



LSA

SLAVIC LANGUAGES  
AND LITERATURES  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



## Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

### THE POWER

In 1910, the University of Michigan offered the first Russian language courses in response to the growing importance of Russia in international commerce and diplomacy. By 1958, Michigan was among the first universities to be designated a Slavic and East European Languages Center by the National Defense Education Act. The department strives to remain a leader in the field nationally — a source of knowledge and cutting-edge research on Russian, Polish, Czech, Ukrainian and Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian literature, cinema and culture. Our teaching remains crucial for undergraduates who intend to work in the region and for scholars in the humanities and social sciences who are engaged in research related to it.

## THE OPPORTUNITIES

Slavic Languages and Literatures is an interdisciplinary department with strong intellectual connections to the fields of comparative literature, literary theory, history, philosophy, social sciences, linguistics, and language pedagogy. Our faculty members specialize in Eastern European literatures and cultures, including focus on cinema, architecture, and the visual arts. The cultures we cover include Russian, Polish, Czech, Ukrainian, and Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian, also with strong interests in Judaic, Central Asian, Baltic, and Balkan cultures (including Greek and Albanian).

## THE IMPACT

Gifts are needed to maintain and expand our efforts in the teaching of Russian, Polish, Czech, Ukrainian, Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian language and culture. We need to be able to attract the very best students with undergraduate scholarship support and global learning opportunities. Also, due to decreasing federal support for language teaching, we depend on gifts from alumni and friends to fund language lecturers in less commonly taught languages.

### Language Instructors

***\$1M endowed per language / \$50,000 annually per language***

We have a critical need to hire language teachers in three less commonly taught languages:

- Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian
- Czech
- Ukrainian

Our teaching of these languages remains crucial for undergraduates who intend to work in the region and/or work in government, or to continue their education in pursuit of an M.A. or Ph.D. We are one of a very small number of major research universities in the country that continue to offer all of the above languages.

### Undergraduate Travel Scholarships

***\$25,000 endowed per student / \$5,000 annually***

Gifts are needed to support undergraduate student scholarships for the yearly Alternative Spring Break learning experience in Vytegra, Russia. We are committed to expanding opportunities for study abroad with short-term learning experiences as an option. Because high airfare to Russia makes such experiences costly, providing students with support is a high priority. A gift of \$5,000 would support five students.



## Global Experiences in Russia and Eastern Europe

***\$10,000 annually***

Undergraduate support is vital for study abroad experiences in Russia and Eastern Europe. We are committed to expanding opportunities for study abroad, especially related to semester-long study and internships. Because such learning experiences are costly, with high airfare and living costs in Russia, scholarships make such opportunities possible for students. A gift of \$10,000 would support five students for a semester.

### **WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT**

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

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### CONTACT INFO

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