Exchange Scheme with Higher School of Economics, St Petersburg

Where is HSE Petersburg?

Founded 1992 - The National Research University Higher School of Economics (abbreviated to HSE) 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 2020/21, with priority for History and Politics students 3+1 students.
- Only students on courses that can be extended to the four year ‘with a year abroad’ can be considered for this exchange due to the number of English language courses available.
- Students do not need to be fluent in Russian to take part in this course but we recommend that they attend the Languages for International Mobility or register for a Languages for All course to assist with day to day interactions.
- 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 Subject webpage to see if your department is eligible for other exchanges.

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, therefore no Russian is required to apply for this exchange.
- To take Russian taught courses you will require Russian to at least the B2 CEFR level.
- A catalogue of the 2018-19 courses taught in English (or prospectus) is available online to be used as a guide: https://spb.hse.ru/en/io/semesterathsespb/englishcourses

How will my marks be assessed/converted?

- Grade Conversion Tables for each institution will be made available to successful applicants. Grades will only be converted for credit replacement students.
- University of York staff can access Grade Conversion Tables here: york.ac.uk/students/study-abroad/accepted/#tab-5
- 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 credit-replacing exchange.

Costs

Please note that the costs below are based on previous years and are provided for guidance only. Exact costs may vary due to exchange rates, inflation, personal circumstance and/or other reasons.

- Tuition Fees: Students will pay no tuition fees to HSE St Petersburg and in 2018/19 their University of York fees were reduced to 15% of the full academic fee.
- Visas: Please check the costs related to applying for a visa. Approximately £200. (For further information on visas see section below)
• 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: [ru.vfsglobal.co.uk/know_your_visa_type.html](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: [hse.ru/international/housing](http://hse.ru/international/housing)

• **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.

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

**Financial Assistance**

• **York Futures Scholarship** new for 2019/20. Support for personal and professional development. Funding of up to £6000 available to students applying to study abroad in 2020/21. There are two rounds of applications for this funding, Autumn Term and Easter Vacation/start of Summer Term. We recommend that you apply for the first round of funding to secure this before you have received confirmation of your study abroad place. For more information please see the following web pages: [york.ac.uk/students/work-volunteering-careers/skills/work-experience/yfs/](http://york.ac.uk/students/work-volunteering-careers/skills/work-experience/yfs/)

**Visa**

*Please be aware that Centre for Global Programmes staff are not qualified to offer consultations or in-depth advice regarding visa applications. Immigration laws are complex and subject to frequent changes. Therefore if you do have any further questions about the process of applying for your visa you will need to contact the appropriate Embassy directly. The information below is intended as guidance only and unless otherwise stated applies only to UK citizens without exceptional circumstances.*

• Most exchange students will need a Study Visa to enter Russia. The International Office 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/en/io/russianvisa/](https://spb.hse.ru/en/io/russianvisa/).

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

**What’s it like to study there?**

“**My first impression of my host country and institution was positive. I felt very welcomed as I was collected from the airport and well-informed about the events to come and rules of the university. I have attended orientation sessions and met other exchange students who I quickly became friends with.**

**I have already been to HSE University St. Petersburg for the Summer School this year in July so I already had an idea how does the accommodation, city and the university look like. I think that this fact plus my knowledge of Russian helped me to minimize the culture shock and made my journey less surprising. I was actually a bit surprised how similar the food and the general appearance of the city is to e.g. Warsaw. There are obviously some slight differences (assessment methods for example) and nuances but none of them crucial so far and I believe starting my university education in York was a bigger change and required more adaptation skills than my current mobility to St. Petersburg.**

**I am here for around a week now and feel almost fully settled in. This was done thanks to a couple of things I did in order to help with that process like getting to know other exchange students, unpacking, buying necessary kitchen utensils and school accessories, transport card etc. I’m still in the process of opening my bank account, looking for**
potential societies and sport clubs I could join and finalizing my timetable which still might require some module changes and after that I will start the normal student life here.”

Kajetan, Politics, Year Abroad 2019/20

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 cost from approximately 1300 Rubles per month in 2018. 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 [https://spb.hse.ru/en/io/accommodation](https://spb.hse.ru/en/io/accommodation).

  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 [here](https://spb.hse.ru/en/io/accommodation).
  - 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.

Is it the right choice for me?

- When thinking about choosing your destination for studying abroad please look through the [Considerations Checklist](https://spb.hse.ru/en/io/accommodation) on our web pages.
- This will help you find the best opportunity for your degree and personal circumstances.

Contact details at HSE

- Daria Zima, Email: Dzima@hse.ru
- International Office Address: 3A Kantemirovskaya Street, room331, 194100, St. Petersburg, Russia
- Tel: +7(812)644 59 10 ext.*61245; Email: internationaloffice@hse.ru

Useful web links

- [Main HSE Site](https://spb.hse.ru)
- [HSE Incoming Exchange Students](https://spb.hse.ru/en/io/exchange)
- [Russian Visa information](https://spb.hse.ru/en/io/visa)
- [St Petersburg Tourist Information](https://spb.hse.ru/en/io/tourism)
- [Cost of living Comparison Site](https://spb.hse.ru/en/io/costofliving)
- [Alternative cost of living comparison site](https://spb.hse.ru/en/io/costofliving)
Please note: The websites listed here are not intended to represent a comprehensive list. The Centre for Global Programmes cannot be held responsible for the content of external websites.

All information included in these guidelines correct at time of printing, October 2019.

Students are responsible for researching their own exchanges and making sure that they have considered all costs and the compatibility of the overseas programme to their own degree, in discussion with their departments and supervisors. The Centre for Global Programmes are here to offer support.