

The NSLI-Y and Bolshoi Way Summer Intensive was an experience that altered the goals and aspirations of my future. This program introduced me to the global community and instilled a life-long appetite for language. My summer in Russia paved the way for either an academic or artistic career. An opportunity that was stimulating for the body and mind, Russia allowed me to explore both passion and intellect.

Language is the first step in understanding a nation's principles and appreciating its past. Dance, like language, articulates a story and allows one to communicate. In studying both the Russian language and ballet, I gained a unique perspective on the nation's history and established strong cross-cultural relationships. The language unlocked the world around me, but ballet gave me an intimate glimpse at the reverence and appreciation Russian's harbor for the performing arts.

What began as a six-week ambassador program opened the door for a seven month opportunity to study abroad. After participating in the NSLI-Y and Bolshoi Way Summer Intensive, I was invited to train as a full-term student at the Bolshoi Ballet Academy. My experiences in the summer provided me with the courage and international experience to accept the offer. I currently partake in a full-immersion lifestyle: navigating the city via metro, living within a Russian dormitory, and participating in Russian ballet classes. Surrounded by a rich and fascinating culture, I am continually enthused and captivated by the nation's art, religion, and architecture. Set among the transitory and developing Russian society, I have witnessed by own life grow and progress toward a boundless and opportunistic future.

