



Northern Illinois University

Study Abroad Office

Theatre and Performance Studies at the Moscow Art Theatre Moscow, Russia

**Approximate Dates:
September 14 – December 13, 2014**



This study abroad program is coordinated by the NIU Study Abroad Office (SAO), in cooperation with the NIU School of Theatre and Dance and the Moscow Art Theatre, Moscow, Russia.

The NIU Moscow Art Theatre Semester offers undergraduate students a living experience with one of the most accomplished and groundbreaking theaters in the world.

The founders of the Moscow Art Theatre created a new form of drama, believing that all theater must reflect and illuminate the human condition. Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko, primarily through their association with the works of Anton Chekhov, maintained that the crucial element in the art of theater is ensemble.

They created a company where actors, directors, writers, and designers have been making theater together for years, sometimes lifetimes. The approach to theater in Russia is very different from most of what is experienced in the United States. Because it is seen as an expression of the Russian identity, theater holds an exalted place in the culture.

The NIU Moscow Art Theatre Semester offers young theater artists the unique opportunity to engage in this demanding and highly rewarding artistic environment.

Classes are held six days a week, from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Daily acting classes in the Stanislavsky Method and the Michael Chekhov Technique, movement classes and ballet, are complemented with voice, design, Russian language, and Russian theater history. This immersion in conservatory-based training is enhanced by the rich cultural life in Moscow. Moscow is alive with many exciting theaters, opera houses, concert halls and museums. Every student will attend the theater, opera, ballet, and concerts frequently. Tickets are provided as an integral part of the cultural program.

DATES: Fall Semester: September 14 to December 13, 2014. These dates are approximate. The beginning and end date for the program will be confirmed by the Moscow Art Theatre during summer 2014. Students are responsible for making their own travel arrangements, though Director Gelman will make the initial contact with the airlines or travel agents (arrival and departure dates will be confirmed at a later date).

PROGRAM OVERVIEW: This is the 11th offering in an institutional relationship between the Northern Illinois University School of Theatre and Dance and the Moscow Art Theatre (MXAT). This program is in response to a growing interest among American students in Russian repertory theatres and the rich theatrical tradition that flows from Konstantin Stanislavsky and his theatre company—MXAT.

Directors, actors, theatre scholars, and teachers of the MXAT School will administer daily instruction to the NIU School of Theatre and Dance students. Teaching will focus on acting, voice, movement, and Russian theatre history. Students will be taking daily classes at the MXAT School.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Alexander Gelman is Professor and Director of the School of Theatre and Dance. Since receiving his MFA in directing at Boston University he has worked as a free-lance director and translator of plays from Russian to English. His directing has encompassed legitimate theatre, the musical, opera, and film. Mr. Gelman's many productions include *Eugene Onegin*, *L'Incoronazione di Poppea*, *Turn of the Screw*, *L'Italiana in Algeri*, *Camelot*, *Twelfth Night*, *Side by Side by Sondheim*, *As You Like It*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Die Fledermaus*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Stage Struck*, *Barber of Seville*, *La Traviata*, *Carmen*, *School for Wives*, *Waiting for Godot*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Journey of the Fifth Horse*, *Tartuffe*, *Tango*, *The Lion in Winter*, and *The Burning Fiery Furnace*. He has worked at such theatres as American Repertory Theatre, Arena Stage Company, Canterbury Opera (Christchurch, New Zealand), Chicago Lyric Opera, Utah Opera, Ashlawn-Highland Music Festival, Chattanooga Opera Association, Hartford Stage Company, The Acting Company, New York Shakespeare Festival, Minneapolis Children's Theatre Company, Emmy Gifford Theatre, Great Music West Festival, Colorado Opera Troupe, and The Juilliard School of Drama. He has also assisted such notable East European directors as Andrei Serban, Yuri Lyubimov, Lucian Pintilie, and Yuri Yerechin.



