



Andrei Vernon: Dickinson College

My journey with the Russian language started a number of years ago. I was a freshman at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania and heard about the Russian Club. Every Monday the Russian department showed a film and even though I was studying Spanish at the time, I decided to stop by. After meeting the professors and interacting with the department I decided to take Russian sophomore year. My junior year I studied abroad in Moscow and knew that I would want to return.

Fast forward a couple years and I'm back in Moscow. I'm currently enrolled in the Semester in Moscow program here at the Higher School of Economics and will be enrolling next year in the Master's of International Business. I'm taking two courses – "Russian Business and Mass Media" and grammar. I really enjoy the business course because I am learning vocabulary and grammatical structures that will be very useful in my future career. Furthermore, the class is very interactive and this allows us to learn Russian actively and not just passively.

When I'm not studying during the week, I'm interning in the Marketing department at PricewaterhouseCoopers. Specifically, I work on the team that creates, runs and supports marketing events at our office. The events range from business mixers for our clients, presentations from PwC managers and partners to round-tables with experts from various industries. For example, a number of weeks ago I had the opportunity to listen to a round-table discussion concerning the future of the Russian real estate market. Not only was I personally interested in the topic, but thanks to my Russian Business and Mass Media course I was able to understand much more than I expected.

After a long week of working, class and studying it's time for the weekend. On the weekend there are numerous activities in and around Moscow. There are hundreds of museums, cultural attractions, festivals and a nightlife that never ends. For example, you can go the Izmailovski Rhinok and bargain for souvenirs, attend the Maslenitsa Festival at Gorky Park or take a midnight stroll around the center of the city. This semester alone, there have been various social events and trips for the international students – a Soviet themed party, a trip to Kazan, and even blini cooking in the dorms. The possibilities are truly endless for a student studying abroad in Moscow.

