



**Master of Arts in Regional Studies:
Russia, Eurasia, and Eastern Europe
(MARS-REERS)**

Program Guide 2017-2018

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The Harriman Institute

The Harriman Institute, the first academic center in the United States devoted to the interdisciplinary study of Russia and the Soviet Union, was founded in 1946, with the support of the Rockefeller Foundation, as the Russian Institute. Since its founding in 1946, the Harriman Institute, formerly the Russian Institute, has maintained its position as a leading center for the advancement of knowledge in the field of Russian, East European, and Eurasian studies through the research conducted by its faculty, students, fellows and visiting scholars and the training of scholars and professionals. The Harriman Institute strives to facilitate the effective use of the unique resources it possesses to further the work of the diverse community of scholars in residence, students and the more than 60 faculty members who make up the Harriman Institute faculty. The Harriman Institute, through its programs, conferences, lectures, and publications, seeks to create a forum for intellectual exchange and the further enhancement of our students' education. For a list of Harriman Faculty and Harriman Affiliated Faculty please see the Appendix.

MARS-REERS

The Harriman Institute administers the Master of Arts in Regional Studies — Russia, Eurasia and Eastern Europe (MARS-REERS) through the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences for those wishing to focus on a multidisciplinary approach to the study of contemporary Russia, Eurasia and Eastern Europe. The program provides intensive exposure to the politics, international relations, modern history, and cultural and social formations of the region, with both a country-specific and trans-regional focus. Applicants should have some prior language training and must exhibit proficiency equivalent to three years of an East European or a Eurasian language in order to graduate.

The program is tailored to meet the needs of persons entering professional careers, mid-career professionals, as well as students preparing for entry into doctoral programs, and those with a professional degree, such as the J.D. or M.B.A., who want to gain regional expertise.

The program can be completed in two to four semesters.

Program Contacts

The MARS program advisor, Rebecca Dalton, can assist you with questions regarding program requirements, GSAS policies, and registration.

The MARS program director, Professor Elise Guiliano, can assist you with questions on courses, thesis topics, research questions, and other academic questions.

Requirements

The Master's degree in Russia, Eurasia, and Eastern Europe: Regional Studies requires completion of **two Residence Units** and **30 points of credit**, including **a master's thesis**

and **nine courses from a wide range of designated courses** in Anthropology, Art History, Business, Economics, History, International Affairs, Literature, Law, Political Science, Sociology, and other disciplines. Advanced proficiency of a regional language must be demonstrated. A grade average of B+ must be maintained in order to complete the program.

All students must take the core interdisciplinary colloquium, G8445 (Legacies of Empire and the Soviet Union). In consultation with the program advisor, students select seven additional regional courses (at least two of which are colloquia or seminars), of which at least one must be taught in the Department of History. Students enrolled in a Eurasian or Eastern European language course at the fourth-year level or above may count up to two semesters of language toward the regional course requirement.

Any graduate-level course (4000-level and above) in any department of Columbia University not included on the Harriman course listing may also fulfill degree requirements with the written approval of the program advisor. In such courses, students must produce an acceptable research paper of direct relevance to Russia, Eurasia or Eastern Europe

A list of approved regional courses may be found on the Harriman Institute [website](#).

Students cannot receive course credit for internships or transfer credits.

Language Requirement: In order to graduate, all students must demonstrate proficiency equivalent to three years of a Eurasian or East European language by taking a proficiency exam or completing coursework of appropriate level. A Russian placement exam will be offered during the week of orientation. To schedule a placement exam for the following languages please contact the professors listed.

Czech	Contact Professor Chris Harwood (cwh4@columbia.edu)
Polish	Contact Professor Christopher Caes (cc4038@columbia.edu)
Serbian/Croatian/ Bosnian	Contact Professor Aleksandar Boskovic (ab3865@columbia.edu)
Ukrainian	Contact Professor Yuri Shevchuk (sy2165@columbia.edu)

For all other regional languages, contact [Rebecca Dalton](#) to set up a placement exam with the Language Resource Center.