ANATOLY SMELIANSKY: Associate Artistic Director of the Moscow Art Theatre and Head of the Moscow Art Theatre School is a leading Russian theatre writer, scholar, and critic. He joined the Moscow Art Theatre (MXAT) in 1980 as Literary Director and was appointed Associate Artistic Director in 1996. Dean of the MXAT School for Academic Studies since 1986, he became the head of the school in 2000. Dr. Smeliansky is also Editor-in-Chief of the new edition of the Complete Works Konstantin Stanislavsky and The Moscow Art Theatre Encyclopedia. He is the author of *Our Collocutors: Russian Classics on Stage*, *Bulgakov and the Moscow Art Theatre*, *Is Comrade Bulgakov Dead?* (rated among the best theatre publications in 1995 by



American Theatre magazine) and The Russian Theatre after Stalin. He has extensive experience lecturing on Russian and Soviet theatre in the United States (Columbia, Carnegie Mellon University, Georgetown, Harvard, Princeton, Yale), France (the Sorbonne), and England (Cambridge and Oxford). Dr. Smeliansky is a theatre columnist for Moscow News Weekly. As Secretary of the Board of the Russian Union of Theatremakers and founding member of the American-Soviet Theatre Initiative, he has represented Soviet and Russian theatre at various international symposia and conferences all over the world. Dr. Smeliansky facilitated and moderated the Slavyansky Bazaar-100 Years, a conference in Moscow in June, 1997 commencing the centennial season of the MXAT. He is the recipient of several national awards for artistic excellence, including Distinguished Artsmaker of Russia.

OBJECTIVES: Students will become sophisticated in different and varied acting techniques and the Russian theatre via immersion in the culture, history, literature, films, and plays. Development will also be enhanced by attending performances in a variety of Moscow theatres as well as meeting with a number of prominent Russian theatre artists. Russia's role in the European and global community has attracted wide interest from those compelled to theatre, Russian playwrights, and culture. The Russian theatre stands as a model for understanding acting, directing, design and play writing. Students will concentrate on the style and text of Russian authors. They will also tour museums and theatres in order to better understand the Russian theatre and its effect on contemporary acting and literature.



RUSSIA: With the dissolution of the Soviet Union visitors have a fresh opportunity to explore a vast array of exciting and ancient cultures, from the glittering imperial Russia of St. Petersburg to the timeless village life of Siberia and Irkutsk. One of the most notable features of present day Russia is a renewed celebration of the wealth of its past and its potential for the future. Throwing off the blanket of communist uniformity, Russia today is a nation of enormous diversity and tremendous vitality. It is as if the cultural traditions of a century ago have re-awakened with a newfound strength - ancient cathedrals are being rebuilt and restored, colorful markets hum with activity once again and literature and the arts are quickly regaining the creative renown they enjoyed decades ago. A new Russia is now in full bloom.



For most westerners, Russia is associated with its European cities--Moscow, St. Petersburg and Murmansk. This is the heartland of Imperial Russia, and these great and ancient cities often become the focus for most tourists. However there is much more to Russia, a country that spans eleven time zones and two continents, ending less than 50 miles from North America. Within this vast expanse lie the largest freshwater lake in the world, rivers and forests teeming with fish and wildlife, awe inspiring volcanoes, and towering mountains. Russia is the largest country on earth, with enormous tracts of land that have been opened to travelers only in the last few years. Just as Russia's rich cultural heritage has once more come to life, its natural heritage too is a new country waiting to be discovered.

(Courtesy of "Welcome to the New Russia" <http://www.interknowledge.com/russia/>)

MOSCOW: Nowhere in Russia are the dramatic contrasts of the post communist era more evident than in Moscow. Pedestals that formerly supported Soviet heroes now stand empty on street corners. Many churches destroyed or abandoned during the Soviet era are now being lovingly rebuilt. Gleaming new hotels built by Western firms stand next to dilapidated edifices. Some sections of the city have been transformed into virtual 24-hour flea markets, offering an eclectic array of products that were unavailable during the Soviet years. This vibrant street life vividly reflects the commotion and excitement, as well as the pain and trauma, of the ongoing revolution, making Moscow an ideal place to get a feel for the new Russia.

