

Higher School of Economics Summer Programs in Nizhny Novgorod



Location

Nizhny Novgorod is an ancient Russian town grown into a vibrant metropolis, one of the largest cities in the country. Founded in 1221 at the confluence of the two great Russian rivers Nizhny rose to prominence as a leading center of international commerce long known worldwide for its annual trade fairs. In Soviet times Nizhny emerged as a research and industrial hub of strategic importance closed to domestic and foreign visitors alike. Owing to the Soviet legacy the city is still an often overlooked treasure just 250 miles east from Moscow. A major city today, Nizhny Novgorod enjoys dynamic growth with its booming downtown in the heart of the metropolitan area of over 1 million people. On top of its historic heritage and industrial advancements Nizhny represents an excellent place for education and research boasting peaceful provincial environment. Unlike Moscow and Saint Petersburg Nizhny is a big city with a small-town feel.

City in brief

Located at the confluence of the Volga and the Oka rivers

Inhabited since 13th century

Usually colloquially shortened to *Nizhny*

Population of 1.3 million, 5th most populous city in Russia

4-hour railway trip from Moscow

Historic centre is a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Major port of river cruises

One of the largest automotive industries nationwide

Leading metal working and engineering center

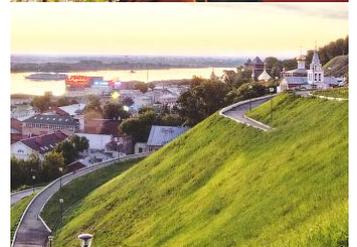
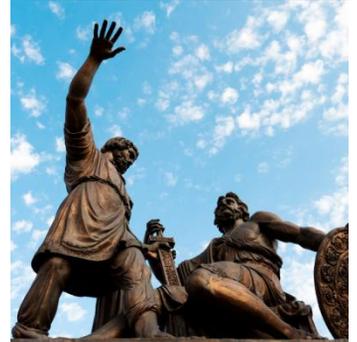
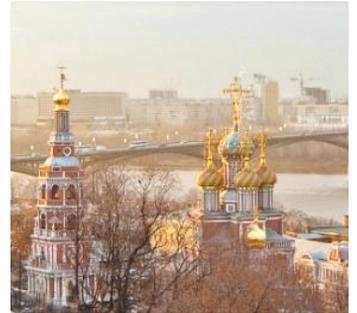
Top IT industry nationwide

Houses biggest in Europe Intel R&D Center

Over 30 educational and research institutions

Higher School of Economics Campus

Established in 1996 the HSE – Nizhny Novgorod is the oldest and largest among HSE regional campuses. Its modern facilities including 4 studying halls, a dormitory, a library and a publishing house are distributed across the city. The Central Hall where Summer sessions take place is conveniently placed in downtown Nizhny within walking distance to major historic attractions.



Cultural Immersion Program

Nizhny Novgorod is among the oldest cities in the country built as a mighty seat of princes at the Eastern frontier of medieval Russia and turned the most prominent center of commerce in the Russian Empire. The original 16th century fortress – Nizhny Novgorod Kremlin – still dominates the architectural scene of the historic centre mostly composed of delicately adorned merchant mansions and churches of the 18-19th centuries. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, historic Nizhny contains over a hundred monuments of major cultural significance. HSE Summer School provides a detailed city tour as well as extended visits to most notable locations.

The Kremlin

A stone fortress of dozen towers overlooking the Volga bank replaced the original wooden city walls in the 1510s. Well-preserved, the Kremlin is the administrative and cultural center of today's Nizhny housing the oldest cathedral in the vicinity, regional government seat, a number of fine arts and historical museums, and the city philharmonic hall.

Gorky Museum

Nizhny Novgorod is the hometown of the renowned writer Maxim Gorky. His grandfather's wooden mansion where Gorky spent early years is now turned a house museum channeling the intimate atmosphere of Russian family life of the 1900s.

