eligible for other exchanges. https://www.york.ac.uk/students/study-abroad/opportunities/

Courses

- York students must take 30 ECTS per semester, with a total of 60 credits over the year being equivalent to 120 York credits.
- HSE St Petersburg has courses taught in English, but if you do speak Russian, this will need to be at least B2 CEFR. A catalogue of courses taught in English (or prospectus) is available online: spb.hse.ru/international/2015courses/

How will my marks be assessed/converted?

- Grade Conversion Tables for each institution will be made available to successful applicants.
- Please ensure that you are fully aware of how your grades will be converted on your return to York. Students on additional years will have different arrangements to those on integrated study.

Costs

1) Tuition Fees: Students will pay no tuition fees to HSE St Petersburg and in 2016/17 their University of York fees were reduced to 15% of the full academic fee.

2) Visas: Please check the costs related to applying for a visa. Approximately £200. (For further information on visas see section below)

3) Medical certificates which are likely to incur additional cost: When applying for a student visa you must additionally submit a HIV Test (AIDS) Certificate taken within the last three months that shows a negative result. HIV Test (AIDS)
Certificate should still be valid for 15-30 days on the day of your visa application. This information is taken from http://ru.vfsglobal.co.uk/know_your_visa_type.html

If you apply for accommodation in the HSE student dormitory, upon check-in you will be required to provide a general health certificate and a certification of a recent fluorographic chest/lungs X-Ray translated into Russian. To learn more, please check the HSE website: http://spb.hse.ru/international/housing

4) **Insurance**: Before arriving in Russia students are required to purchase their own health and accident insurance in their home country. They will not be able to receive a Russian Student Visa without valid medical insurance. If they already have insurance, they should contact their provider and confirm that their insurance policy is valid in Russia and check the details of your cover. Students are advised on the HSE website to obtain a list of hospitals that they may attend should the need arise, and make a note of their insurance company’s emergency contacts.

5) **Additional costs to consider**: flights, accommodation, travel insurance, living costs (food, books, money for additional travel/activities)

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**Funding Available for 2017/18 exchanges**

Students selected to take part in the exchange to HSE St Petersburg in 2017/18 will be eligible to apply for financial assistance via Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility funding. There are two parts to the funding, the Travel Grant of €275 and Subsistence Grant of up to €650 per month. Further details about this funding and how to apply will be given to students as part of their exchange preparation in the Spring Term.

**Visa**

Most exchange students will need a study visa to enter Russia. The International Office at HSE St Petersburg will issue a visa invitation for the student and send the hard copy by post. To learn more about Russian visas, please see here: https://spb.hse.ru/international/departure.

For visa application requirements the students should consult their local Russian embassy / consulate.

**Where will I live?**

International students at HSE St. Petersburg can choose from 3 types of housing: HSE student dormitory, hostels or private rented apartments.

**HSE Student Dormitory:**

- All international students (both full-time and exchange, as well as free-movers) are offered a place at the new HSE Student Dormitory located at 21A Zaporozhskaya Street, within a 10-minute walk from the Obukhovo (Обухово) metro station (green line). Accommodation is in rooms for two or four people and costs approximately 700 Rub per month in 2016. If you would like to apply for this accommodation you should indicate that you need a place in the dormitory on your application form. Find out more at spb.hse.ru/international/housing

**Hostels:**

- There are plenty of hostels in the city centre. A bed in a hostel costs about 20 euros/night. You can find more information about hostels and facilities at http://www.hostelworld.com/findabed.php/ChosenCity.St-Petersburg/ChosenCountry.Russia for further information, please contact the International Office at HSE.
Private rented apartments:

- Many students prefer to rent an apartment individually or to share with others, either from the beginning of their stay in St. Petersburg or at a later date once they have settled in. The rental fee for a 1-bedroom (2 rooms with a separate kitchen) starts from 400 - 700 euro/month, depending on location and other factors. Please inform Centre for International Education about your plans to rent a private accommodation.

Local laws and customs

The University of York encourages all its students to research local laws, customs and attitudes of those places you are likely to be staying in or visiting during your exchange programme. In particular, you should consider the differing attitudes that exist in some countries towards such issues as gender, religion and sexual orientation. Before applying for an exchange you may wish to visit the [gov.uk Foreign Travel Advice](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/russia) webpages as a starting point. This webpage provides information regarding local laws and customs in Russia, and in particular, the differing views towards the LGBTQ community compared to the UK. Homosexuality is legal in Russia, but there is still intolerance among some sections of the population.

Contact details at HSE St Petersburg

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Useful web links:

Main HSE site: [spb.hse.ru/en](http://spb.hse.ru/en)
Incoming Exchange Students: [spb.hse.ru/international/exchange](http://spb.hse.ru/international/exchange)
Visa information: [ru.vfsglobal.co.uk](http://ru.vfsglobal.co.uk)
Global Graduates (the new name for Third Year Abroad): [globalgraduates.com](http://globalgraduates.com)

All information included in these guidelines correct at time of printing, April 2017.