Proposed Change to an Existing Degree: Academic Component

Please answer all relevant questions below. Consultation with the appropriate Associate Provost on a draft of the proposal is recommended.

Using the relevant template, please submit a budget even if no additional resources are needed.

Title of Degree (e.g., Bachelor of Arts in History):

Bachelor of Arts in Russian Language & Literature

1. Please provide the name, title, email address, and phone number of the primary contact person for this academic program:

Yuri Corrigan
Assistant Professor of Russian & Comparative Literature
745 Commonwealth Ave
STH 633
ycorriga@bu.edu
617-358-0947

2. Please describe briefly the proposed change to the existing degree:

The new major features newly designed Gateway and Capstone courses to be taken by all WLL majors together, as well as the requirement to take at least one course in WLL outside the Russian specialization. These new requirements are meant to build cohort unity across the department and to encourage cross-language comparative thinking. The revisions also reduce the total number of courses required for the major from 13 to 11 and add flexibility in course choice within the specialization, making it possible for students to choose their own focus on Russian language, literature, or culture.
3. Please provide a rationale for the proposed change to the existing degree:

This proposal to revise the existing major in Russian Language & Literature is part of a department-wide initiative to update all WLL majors in response to our internal assessment process, to the advice of the external committee in WLL’s 2015 APR report, and to feedback from students. The revisions have the following goals:

- to enable students to place their studies of Russia within a larger comparative and world context as befits WLL’s new identity as a Department of World Languages & Literatures.
- to encourage students to identify not just as students of Russian, but as part of a larger departmental culture through taking courses with and getting to know faculty and students working in other languages.
- to make it more feasible for students to enter and complete the Russian major
- to attract more double majors by reducing total requirements
- to attract majors who seek language proficiency for professional use but have less interest in literature
- to simplify and streamline student advising
- to make the Russian major have broader appeal to students of History, Political Science, International Relations, and the arts, among other disciplines.
- to strengthen the department’s identity by unifying the general look and feel of our majors while preserving their distinctive content and cultural emphases.
- to encourage the development of more explicitly comparative courses to serve as WLL breadth electives
- to further integrate language study with literary and cultural topics.
- to boost enrollments in WLL courses taught in English as our many Japanese and Chinese majors take courses across the department to fulfill the WLL Breadth requirement.

4. Please describe how the proposed change(s) advances the Strategic Plans of the department, of the school/college, and of the University:

WLL’s 2015 updated strategic plan sets the goal, recommended by our APR report from 2015, to articulate a “more engaging and cohesive vision” of our collective mission to “develop students’ understanding of how language, culture, and thought interrelate in societies past and present — through the study of literature.” The first step in this process was to rename the department “World Languages & Literatures.” These major revisions, meant to integrate the majors within a larger context of the study of World literature, are the second step.
The revisions also reduce and streamline requirements to make advising less complicated and more effective, another goal mentioned in WLL’s 2015 strategic plan. We anticipate increases in number of majors and in student identification with WLL as a department, which should make for stronger connections among the student body and set the foundation for stronger ties to alumni—a goal that is set out in the CAS Strategic plan and one that is crucial for WLL as a relatively new Department. The major’s increased flexibility and reduced requirements will make room for more interdisciplinary work. Finally, the major’s emphasis on the connections between Russian and World literature will enhance students’ understanding of cultural and linguistic diversity, helping “to foster the engagement of Boston University in the city and the world” as outlined in BU’s strategic plan.

5. Please list all the program requirements for the current and revised programs so that review committees can easily see the changes: (expand the table as needed and denote new courses in bold print)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current program</th>
<th>Revised program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TWO of the following courses in comparative literature and linguistics:</td>
<td>One Gateway Course: XL 100: Explorations in World Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o linguistics: CAS LX 250</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>o comparative literature: CAS XL 100, XL 222*, XL 223, XL 224, XL 225</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>LR 250: Masterpieces of Russian Literature</td>
<td>LR 250: Masterpieces of Russian Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>LR 282: Russian Prose Classics of 20th Century</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOUR courses in advanced Russian, CAS LR 303, 304, 403, 404</td>
<td>THREE advanced Russian language courses above LR 212 and including LR 303.</td>
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<tr>
<td>THREE courses in Russian literature. CAS LR 350, 351, and a course numbered LR 450 or</td>
<td>FOUR courses in Russian language, literature, history, politics, and or culture, of which up to</td>
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31
three may be taken outside of WLL