Moscow Art Theatre (MXAT) Born in 1897 of the collaborative efforts of legendary director and producer Konstantin Stanislavski and Vladimir Nemirovich-Danchenko, the Moscow Art Theatre revolutionized the Russian stage. The practices and philosophies of Stanislavski in particular have had an enduring impact on the character of modern theatrical directing and production worldwide. Dedication to truthful emotion on stage, careful research and preparation, specifically designed and historically accurate sets and costumes, innovative use of light and sound and a passionate social awareness in drama are all legacies of this paramount achievement in the art of theatre. Begun as a vehicle to elevate the status of acting and theatre in Russia and to widen the influence of Stanislavski's naturalist and socially conscious teachings, The Moscow Art Theatre was Russia's first ensemble theatre and the first to deny allegiance to the fickle tastes of its patrons.



The Moscow Art Theatre School was founded in 1943 by Vladimir Nemirovich-Danchenko, a legendary Russian director and teacher who co-founded The Moscow Art Theatre (MXAT) with Konstantin Stanislavsky. The MXAT School is the training ground for the exploration and development of the famed teaching, ethical, and production principles of the "Stanislavsky System." Traditionally, senior members of the MXAT Company teach at the School.

Today, the MXAT School is considered the leading theatre training program in Russia. Every summer the MXAT School auditions several thousand applicants, admitting only a select 30-40 students into the freshman class. The School is a fully accredited Russian academic institution

with a conservatory-type curriculum. It offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in acting; directing; play writing; set, costume, and lighting design; technical directing; production; and theatre management.

The MXAT School is a recognized cross-cultural center that hosts numerous international theatre exchanges, attracting guest artists from all over the world. Directors and teachers from Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and the United States frequently work at the School.



ACADEMIC CREDIT: For satisfactory participation in the program, participants will receive 13 semester hours of undergraduate credit for six NIU courses during the Fall 2014 semester for the following courses. All classes are taught on the premises of the Moscow Art Theatre. The courses taken while participating in this program cannot be audited.

HONORS CREDIT: Qualified students may also elect to receive Honors credit for any study abroad course(s) with the approval of Professor Gelman. For more information please contact the University Honors Office.

UNDERGRADUATE CREDIT

THEA 395 Performance & Production	1 semester hour
THEA 370 History of Theatre I	3 semester hours
TH-D 330 Theatre Dance	2 semester hours
TH-D 205 Dance	1 semester hour
THEA 491 BFA Studio 2	3 semester hours
THEA 300 Script Analysis	3 semester hours
Description: Acting students will participate in conservatory style classes in which they will study the specific disciplines as described in the NIU catalog. Prerequisite: Consent of school.	

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS: Students will generally spend six hours in the morning and afternoon attending acting class conducted by various Russian scholars and experts in the area from the MXAT. In the evenings, students will have approximately four to five hours for excursions to places of cultural and historical interest in Moscow. Some of these locations include the Stanislavsky Museum, a variety of museums and theatre companies. Students will also be required to attend at least three shows playing at one of the major theatres in Moscow. Students will be expected to write academic journals for course credit. **Applicants must participate in the entire program and satisfy NIU undergraduate admission and course requirements.**

NIU ADMISSION AND APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS: The program is open to students, Bachelor of Fine Arts juniors and seniors in the NIU School of Theatre and Dance. Applicants and currently enrolled students must meet NIU and School of Theatre and Dance GPA requirements. Students must be in good academic standing at the time of application. Students on academic probation are not eligible to participate.



In order for a student to be admitted to the study abroad program, the applicant's official transcript must be on file in the Study Abroad Office. Students who are currently enrolled at NIU, or who have previously enrolled at NIU, do not need to request an official transcript; the Study Abroad Office will make this request on behalf of the applicant. Questions relating to the admission requirements or transcripts should be directed to the Study Abroad Office.

Students cannot have any encumbrances against their NIU records. Any encumbrances placed on a student's records by NIU (i.e., Undergraduate Admissions, Bursar's Office, Accounts Receivable, Registration and Records, Health Services, Parking Services, etc.) must be cleared before a student can be granted admission to a study abroad program.