Native Speakers: If you have completed secondary school in a regional language, you do not need to take an exam.

M.A. Thesis: All students must register for a two-semester MA Thesis Regional Studies Seminar (G4020) taught by Professor Elise Guiliano. Students must first enroll in a one-credit seminar, which focuses on conceptualizing and writing a formal thesis proposal.

Students will develop the proposal under the guidance of the seminar instructor, and through a process of peer review in which students read and critique each other's work-in-progress. At the end of the semester, the thesis proposal may be shown to potential faculty advisors. Once two faculty advisors are secured, the thesis proposal must be submitted to the MARS program advisor along with a proposal form signed by the faculty advisors. Students will receive a letter grade in the seminar.

The following semester, students must register for a two-credit thesis course, during which students will work independently with their faculty thesis advisors while writing their thesis. The advisors will assign a final grade to the thesis that will serve as the grade received in this course.

For students who are planning to complete the program in 2 semesters, you must register for the thesis seminar class in the fall. You should also have a topic for your thesis by the first day of class.

Writing at the Graduate Level: Students concerned about their ability to write at the graduate level should consult with the MARS program advisor regarding on-campus resources. The Writing Center is available to all Columbia community members by appointment. More information can be found on their [website](#). The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences offers an optional writing seminar in the fall semester; you will receive an email about this opportunity from GSAS before orientation.

The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) Policies and Procedures

Grading

The Graduate School's grading system is as follows: A, excellent; B, good; C, fair; D, passing but poor; F, failure. Plus and minus letter grades are also used. All courses to be credited toward the degree must be taken for a letter grade. However, for the MARS program a student may take one course for R Credit that may be used to satisfy degree requirements.

A letter grade is given to a student who has completed the required work in a course, including the final exam or paper, and it is expressed on a student's transcript by the letter grades A, B, C, D, or F. The grade of F is a final grade and is not subject to reexamination. Students should seek advice from the director of graduate studies in their department if they wish to take a course Pass/Fail or for R credit. **Courses taken for R-credit or Pass/Fail may NOT count towards the degree.**

R Credit: The mark of R is awarded in place of a letter grade. Students who wish to be given R credit for a course must receive written permission from the instructor that specifies the instructor's expectations within the standard course-change period. Students may elect to take a course for R credit through SSOL during the change-of-program period in the first two weeks of the semester. After the first two weeks of the semester, students should send a single email to BOTH registrar@columbia.edu AND the instructor in order to request R credit.

The deadline to submit the form is the same date as the deadline to request to take a course Pass/Fail (see the [Academic Calendar](#) for fall- and spring-term deadlines; see the School of Continuing Education website for summer-term deadlines).

A course that has been taken for R credit may not be repeated for a letter grade.

A student who has been approved to take a course for R credit is not required to take the final examination but is required to meet any other requirements established by the instructor of the course. It is assumed that the student will meet all course requirements other than the final examination unless the instructor states otherwise in writing when the permission for R credit is granted. Only one R credit class may be credited towards your degree.

P/F (Pass/Fail): Students who wish to be given a P/F grade for a course offered on a letter-grade scale must request the grade of P/F through the Office of the Registrar, not by direct request to the instructor. To submit a request, complete the [Add/Drop form](#) and submit it to the Student Service Center in 205 Kent Hall.

The deadline for requesting to take a course P/F in the fall or spring semesters is given on both the [GSAS Academic Calendar](#) and the [University Academic Calendar](#). Decisions to take a particular course Pass/Fail or for R credit are not reversible after this date, nor will requests to take a course Pass/Fail or for R credit be granted.

The grade of F is a final grade and is not subject to reexamination. The number of points of P/F credit acceptable for a degree is set by each program in consultation with the Executive Committee of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

Courses taken for R-credit or Pass/Fail may NOT count towards the degree.