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<tr>
<th>TWO Electives: one from among CAS LR 280, 281, 283, or 289; and one from other LR courses, 300-level and above; or a related course from another department chosen with the written approval of the advisor.</th>
<th>ONE WLL Breadth Elective not focused on Russian. May also be satisfied by taking both CAS CC 101 and CAS CC 102, by LX250 Introduction to Linguistics or a higher-level linguistics course, or by a literature course in Romance Studies, English, or Classics. Option to increase to two courses, substituting for one of the four courses in Russian language, literature and/or culture.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total: 13 courses</td>
<td>Total: 11 courses</td>
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</table>

6. Is this change a result of program learning outcomes assessment and/or academic program review? If yes, please describe:

Yes! The APR process conducted in 2015 reaffirmed that WLL's greatest resource is its rich diversity in course offerings and faculty expertise; it also noted that students are not availing themselves of the opportunities this presents. The APR committee described our majors’ course requirements as “punitive.” At the same time, our own learning outcomes assessment process found that graduating seniors felt strongly identified with their majors but much less so with the department (then called MLCL). We had neglected to foreground our departmental identity and to spell out a learning outcome implicitly obvious to the faculty (but never explicitly described in our documents or explained to the students): all WLL majors should develop intercultural literacy and should graduate with a global perspective on their language and culture of specialization, a knowledge of its place in the world.
These five revised majors are our response. We have streamlined and simplified as described above. We anticipate this new shared structure, with joint freshman seminar and capstone, will encourage students to identify with the department as a whole and to take more courses beyond their specialization. We have worked to create a more cohesive and appealing major, where the learning objectives are clear to students from day one. We believe this will lead to an increase in number of majors and double majors (including within WLL), to higher overall enrollments, and to an even more dynamic and diverse intellectual culture in the department.

7. Please list learning outcomes for the revised program:

1. Advanced knowledge of major themes and genres in Russian literature and culture in their historical contexts, including links to other European and world literary traditions.
2. Critical thinking, communication, and writing skills within areas of content and cultural knowledge.
3. Familiarity with fundamental research skills for Russian studies, including use of traditional and electronic sources.
4. Proficiency in speaking, reading, writing, and listening comprehension in Russian at the intermediate-high level as measured by ACTFL guidelines.

8. How does the change place your program in the context of programs at peer institutions?

Our former 13-course Russian major (with an additional 4-course prerequisite of LR 111-212) demanded much more of students than any other Russian majors we could find at peer and peer-plus institutions; in some cases it required more than double the number of courses. The revision brings our major more into line with other schools, while our program remains more demanding than many with 11 courses beyond intermediate Russian, including three language courses taught in Russian at the 300 or 400 level, plus a capstone project treating Russian language sources. By comparison, for example:

-Princeton University's Russian major requires only eight courses beyond intermediate Russian (with only two advanced courses in Russian);

-Brown University's Russian major requires only nine courses beyond intermediate Russian (with only two advanced courses in Russian);
The reputed Russian programs of both Wellesley and Williams College program require only 6 courses beyond intermediate Russian.

The revised major requires four to five courses (including LR 250) in Russian language, literature, film, history, and/or culture, thus rendering the major an option for students interested in history, politics, and international relations (as well as to those interested in language and literature, as previously). The XL 100 and 2 WLL-wide “breadth courses” and the capstone project give students the added benefit (unlike any other program we could find) of competence in world literature and intercultural studies.

9. How does the change affect other academic units and existing programs at the University?

The revised Russian requirements will make it easier to double major in, for instance, European Studies, History, or IR. Otherwise, we do not anticipate an effect on other departments.

10. How will you notify current students of the proposed changes and implement the requirements? How will you assure that current students are able to complete their programs under the requirements that were in place at the time of their matriculation?

The LR course offerings will remain unchanged, allowing current students to complete their major, and the new major can be easily served by the same LR course offerings making for a smooth transition. The capstone seminar will first be offered in Fall 2018. Students will be notified by email, by flyer posting (for reaching potential students not yet in the major), and during academic advising. The Department website will be updated to promote and highlight all new majors in WLL, including Russian.