Museum of Culture of Indigenous People

Hidden in the dense greenery of Nizhny landscape park this open air museum features authentic wooden dwellings typical of the native culture of the Volga region. The museum hosts traditional events and celebrations reinforcing the city's identity as a distinct local community of diverse ethnic and religious background. Museum tour concludes with folk games and music.

Sakharov Museum

Another notable Nizhny resident, Andrey Sakharov is the father of H-bomb and a human rights activist. An outspoken critic of the Soviet regime, in the 1970s he was sent into exile to live in a small apartment in the upper part Nizhny under tight KGB surveillance. His former residence is now a house museum and a powerful tribute to the history of political dissent.

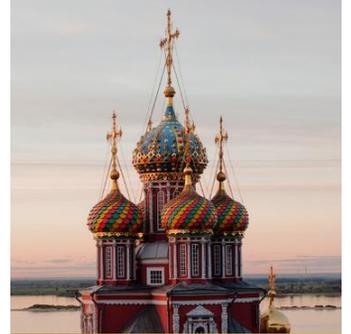


Cultural Immersion Program Day Side Trips

Located in the very heart of central Russia Nizhny Novgorod enjoys proximity to country's major historic sites proffering vast opportunities for first-hand cultural experience. HSE Summer School program includes a series of side trips to top historic locations in the vicinity and broader region.

Semenov

An hour ride from downtown Nizhny, the small town of Semenov is country's major center of traditional handcrafts, home to famous Khokhloma wood painting and the oldest site of Russian nesting doll manufacturing. The original, century-old Matryoshka doll factory is still a living story representing both the biggest town employer and a popular tourist attraction. The tour to the factory grounds features painting workshop where visitors learn to paint their own Matryoshka to take home as a souvenir.



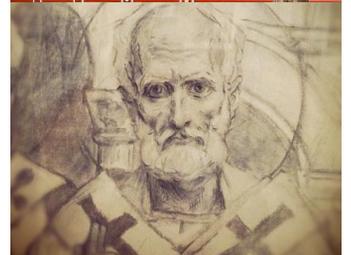
Gorodets

Once a stronghold of Moscow founder Yuri Dolgorukiy, the town of Gorodets is the oldest settlement in the region. Overshadowed now by the neighboring Nizhny, Gorodets is a secluded trove of Russia's traditional artisanal and merchant culture. Wooden houses notable for their elaborate carving décor and churches soaring over the high Volga river bank constitute a unique architectural ensemble, unmatched in its integrity.



Vladimir & Suzdal

Listed jointly as a UNESCO World Heritage Site the two towns house country's greatest medieval patrimony embracing cathedrals, castles and monasteries. A two-hour train trip from Nizhny, the towns of Vladimir and Suzdal are among favorite Sunday trip destination for locals.



Cultural Immersion Program Weekend Trips

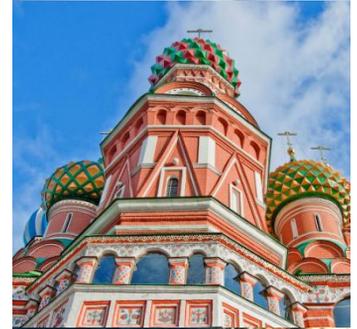
Kazan

The capital of Russia's biggest national republic, the city of Kazan is a thousand-year old center of Tatar culture. It boasts distinct architectural and artistic heritage at the crossroads of Muslim and Christian influence. Today's Kazan is known as an upbeat urban area, leading financial and industrial center of Russia. Attracting investors and tourists from around the globe Kazan is an overnight train trip from Nizhny.



Moscow

High-speed rail train connects Nizhny Novgorod and Moscow in 4 hours making the capital city another perfect weekend trip destination for Nizhny residents and guests. The most populous city in Europe, home to several UNESCO sites and country's political center Moscow is a city of enormous riches and top notch attractions.



Saint Petersburg

The old capital of the Russian Empire, Saint Petersburg is the global center of arts, sciences, and tourism. Often credited as one of the most beautiful cities in the world Saint Petersburg offers a long list of must-see attractions including splendid architectural ensemble, richest collections of arts and antiquities, grandiose suburban royal palaces and parks. Russia's imperial capital is easily reached via overnight trains or 2-hour flights from Nizhny Novgorod airport.



