Middlebury
Language Schools

Kathryn Wasserman Davis School of Russian
schoolofrussian@middlebury.edu

14 Old Chapel Road
Middlebury, VT 05753
802.443.2006
middlebury.edu/language-schools

KATHRYN WASSERMAN DAVIS SCHOOL OF RUSSIAN

Master of Arts in Russian
Degree Guidelines and Procedures, 2026-27

1. ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY

- A Bachelor's Degree (B.A., B.S., or the equivalent) earned by June.
- Graduate-level proficiency in Russian: proficiency testing is generally required.
- Four or more years of Russian language study is preferred.

2. CANDIDACY FOR THE M.A. DEGREE

To become a candidate for the M.A. degree, a student must hold a B.A., B.S., or the equivalent, and successfully complete a 6-week graduate summer session (3 graduate units). This initial summer session is called the summer of candidacy. Upon successful completion of the summer of candidacy, a student is officially recognized as a candidate for the M.A. degree.

Graduate units earned prior to receipt of the B.A./B.S. do not confer candidacy. Up to 3 graduate units earned at the School of Russian prior to the summer of candidacy may be applied toward the M.A. once the student becomes a degree candidate.

3. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Twelve graduate units of credit, with a minimum grade of B- in each course. A Middlebury unit is equivalent to three semester hours of credit.

4. DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS

Candidates are expected to complete a balanced program, including at least two (2) units in each of the following areas:

- History, Culture, and Politics (the phrase 'Culture and Civilization' is also used)
- Language, Linguistics, and Pedagogy
- Literature

In addition, M.A. candidates must complete one (1) independent study course on the Middlebury campus, for which they submit an M.A. capstone project, usually a thesis. The topic, nature, and scope of the capstone project should be approved by a faculty advisor, assigned by the director.

5. RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the summer of candidacy on the Middlebury campus (3 units), the 9 remaining units required for the M.A. degree must include either:

- Three additional summers at Middlebury (9 units); or
- An academic year in Astana, Kazakhstan (6 units), followed by a summer at Middlebury (3 units); or
- A semester in Astana, Kazakhstan (3 units), and two additional summers at Middlebury (6 units).

The final three (3) units should be earned in residence on the Middlebury, Vermont, campus.

6. TRANSFER OF CREDIT

After the summer of candidacy, a student may transfer in up to three units of credit. Transfer units should be approved before the student has taken the course. A graduate course must meet certain requirements to be eligible for transfer: contact the School of Russian for more information.

7. GENERAL LIMITATIONS

All credits toward a Middlebury M.A. degree, earned at Middlebury or elsewhere, expire 10 years after the study was completed; e.g., courses taken during the summer of 2026 are no longer valid as of August 2036.