APPLICATION: Click [Theatre and Performance Studies at the Moscow Art Theatre](#) or visit the NIU Study Abroad Office website at <https://niu.studioabroad.com> (and search for "Russia" or the *Theatre and Performance Studies at the Moscow Art Theatre School* program) to begin the online application process for this program. The online process provides guidance on requesting information, advising, or applying for the program. Please note that at the time of application, applicants will be expected to submit a signature verification form and copy of their ID to the Study Abroad Office. More detailed instructions can be found on the <https://niu.studioabroad.com> website or by contacting the Study Abroad Office at (815) 753-0700 or niuabroad@niu.edu.

\$800 APPLICATION FEE/DEPOSIT: An \$800 application fee/deposit is required of all applicants. The \$800 is broken down into \$200 for the non-refundable application fee and \$600 for a program deposit. Both the application fee and the deposit will be applied to the total balance of the program cost. The \$600 deposit is refundable only if the participant withdraws prior to the withdrawal deadline indicated on the program materials or for medical reasons verified by a physician if the withdrawal takes place after the withdrawal deadline.

The \$800 application fee/deposit will be charged to NIU students' NIU Bursar's account. (Checks and money orders cannot be accepted from NIU students.) Non-NIU students must submit a check or money order in the amount of \$800. More detailed instructions regarding the application fee/deposit can be found on the seminar application website.

IMPORTANT – All applications will be categorized as "Pending – No Deposit" until the \$800 application fee/deposit has been received (or, in the case of non-NIU students, once a check has been received). The Study Abroad Office will not consider or process applications without the \$800 application fee/deposit. In order to reserve your place in the program you must submit the \$800 deposit within 14 days of application. After 14 days applications without a deposit will be inactivated.

FINAL DATE FOR APPLYING FOR ADMISSION: May 1, 2014.

TRANSATLANTIC TRANSPORTATION: Professor Gelman will research possible flights and prices and then students will be responsible for purchasing their tickets between the U.S. and Moscow.

Important: The Study Abroad Office recommends that participants delay making flight reservations for this program until:

- 1) Students have been notified by Professor Alex Gelman.
- AND**
- 2) The SAO has accepted the minimum number of participants needed to operate this program.

This advisory is given so that participants do not find themselves financially responsible for airline tickets should it be necessary to cancel the program. (See section entitled **CANCELLATION OF THE PROGRAM**)

Individuals will be responsible for making their own air travel arrangements between the U.S. and Moscow and for purchasing their own tickets from a travel agent or airline of their choice. **(Travel insurance is strongly recommended.)** For information regarding airfares and airlines students may also wish to check out the numerous flight search engines available on the Internet.

PASSPORT: --IMPORTANT--All participants are required to possess a valid passport by **May 1, 2014**. **Do not put off applying for a passport until you've been admitted to the program or because you think you have plenty of time to take care of this. It takes anywhere from four to six weeks to obtain a passport.** If you do not have your passport by May 1 then you may hold up the visa process for the rest of the group.



Important Note: For those who already have a passport, please note that in order to be eligible for a Russian visa, U.S. passports must have a validity of 1½ years beyond the last day of the program. Information on acquiring a U.S. passport is available at the U.S. State Department's website: http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html.

VISA: A valid passport is required by May 1, 2014 in order to obtain a visa to enter Russia. Individuals who do not currently possess a valid passport should apply for one immediately upon acceptance into the program. Applicants are required to submit **FOUR** passport size photos with their application. Students will be provided with visa application forms at a later date. The NIU Study Abroad Office will collect the visa applications and required documents and submit them to Washington, DC for processing. **Foreign passport holders may need special visas for travel and are responsible for providing all required documents and paying additional costs beyond the visa costs covered in the NIU program cost.**

REQUIRED HIV TEST FOR RUSSIAN VISA: An HIV test result showing that you have tested negative is required. This test can be administered at the NIU Health Service and must be taken

before June 5, 2014. June 5 is the last day of Health Service eligibility for students who are enrolled for the Spring 2014 semester and paid on-campus service fees. After June 5 students will need to go to a health department or personal physician to have the HIV test administered.

PASSPORT AND ISIC PHOTOS: You may have your passport and/or ISIC photo(s) taken in the NIU Study Abroad Office. Photos are \$3.00 for the first photo and \$2.00 for each photo after that. After the first two photos, photos must be purchased in multiples of two. Photos are usually developed while you wait. Study Abroad Office hours are 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (closed over the lunch hour) and 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.