Cultural Immersion Program Business & Government

Soviet industrial stronghold, Nizhny Novgorod is now emerging as a national leader in IT, science and innovation, automotive industries, precision electronics, aviation, and trade. Taking advantage of its unique location and well-developed infrastructure Nizhny enjoys dynamic economic growth, significant cumulative investment, strong presence of international businesses, and busy construction schedule. The city takes pride in its liberal, business-friendly environment several years in a row listed top-5 in *Forbes* 'Best Russian Cities for Doing Business' rankings. Lacking natural resources and facing strong competition from the neighboring capital cities Nizhny offers vibrant small business scene, accessible public services and comfortable living conditions with transportation, foods, real estate, and education costs much lower than in Moscow or Saint Petersburg. Getting to know modern Russian economy is an essential part of cultural immersion program at the HSE. The Summer School features visits to leading enterprises and guest speaker series with key voices in local business community.

'GAZ' – Gorky Automobile Plant

Built under the agreement between Ford Motor Company and the Soviet government in 1929 GAZ is the oldest automobile manufacturer in Russia and a long-standing national industrial giant. A Soviet success story, GAZ remains the principal business in Nizhny economic profile and a leading producer of commercial vehicles nationwide combining production of original brands and contract manufacturing for General Motors, Volkswagen Group, and Daimler. The HSE – Nizhny Novgorod provides an exclusive guided tour to the factory grounds and corporate history museum along with the meeting with one of the company top managers.



Regional Administration

The Government of Nizhny Novgorod region invites the HSE Summer School students to meet the Head of the Department of International, Foreign Economic and Interregional Relations, talk issues in Russian and regional economy and get first-hand understanding of government economic priorities and policies.



International Community Association

International Community Association of Nizhny Novgorod (ICANN) unites foreign businesses present in the region including such global brands as Intel, Ikea, KPMG, Liebherr, BSGV and others. Representatives of ICANN member corporations meet HSE Summer School students to share their Russian experience and discuss challenges and perspectives in Russian economy today.



Faculty

The team behind HSE Summer School in Nizhny Novgorod comprises professional teachers of Russian as a foreign language and recognized scholars with vast teaching experience and commanding knowledge of foreign languages. Individually and as a lasting team of colleagues and friends they have years of summer school organization experience delivering multiple tailor-made summer programs annually. In 2012 the HSE – Nizhny Novgorod Summer School faculty was honored by German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) which listed their program on Russian business mentality among its recommended summer sessions and provided scholarships for the participants.



Dr. Tatiana Batishcheva

Program coordinator, teacher of Russian. Head of the HSE – Nizhny Novgorod International Office. PhD in Literature. Over 10 years of teaching experience in Russia, Austria, and Italy.



Prof. Valery Zusman

Teacher of Concepts in Russian Culture, Regional Studies. Dean of the HSE – Nizhny Novgorod Faculty of Humanities, head of Austrian Cultural Center in Nizhny Novgorod. PhD in Literature. Over 25 years of international teaching experience.



Prof. Natalia Gronskaya

Teacher of Russian History, Russian Cinema. The HSE – Nizhny Novgorod Deputy Director for Research and International Cooperation. PhD in Political Science. Over 25 years of teaching experience in Russia, Austria, and USA.



Prof. Marina Tsvetkova

Teacher of Russian Phonetics. Professor of the HSE – Nizhny Novgorod Department of Applied Linguistics and Intercultural Communication. PhD in Literature. Over 20 years of academic experience in universities in Russia, Great Britain, and France.



Anastasia Tsvetkova

Teacher of Russian. Deputy head of the HSE – Nizhny Novgorod International Office. 5 years of teaching experience.



Polina Erofeeva

Teacher of Russian Politics and Government. DAAD visiting researcher at the University of Magdeburg, Germany. RF Ministry of Education grantee researcher. 3 years of teaching experience.