Incompletes: The mark of IN is given to a student who has satisfactorily met all the requirements of a course except for the completion of certain assigned papers or reports or the final examination, which the student has been compelled to postpone for reasons that are 1) beyond his or her control and 2) satisfactory to the instructor. For a course in the Arts and Sciences, if the student does not submit the outstanding work **by the deadline specified below**, the mark of IN will be changed to an F, which will not be subject to a change at a later date.

For Incompletes earned in the fall semester, the deadline for students to submit their outstanding work is the June 30 that immediately follows. For Incompletes earned in the spring semester or summer term, the deadline for students to submit their outstanding work is the December 31 that immediately follows. Departments and instructors may set an earlier deadline for completion of the outstanding work; in such cases, that deadline will supersede the GSAS deadline.

Leaves of absence approved by GSAS stop the clock on Incomplete deadlines. If a student is granted a Leave of Absence from the University during the grace period of an Incomplete,

the grade of Incomplete will remain on the student's transcript while the student is not enrolled, and the time of the leave will not count against the student's grace period.

Registration

In order to register for classes you must log on to Columbia's Student Services Online at ssol.columbia.edu. Registration can only be done during your scheduled registration appointment times. Appointment times are posted approximately two weeks prior to the registration period. You may view your registration appointment times by logging in to SSOL. Each course at Columbia is given a **call number**, which is available in [Vergil](#). The call number is used to reference the course on SSOL. Please write down the call number, as this is the easiest way to add courses to your schedule during your registration appointment.

Cross-Registration at SIPA: You may want to register for a course offered by the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). SIPA core courses are not open to non-SIPA students. Most SIPA courses will require instructor permission. In order to register for these classes you must:

Step 1. Add your name to the course waitlist on SSOL. If additional documentation is required students will receive notification while submitting your name to the waitlist.

Step 2. Instructors will approve students from the waitlist

Step 3. Students who apply will be notified of the instructor's decision via e-mail. If a student is selected for the course they will be automatically registered for the course.

History Seminars: Some history seminars require instructor permission and an application form. Currently, none of the regional history courses require an additional application. Additional Information can be found in the history department website.

Residence Units: In addition to registering for individual courses, students in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences are required to register for Residence at the University. A residence unit is used to determine billing for GSAS per semester. You must sign up for a Residence unit each semester in order to be enrolled in GSAS. You do so by adding the appropriate Residence Unit course through SSOL. According to MA requirements, you must complete two full residence units. A typical student will register for full time residence units in the first two semesters. In the third and fourth semesters they often register for extended residence units, which are considerably less costly.

Two Residence Units are required for the free-standing Master of Arts degree.

A full-time student must register for a Residence Unit or Extended Residence (see below) each semester, whether or not the student is taking courses.

-A student who is registered for a Residence Unit may register for no more than 18 credit points.

With the exceptions listed below, part-time students in free-standing M.A. programs may register for quarter or half Residence Units.

- A student who is registered for a half Residence Unit may enroll in no more than three courses.
- A student who is registered for a quarter Residence Unit may enroll in one or two courses.

Full and partial Residence Units are calculated using courses taken for a letter grade, Pass/Fail, or for R credit.

After completing the appropriate number of Residence Units, students are required to register for **Extended Residence** for any term in which they are completing a degree requirement such as course work or language.

Fall 2017 1 full Residence Unit Morningside Campus G0001

Call Number 99991

A student may register for up to 18 credit points

Fall 2017 Half Residence Unit Morningside Campus G0002

Call Number: 99992

A student may register for 3 courses or less

Fall 2017 Quarter Residence Unit Morningside Campus G0003

Call Number: 99993

A student may register for only one or two courses

Directory of Classes

The Harriman Institute publishes a list of regional courses which fulfill degree requirements.

