

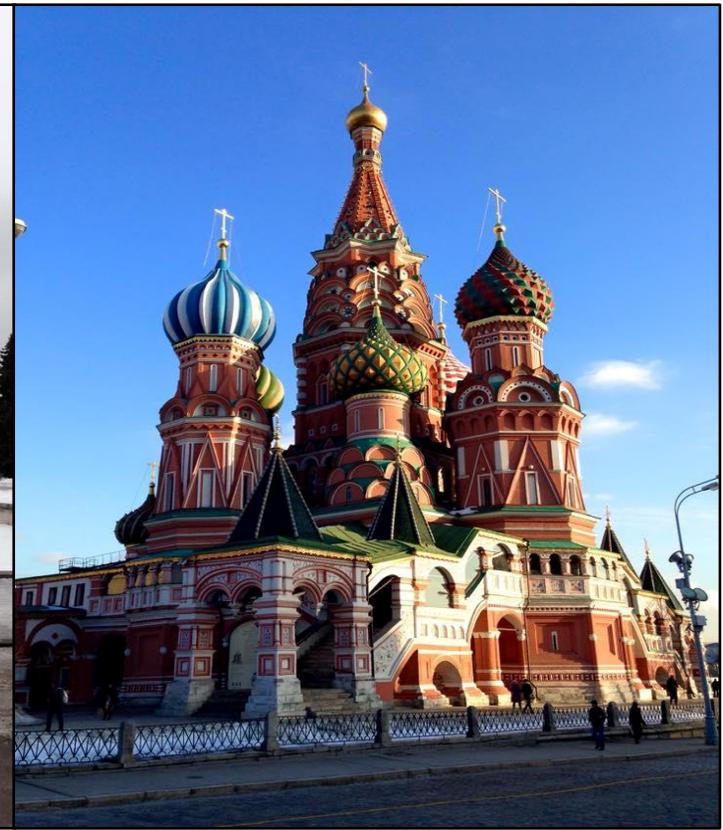


## KERRI MATULIS: University of Texas at Austin

To put it simply, I love Moscow! The language, the culture, and the people are all so amazing that when I come to Russia, I never want to leave. While I was initially nervous about the thought of living in Moscow, at the same time, I was thrilled to have the opportunity to study the Russian language and live among the Russian people.

My experiences as a student at the University of Texas at Austin in the 2013 Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad, Moscow-Texas Connections Summer Program, positively affected my future educational and career goals. After living in Moscow, visiting some incredible places, such as Gorky Park, the Tretyakov Art Gallery, and the Bolshoi Theater, as well as using the Russian language and interacting with fellow Russian students, I decided to add a Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies major to my degree in Psychology. Consequently, Russia and Eastern Europe, including the Russian language, became the focus of my college career.

Upon my return to the United States, I vowed that I would return to Russia again one day. Thankfully, I was given the opportunity to serve as an intern at the Faculty of Economic Sciences at HSE. This means also becoming a consultant in the Merrill Lynch Writing and Communication Center at the New Economic School. Among the first of its kind in Russia, the Writing Center provides Russian students both at Skolkovo and at Shabolovka with the opportunity to work on their English language skills and assignments. Since January 2015, I have been able to work with Russian students on their Personal Statements and Curricula vitae, as well as their English conversation and interviewing skills.





I also serve as a teaching assistant to Professor Ashley Squires in her course on religion and its influence on modern America, and as an English language tutor at the Higher School of Economics at the Shabolovka campus. Overall, I have been incredibly impressed with the students as they are very intelligent and highly motivated.

Along with my internship, I have had the opportunity to continue working on my Russian language skills. Although I currently aid Ashley Squires with her research, translating Russian language literature reviews into English, I also interact daily with Russian students and citizens, whether at the university, the dormitory, in stores and in restaurants. The ability to utilize the Russian language daily has been invaluable and I believe, has helped me to improve my speaking skills. Overall, the time I have spent listening and reading in Russian in Moscow, has been priceless.

To those interested in experiencing a truly unique culture, practicing their Russian language skills, or studying in a great scholarly atmosphere, I highly recommend studying abroad in Moscow. Both times I have been in Moscow, I have been shocked at how quickly the time passes. There always seems to be so many exciting, interesting things to see, yet so little time. I can say without a doubt, that the times I have spent in Russia have truly been the most rewarding and incredible experiences of my life.