Courses

Intensive Russian Language Summer Course

April, 30 – June, 21/July, 1 – 31

Focuses on Russian language training and provides introduction to Russian History, Politics and Government, Economy, Culture, Literature and Media.

Summer School on Russian Business Mentality

August, 5 – 18

Provides comprehensive knowledge of national economy and business practices along with basic Russian language training. Courses on Russian Economy, Contemporary History, Politics and Government, Culture and Mentality are augmented by sessions with notable entrepreneurs, top managers and government official of Nizhny Novgorod sharing their practical experience. All courses are taught in English.

Tailor-made Programs

April, 30 through August, 20

Please contact us to make a group reservation and discuss specific dates, schedule and curriculum within the following study tracks:

Track 1: Language Training

Russian Language Course comprises training in Russian communication, grammar, and phonetics. Available levels span elementary, pre-intermediate, intermediate, and advanced.

Track 2: Russian Studies

Each session includes an original Russian studies module covering topics in Russian History, Economics & Business, Politics & Government, Culture and Mentality.

Track 3: Cultural Immersion

A natural extension to Russian studies track, cultural immersion program gives first-hand engagement with topics and issues discussed in class. Basic offer covers tours and excursions around the city, day side trips and guest speaker sessions. Group weekend trips are arranged upon request.

Program Details

Accommodation

HSE – Nizhny Novgorod provides accommodation in a pre-select host family in downtown Nizhny mostly within HSE Main Hall neighborhood. The university enjoys lasting cooperation with a pool of hospitable families hosting foreign students annually and looking forward to meeting new guests. Alternative living arrangements (apartment, dormitory or hotel) are available upon request.

Meals

Host families serve breakfast and dinner. Lunch is provided at the university upon request, vegetarian and diet-specific meal plans available.

Visa Support

HSE – Nizhny Novgorod provides an official letter of invitation for visa application at Russian Consular offices abroad and registration with Russian Migration Bureau upon arrival. Please note that letters of invitation for the EU citizens are issued in up to 15 days and for nationals of other countries (including USA and Canada) – in 45 days.

Tuition Fee

Group package, 4 weeks: 1500 USD/person

Program fee includes: visa support, accommodation , meals, courses:

Track 1: Language training	Speaking and Writing Grammar Phonetics	80 contact hours
Track 2: Russian Studies	Economy Politics and Government Culture and History	24 contact hours
Track 3: Cultural Immersion	City tour, museums, Semenov, Gorodets, GAZ, Regional Administration, ICANN	

Feedback

Living in Russia has been such an amazing experience. Russia has always been a land relatively unknown to citizens of the USA. My eyes have been opened to the beauty of the culture, the hospitality of the people and the riches of the History. Our study abroad program was organized and run by talented professors who discussed current issues from a neutral perspective. They never tried to sway our opinions. They allowed us to formulate our own opinions and come to our own conclusions. I am astounded by the program and the professors.

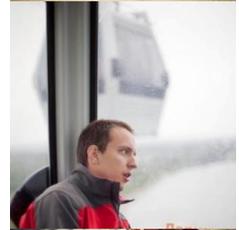
Aaron Carlson, USA

I'm glad that I've got to know Russia. I always wanted to know how people live here, and you never get the real information from the media. I think this summer school is a wonderful opportunity to see the real Russia and to talk to real Russians. I loved the excursions we had. That was an excellent month! I would like to come again.

Mario Leitner, Austria

It is hard to conclude the experiences of my trip to Russia and the participation in the Summer school in only a few sentences – but it's worth a trial. Young dynamic teachers taught us Russian in small groups of 4 students – Effective! Lectures on Russian Mentality filled with lots of discussions on our own experiences – Interesting! Discussions with businessmen about their experiences with the Administration, Russian business partners and employees – Exciting! All in all this summer school was awesome! Tatiana and her team have organized an extra trip after we asked them to. This showed their great motivation to account for all our wishes. Thank you all for this great experience.

Johannes Söbbeler, Germany



Contact Information

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Web

Home page: [International Programs in HSE – Nizhny Novgorod](#)
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