You can use the [Directory of Classes](#) or [Vergil](#) to confirm course details and to search for additional courses before you register. The directory is updated frequently, and should be visited often. Each listing will have a course name and number. A course number of 4000 or above indicates that it is a graduate-level course. The time and location are also listed; please check this information before your first class as it does often change before the start of classes. Please note the letter R refers to Thursday, and some courses only meet for part of the semester. It is strongly recommended that students do not enroll in more than four courses each semester.

GSAS Academic Policies

While completing your MA degree, you must remain in good standing according to GSAS policies. In GSAS good standing involves two components: academic good standing within the student's department and administrative good standing in the Graduate School.

Good Academic Standing

To be considered in good academic standing, students must make satisfactory academic progress as determined by their department. Satisfactory progress for M.A. candidates includes but is not limited to:

1. Acquiring an advisor
2. Meeting time-to-degree requirements for the M.A. and the M.Phil. degrees
3. Completing degree requirements and maintaining superior quality of work
4. Meeting with the program advisor in the first two weeks of each semester to complete the registration approval form.
5. Maintaining a B+ average.
6. Registering for no more than 5 courses a semester. You must get approval from the program advisor to register for 5 or more classes.
7. Taking no more than one incomplete a semester. All coursework must be completed by the following deadlines or IN will change to the grade of F. Deadlines are June 30th for fall courses and December 31st for Spring and Summer courses.

Good Administrative Standing

Additionally, students are expected to remain in compliance with all applicable administrative policies and procedures of the University such as those of the Columbia Libraries, University Housing, etc.

Consequences for failing to make academic progress or adhere to applicable administrative policies and procedures may include academic or administrative warning, probation, suspension, or dismissal.

Academic Dishonesty

Students should be aware that academic dishonesty (for example, plagiarism, cheating on an examination, or dishonesty in dealing with a faculty member or other University official) or the threat of violence or harassment are particularly serious offenses and will be dealt with severely under Dean's Discipline.

Graduate students are expected to exhibit the high level of personal and academic integrity and honesty required of all members of an academic community as they engage in scholarly discourse and research.

Scholars draw inspiration from the work done by other scholars; they argue their claims with reference to others' work; they extract evidence from the world or from earlier scholarly works. When a student engages in these activities, it is vital to credit properly the source of

his or her claims or evidence. Failing to do so violates one's scholarly responsibility.

In practical terms, students must not cheat on examinations, and deliberate plagiarism is of course prohibited. Plagiarism includes buying, stealing, borrowing, or otherwise obtaining all or part of a paper (including obtaining or posting a paper online); hiring someone to write a paper; copying from or paraphrasing another source without proper citation or falsification of citations; and building on the ideas of another without citation. Students also should not submit the same paper to more than one class. This information is adapted from the material published by [Purdue University's Online Writing Lab](#).

Graduate students are responsible for proper citation and paraphrasing, and must also take special care to avoid even accidental plagiarism. The best strategy is to use great caution in the handling of ideas and prose passages: take notes carefully and clearly mark words and ideas not one's own. When in doubt, consult your professor. Failure to observe these rules of conduct will result in serious academic consequences, which can include dismissal from the university.

Students engaging in research must be aware of and follow University policies regarding intellectual and financial conflicts of interest, integrity and security in data collection and management, intellectual property rights and data ownership, and necessary institutional approval for research with human subjects and animals.

Funding Opportunities

Funding is limited during the first year of study with the MARS program. There are many academic year fellowships available for the second year of study. There are also many opportunities to fund summer language study in the region as well as field research. Please visit the Harriman website to learn more about available [graduate student support](#).

Students are encouraged to discuss funding opportunities with the program advisors.

Life at Columbia

Housing

Columbia University housing is extremely limited. However, MARS students can apply online for University Housing. In order to apply, you will need the Sign Up Code and your personal identification number, or PID. Additionally, Columbia offers assistance with finding non-University housing. For more information, please visit the Off-Campus Housing Assistance (OCHA) [website](#). International House is located just north of campus, to learn more about Ihouse and to apply please visit the Ihouse [website](#).