HEALTH REQUIREMENTS/VACCINATIONS: Travelers entering Russia are not required to have any particular vaccinations. However, if you have questions on this matter, the NIU University Health Service Travel Clinic can advise students on what immunizations are required and can administer most immunizations. Most immunizations require a fee. Consult the NIU Travel Clinic several months before you travel.

HOUSING AND MEALS: Students will stay in dormitories provided by MXAT. The dormitory is centrally located with dining facilities and excellent security. Students will be responsible for the cost of all meals. Access will be granted to the Moscow Art Theatre commissary where meals are served at a reduced cost.

FIELD TRIPS: MXAT is centrally located to many sites in and around Moscow; therefore, students will use public transportation for most scheduled site visits.

PROGRAM COST: The program cost pays for the following cost related services:

1. Housing at a dormitory provided by MXAT during the period from approximately September 14 through the night of December 13, 2014.
2. Most admission fees required during program related field trips, i.e., museums and tours.
3. Visa to enter Russia.
4. 13 semester hours of NIU undergraduate credit.
5. NIU major medical insurance.

PROGRAM COST: \$13,305

All prices quoted are subject to change. The information contained in the program documents and forms is presented in good faith and is believed to be correct as of the date presented. Northern Illinois University reserves the right to amend, modify, revise, or delete any information appearing in these documents, including but not limited to the cost of the program.

In the event that non-NIU students are admitted to the program, non-NIU students should consult with their home institutions regarding additional costs that may apply to study abroad. Non-NIU students are responsible for any study abroad charges imposed by their home institution.

ADDITIONAL COST TO PARTICIPANTS:

- Cost of acquiring a passport (approximately \$130)
- Four (4) passport-size photos for visa
- Cost of acquiring mandatory HIV Test.
- Additional costs associated with obtaining a visa for non-U.S. passport holders
- Round trip airfare between the U.S. and Moscow
- Books or plays (approximately \$20)
- Independent travel and visa costs associated with independent travel
- Expenses and purchases of a personal nature.

FINANCIAL AID: As a participant in a study abroad program through NIU, applicants may be eligible for: Pell Grant, SEOG, Perkins Loan, PLUS Loan, Subsidized or Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, MAP Award or your privately awarded scholarship with consent of awarding organization. Tuition waivers do not apply. Please contact Pamela Rosenberg, International Programs Business Manager, in Williston Hall 407, (815) 753-9530, or prosenberg@niu.edu for more information.

NIU POLICY REGARDING WITHDRAWALS FROM PROGRAM AND REFUND OF THE \$800 APPLICATION FEE/DEPOSIT: Applicants withdrawing from the program after May 1, 2014 will not be refunded the \$600 program deposit.

Applicants withdrawing from the program after this date will also be held accountable for any funds obligated to overseas vendors and agents on the applicant's behalf. This provision is in effect even if the applicant has not submitted the \$600 deposit or additional payments, and if the applicant is applying for financial aid.

If the applicant must withdraw after May 1, 2014 for medical reasons, funds obligated on their behalf to overseas vendors can only be refunded if:

- 1) The request is submitted to the Study Abroad Office in writing and accompanied by a signed statement stating that travel is not advised from a physician on the physician's letterhead; **and**
- 2) NIU is able to obtain refunds from overseas vendors and agents.

CANCELLATION OF THE PROGRAM: The NIU Study Abroad Office reserves the right to cancel this program if the minimum required enrollment of 10 is not attained. If, prior to the commencement of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for Russia, all applicants will be notified promptly of the warning and the possibility of cancellation of the program. If, during the course of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for Russia, students will be promptly notified of the warning and the advisability of canceling the program.

Information on Russia courtesy of:

Fodor's: <http://www.fodors.com/miniguides/mgresults.cfm?destination=moscow@107>, Lonely Planet: <http://www.russia-travel.com/map.htm>. Information and photos of Moscow Art Theatre School courtesy of: Encyclopedia.com: http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Moscow_Art_Theater.aspx and <http://mhatschool.theatre.ru/en/>