11. Please document any implications that the change has on professional accreditation or licensure at the program or school/college level:

None
12. If the change includes a new course or courses, please indicate who will teach the course and how the rest of that faculty member’s course load will be affected (courses(s) redistributed to other faculty, taught less frequently, no longer taught, etc.). Please be specific about affected courses. This information should be reflected in the budget form that accompanies the proposal, e.g. the cost for a new faculty member to teach the new course or a redistributed course:

The major requires no new courses

13. Please list other resources needed including new staff, IT, technology enhanced classrooms, office space, and other facilities. This information should be reflected in the budget:

None.

14. Please describe the budgetary impact that the proposed change will have:

None.

15. Please provide the bulletin copy (exactly as it should appear) related to the proposed change, including all text connected to the program (requirements, description, learning outcomes)[NOTE: this bulletin copy is in a final form and cannot be changed]:

The major in Russian Language & Literature provides students with a comprehensive grasp of Russian language, literature, and culture in political, historical, theoretical, and linguistic contexts. Our majors are critically informed and discerning readers of texts who are able to communicate their ideas in well-structured and persuasive writing in English and, starting at the CAS LR 303 level, in Russian. The major expects students to attain proficiency in speaking, reading, writing, and listening comprehension in Russian; it trains them to work with primary sources in Russian and to navigate challenging real-life situations. The Russian major works well on its own or as a double major with other disciplines, such as International Relations, History, English, Comparative Literature, European Studies, and Political Science. Upon graduation, Russian majors are well prepared for graduate study and for careers in government, local and international nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector.

Like all WLL majors, Russian Language & Literature majors begin with XL100 Leaving Home: Explorations in World Literature, a team-taught course in which students meet the WLL faculty
through guest lectures and get oriented in the rich diversity of the world’s literary traditions. They begin Russian language study as early as possible and complete at least two language courses beyond the fifth-semester level (LR 303). Masterpieces of Russian Literature (LR 250) introduces students to major texts in English translation and can be taken early on in the student’s program. Four additional courses in Russian language, literature, and/or culture provide greater depth in areas of special interest to the student. One elective chosen among all WLL courses on languages, literatures, and cultures other than Russian enhances understanding of Russia’s place in the world through regional, global and/or historical comparison. Students wishing to explore more of WLL’s course offerings outside of Russia may substitute an additional elective for one of their four courses in Russian language, literature, or culture. Finally, Russian majors reconvene with all WLL majors in the senior capstone seminar XL 479, where they share the expertise they have gained and work with a faculty mentor on a final project using Russian-language materials: a scholarly paper, a translation, a creative work, or other project at a similar level.

A total of 11 four-credit courses is required, all completed with a grade of C or higher.

- **XL 100 Explorations in World Literature: Leaving Home**

- **LR 250 Masterpieces of Russian Literature**

- **3 advanced Russian language courses above LR 212.**
  Chosen from CAS LR 303, 304, 314, 316, 320, 350, 385, 386, 441, 450, 445

- **4 courses in Russian language, literature, and/or culture above LR 250.** With advisor approval, up to 3 of these may be Russian studies courses taken outside the WLL department, e.g., in history, art history, Pardee, or PO. Courses taken at study abroad programs may also fulfill these requirements.

- **1 WLL elective, chosen with approval of the advisor.** Chosen from all courses in WLL. May also be satisfied by taking both CAS CC 101 and CAS CC 102, by LX 250 Introduction to Linguistics or a higher-level linguistics course, or by a literature course in Romance Studies, English, or Classics. Students wishing to do more comparative work may count an additional WLL elective in place of one of the four courses in Russian language, literature and/or culture.

- **Capstone XL 479 WLL Senior Seminar**, with a paper or translation project that makes use of Russian-language sources
To graduate with honors, students will maintain a GPA in the major of at least 3.4 and will take two additional courses above the 11 required for the major:

- one additional LR or XL course chosen with approval of the advisor.
- either XL 540 (translation seminar) or LR 401 or 402 (continuation of the thesis begun in the capstone seminar).

The following questions relate to a change in the delivery format of an existing degree.

16. For proposed changes to delivery format of existing programs, please provide an indication of non-standard scheduling for the proposed format:

N/A

17. Please provide information on a marketing plan and partner for the proposed changed delivery format:

N/A

18. If applicable, please provide a request for non-standard tuition rates for the proposed changed delivery format:

N/A

19. What charges (tuition, fees, etc.) are to be applied to this program? How will the charges be structured?

N/A