Columbia Health

Health Insurance: University policy requires all registered full-time students to have acceptable health insurance coverage. Columbia University offers the Columbia Student Medical Insurance Plan, which provides both Basic and Comprehensive levels of coverage. The Columbia Plan is administered by Aetna Student Health and is underwritten by Aetna. Full-time students and students living in Columbia housing are automatically enrolled in the Basic level of the plan and billed for the insurance premium in addition to the Columbia Health Fee.

Immunizations: Columbia University requires that each student provide documentation of immunity to Measles, Mumps, and Rubella before the start of their studies. Please refer to the Columbia Health website for details on how to document immunity.

New York State public health law requires that university students receive information from their institutions about meningococcal meningitis and the vaccine that protects against most strains of the disease that occur on university campuses. Columbia University students must certify their meningitis vaccination decision on the [Columbia Health website](#). Students must use their individual University Network ID (UNI) and password to provide this certification, which must be completed before registration for classes is permitted.

Resources on Campus

Area Resources and Study Centers

Russian, Eurasian & East European Languages Library Collections. These library collections at Columbia contain about 750,000 volumes.

<http://library.columbia.edu/locations/global/slavic.html>

Robert Davis, the regional librarian, is available for individual consultations and reference assistance in all areas of Russian, Eurasian & East European studies. Students, faculty and advanced researchers can receive advice on bibliographic tools, indexes in print and strategies for getting the most out of CLIO and other electronic resources available at Columbia and elsewhere.

Bakhmeteff Archive. The Bakhmeteff Archive of Russian and East European History and Culture is the second largest repository of Russian émigré materials in the United States.

<http://library.columbia.edu/locations/rbml/units/bakhmeteff.html>

New York Public Library. Taken together, the collections of Columbia and the New York Public Library add up to the single largest concentration of Russian language materials in the country. <http://www.nypl.org/node/138855>

Study Spaces

All university libraries are accessible to students. The library in the International Affairs Building is located on the third floor. Library locations and hours can be found on the Columbia library [website](#). The Harriman Institute also has study spaces on the 12th floor. The Harriman reading room and the Harriman student lounge are located in Rooms 1201 and 1202 IAB.

Health Services

Health service offices are located on the 3rd and 4th floor of John Jay. These offices house a number of doctors as well as an urgent care facility. For a list of services and to make an appointment please refer to the health services [website](#).

Counseling and Psychological Services are located on the 8th floor of Lerner Hall. They are available Monday-Thursday from 8:00am-6:30pm and Fridays from 8:00am-4:30pm.

The Office of Disability Services is located in Wien Hall, Suite 108A, and can assist students with a range of disabilities. You must first register your disability before receiving appropriate assistance. Please note: If you have any issues with ADHD, anxiety, or learning difficulties, please consider registering your issue with ODS.

Eating on Campus

The sixth floor of IAB has a small café, *Publique*. *Lenfest Café* is located on the first floor of the Law School building. *Blue Java Coffee Bar* is located in Butler library to the right of the main entrance. *Café 212*, *C-store*, and *Café East* are located on the first floor of Alfred Lerner Hall. *Joe* is located in the Northwest Corner building on 120th Street. *Brownie's Café* is located in the basement of Avery. *Brad's* is located in the Toni Stabile Student Center next to the Journalism building. Finally, there is a *Graduate Student Center* in Philosophy Hall, which includes a café, and is only accessible to graduate students.

Fitness

Graduate students have access to Dodge Fitness Center located on Morningside campus between Havenmeyer and Uris. They offer personal training sessions, and fitness classes for an additional fee. Please see the Dodge Fitness Center [website](#) for more details.

An interactive campus map can be found [here](#).