



RUSSIAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION, INC.

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**NATIONAL SECURITY LANGUAGE INITIATIVE FOR YOUTH
RUSSIAN LANGUAGE & CULTURE RUSSIAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION AND BOLSHOI WAY
MOSCOW SUMMER INTENSIVE**

JULY 14 – AUGUST 25, 2012

Q&A

What is the Primary Focus of the NSLI-Y Moscow Summer Intensive?

The educational goal of the NSLI-Youth program is to immerse American high school students in the Russian language and culture. RAF is proud that it has been able to demonstrate the unique value that our U.S. Bolshoi Ballet Academy Summer Intensive adds to learning about the Russian language, culture and people. As such, the Moscow Summer Intensive designed by RAF differs from the typical NSLI-Y program by also incorporating ballet training by the Bolshoi Ballet Academy Teachers. However, **the primary focus remains on the Russian language and culture studies, and all participants will be required to demonstrate advancement in language skills acquisition upon the completion of the program.**

What are the Components of the NSLI-Y Moscow Summer Intensive?

NSLI-Y Russian Language & Culture Russian American Foundation and Bolshoi Way Moscow Summer Intensive is designed to broaden and advance the learning that the participants embark on in RAF's U.S. Bolshoi Ballet Academy Summer Intensive, with a primary focus on the Russian language and culture studies. NSLI-Y program participants will be expected to attend classes Monday through Friday for the duration of the program (6 weeks). A typical day will have 3 hours of Russian language classes and 2.5 hours of ballet classes. All ballet classes will be taught by the Academy's Mater Teachers and will be conducted in Russian with no translation so that participants will have maximum exposure to the Russian language. The students will reside at the Academy, though some weekends students will stay with a host family, which will allow them to experience firsthand the customs and traditions through which Russian families live. On some evenings and weekends participants will also have a significant cultural curriculum, including day trips, visits to cultural institutions, seminars, etc. An emphasis will be placed on activities within social group settings among other Russian students of similar age and interests.

What costs are covered by the NSLI-Y Program?

All international travel, health insurance, housing, meals, classes, cultural excursions, and a program mobile phone in Moscow for emergency use will be provided to the participant at no cost. If the participant is beyond driving distance of NYC, a domestic round-trip ticket will be provided as well. It is the responsibility of each participant to have a valid U.S. passport during the time of the program (please read below). It is recommended that participants have some spending money for incidentals that they may desire during their stay in Moscow.

IMPORTANT: U.S. Passport/ Citizenship/ Visa/ Immunizations:

U.S. Passport: Participant's passport **MUST** be valid for a minimum of 1.5 years after the date of the program's end (*i.e. until at least January 25th, 2014*). If selected, RAF will be able to provide a participant with a letter of support to help expedite passport processing. A participant is responsible for covering all the costs associated with obtaining of the U.S. passport and submitting a copy of the passport to RAF in a timely manner. The copy of the passport must be in **high quality** and in **color**. The passport must be signed. When notified, the



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participants will be required to provide RAF with their passports for visa processing (usually a few weeks prior to the travel date).

U.S. Citizenship: NSLI-Y program, funded by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, seeks to increase Americans’ capacity to engage with native speakers of critical languages by providing formal and informal language learning through an immersion experience abroad. One of the requirements of this program is that all participants must be U.S. citizens. Hence, all travel and study-related documents must be arranged for all participants as per for U.S. citizens. Due to certain Russian entry visa regulations for the holders of a dual citizenship U.S.-Russia, such individuals cannot be admitted to this program, as this will oppose their status in the program.

Educational Visa: If selected, a participant will be provided with all necessary information for their educational visa application. It is participant’s responsibility to ensure that their passport is valid as per the program’s terms, and to provide necessary forms in the office together with the photographs in a timely manner.

Medical/ Immunizations:

Only semi-finalists will be required to provide medical and dental evaluation forms. A participant is responsible to provide medical/ dental examinations and immunizations required for obtaining the visa. Semi-finalists will be provided with necessary forms to be filled out by the physician. In order to process participant’s visa, it is mandatory for the participant to have their HIV test and Hepatitis C vaccinations taken. Since Hepatitis C vaccine is mandatory in Russia and not mandatory in the U.S., the physician must provide an official letter stating that the participant does not have **and** never had Hepatitis C.

Do I need a special Health Insurance?

Please be reminded that Russia’s standard of medical care differs from what is expected in the U.S. Each family will be required to carry medical insurance in order to be enrolled in the Bolshoi Intensive in NYC. For the Moscow portion, each participant will be automatically enrolled in the Health Plan offered by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, at no cost. It will be your responsibility to become familiar with all its rules and regulations. In order to help protect the health and safety of program’s participants, as well as in meeting Russia’s immigration laws and the Academy’s regulations, RAF requires an applicant to have the physical and mental capacity, to perform the essential functions of a participant for a full period of 9 weeks (3 weeks in NY and 6 weeks in Moscow) without unreasonable disruption due to health problems. Please refer to the Medical Release Form.

What can I expect in terms of safety and guidance in Moscow?

Moscow today is one of the most dynamic and fascinating cities in the world. Similar to New York, it is a big city and regular awareness, common sense, and carefulness is expected at all times. Participant families will be encouraged to attend Program’s Pre-Departure Orientations (PDOs) during which RAF will brief the participants. Adult American chaperones will accompany the participants – and will be responsible for overseeing the group’s well-being in Moscow. The Academy is a safe and secure facility located in the center of Moscow. Nevertheless, the participants will need to always be aware that they are in a foreign country with different rules, laws, standards, and expectations of behavior. The participants will always have access to an adult for guidance and references. PLEASE NOTE: the chaperone will NOT be responsible for individually supervising any of the participants and/or meeting their individual/personal needs. In addition, Academy will have on-site administrative person and a full-time resident advisor overseeing the group. Attendance will be



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taken at all mandatory activities and at curfew. Otherwise, participants will be allowed to explore Moscow on their own in small groups.

