

## *Alumna Finds Her Footing with the Russian Language, through Dance*

As one of the only freshmen in her NSLI-Y program, Sophia was selected in 2014 to take part in the NSLI-Y Bolshoi program, a ballet dance and language study exchange to Moscow, Russia, led by the Russian American Foundation. Her time in Russia boosted her Russian language skills and expanded her cultural awareness and appreciation. She was also heavily challenged in a unique ballet training opportunity with one of the most acclaimed institutions in the world. The opportunity for her to combine both language and ballet training was an invaluable experience for Sophia.



After her NSLI-Y Bolshoi experience, Sophia was invited to return and train full time at the Russian Bolshoi Ballet Academy (Moscow State Academy of Choreography). Sophia spent her entire Sophomore year training at a high intensity and learning to speak Russian with a higher fluency.

Upon her return from Moscow, Sophia graduated from high school and enrolled at the University of Washington, where she is currently a Junior majoring in comput-

er science and minoring in Russian language, mathematics, and Ballet.

The excellent Slavic Languages department at the University of Washington provides Sophia the chance to solidify her knowledge of grammar and construction. In 2018, she was one of a few students awarded the Russia, East Europe, & Central Asia FLAS Fellowship through the Jackson School of International Studies. This fellowship program provided Russian language study as well as an exploration of the value of language skills in

Computer Science.

Sophia plans to use her linguistics qualities to make a difference in the Computer Science industry; building networking relationships, recognizing the value of working together and learning from others. As Sophia puts it: “Now more than ever, it is important that Americans have the necessary linguistic skills and cultural knowledge to promote international dialogue, support American engagements abroad, and better understand global languages, cultures and issues.”

## **THE 2020 NSLI-Y ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVE APPLICATION IS NOW OPEN!**

Alumni Representatives serve in a volunteer role in various regions across the U.S. and virtually to organize alumni activities and outreach events. Alumni Representatives are able to support the goals of NSLI-Y, advance the NSLI-Y Alumni Association, and develop leadership and event-planning skills.

Apply Today: <http://bit.ly/AlumniRepApp20>