What happens if I am not selected?

Of course RAF hopes that this is an ongoing Program. In the meantime, if one is not selected to participate in the 2012 NSLI-Y Moscow Summer Intensive, anyone interested will be able to take advantage of the NY Bolshoi Intensive's free Russian language classes.

Will selected students have any special privileges during the 1st three-week program?

No. RAF is committed to treat ALL participants of the NY program equally and to ensure that they receive the same advantages at all times thus making the program fulfilling, beneficial, and inclusive. The only difference will be is that those participating in the NSLI-Y Program will be required to attend Russian language classes two times per week during the 1st three-week session – and for all others those classes will be optional.

What is the selection process?

Once ALL applicant's completed documents are received in ONE package by **FRIDAY, MARCH 30th, 2012**, RAF selection Committee will review each application based on the following:

NSLI-Y Program applicant must be enrolled in the 2012 New York Bolshoi Summer Intensive to participate. If you are already enrolled in the 6-week session and are selected as the Finalist, you will be reimbursed for the final 3-week session.

- 1) Applicant is required to submit in the office:
 - Completed Registration Form (signed). **IMPORTANT:** Please use a **PC** to complete and submit the Registration Form online (must submit **both** online and in print). Prior to submission, please carefully review this form.
 - 2 Mandatory Essays
 - 1 Mandatory Additional Question
 - 2 Academic Teachers' Recommendations
 - Copy of the Official Student Transcript
 - Passport Copy. **IMPORTANT:** Image must be of normal size, in **high resolution** and in **color**. The passport must be signed.
- 2) RAF must receive ALL applicant's documents in ONE package by **FRIDAY, MARCH 30th, 2012**. **Please do not mail your NSLI-Y forms in one package together with your NY BBASI forms.**
- 3) RAF selection Committee will review all applications, conduct phone and/or personal interviews with semi-finalists and will make final determinations by **FRIDAY, APRIL 20th, 2012**. If you are selected as a semi-finalist, you will be asked to obtain a thorough medical and dental clearance and complete RAF's medical forms, which should be received in the office on/ before **FRIDAY, MAY 11th, 2012**. Semi-finalists will be required to fill out specific NSLI-Y Medical/ Dental Evaluation forms.

Determinations will be made based on a point system in the following areas: A) Exhibited interest in Russian language and Russian culture; B) Academic excellence; C) Demonstrated maturity. As RAF is responsible to the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, to make sure that each participant excels and meets the goals of the Program, the selection Committee reserves the right to award extra points to applicants who have demonstrated maturity and dedication during the past enrollment in RAF's Bolshoi Ballet



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Academy Summer Intensive Program. Having said that, all interested and registered students for the 2012 Bolshoi Ballet Academy Summer Intensive Program are encouraged to apply for the NSLI-Y program.

Can home-schooled students participate?

Home-schooled students are welcome to apply. For home-schooled students, Teachers' Recommendations forms must be completed by an adult who is not related to the applicant, but knows them well and can attest to her/his readiness to travel and study in Moscow. Possible individuals may include, but are not limited to, scout leaders, coaches, clergy members, volunteer coordinators and instructors.

If I am selected for the NSLI-Y Moscow Summer Intensive does that mean that I am accepted for a year-round enrollment at the Bolshoi Ballet Academy?

No. The NSLI-Y Moscow Summer Intensive is designed by Russian American Foundation according to the guidelines and goals of the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The NSLI-Y Moscow Summer Intensive is designed and implemented by RAF with a major emphasis placed on Russian language and culture immersion, with the ballet training as a supplemental benefit. The participants are selected based on their interest and dedication to the Russian language and culture, academic excellence, and demonstrated maturity. Everyone who is accepted to the Bolshoi Ballet Academy Summer Intensive in the U.S. automatically qualifies in the ballet training category. On the other hand, Bolshoi Ballet Academy's year-round program is solely designed and operated by the Bolshoi Ballet Academy with the goal to prepare the best professional classical ballet dancers. The Academy selects students solely based on their talent, training and physical form. Within two weeks after the conclusion of the 6-week U.S. Summer Intensive, RAF will send out Acceptance Letters to students invited for the year-round enrollment at the Academy. RAF has no role in any part of Academy's year-round program in Moscow.

What is the difference between the NSLI-Y Program and the RAF Award to travel to Moscow and perform at the Bolshoi Ballet Academy Gala?

The NSLI-Y Program is primarily designed to immerse the selected participants in Russian language and culture, as well as ballet training for six weeks in Moscow. At the end of the 6-week Summer Intensive in CT and NY, RAF awards one female and one male student enrolled in the 6-week session for the opportunity to travel to Moscow to rehearse and perform with the Bolshoi Ballet Academy in their Annual Gala. This Award covers travel costs, meals, and housing at the Academy for 2 weeks. The main focus of this Award is the opportunity to work with the Academy's Master Teachers in preparation for the Gala performance and perform on stage among some of the most talented young dancers in the world.

If I have additional questions, who do I contact?

For questions, please email Anna Dameniuk, RAF NSLI-Y Program Director at:
nsli-y@russianamericanfoundation.org.

Please mail your package to:
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