



## Language courses in Odessa

High quality language courses have been at the heart of our concept right from its inception. It is well recognised that to learn a language most effectively, people need to immerse themselves in the living, breathing everyday life of the target language country and consistently expose themselves to the language.

This language immersion concept was exactly what we offered in our school in the Crimea and we have brought the model with us to Odessa. Unlike programmes in other language schools, our students experience an intensive course, both in and out of the classroom, yet the price is only that of usual individual or group lessons.

Some of the team with guests in front of the Mushynska Guesthouse in Samota near Yalta (Crimea); front right is Valentina Mushynska (seated), the Founder and Director of the school.

## School philosophy

First and foremost, our courses are focussed on communicative competency. Our students learn to communicate both orally and in writing, in daily life and in particular contexts (i.e. business, specialist research areas etc.).

Our most important principle is to respect the motivations and requirements of our clients. Our lesson plans are put together in a flexible way, sympathetic to the level of language competency already achieved by course participants and such that they acknowledge the goals and interests of each individual. Flexibility is paramount as we deal with students from beginner to advanced level; with hobby linguists as well as with those who need the language for their work, or even use Russian professionally (e.g. translators, teachers).

Providing a total language experience throughout your stay is the key to the success of our courses. You will be surrounded by sympathetic native speakers and can enjoy informal conversation outside your actual language lessons. So whether you are in class, relaxing with a coffee or participating in one of our excursions, you will have the chance (if you want to!) to listen to, absorb and communicate in the language you are learning. So, unlike programmes in other language schools, our students experience an intensive course, both in and out of the classroom, yet the price is only that of usual individual or group lessons.

All our teachers are trained in methodologies for teaching foreign languages and regularly undertake CPD (Continuing Professional Development) courses. In addition, every teacher has an individual portfolio regarding their strengths in compiling schemes of work, resources and lesson plans. Creative thinking is the most important attribute we look for in our staff.

We utilise all the very latest materials in our lessons.

## Russian in Odessa

Russian literature is world literature and a knowledge of Russian lights the way to understanding the works of such writers as Pushkin, Gogol, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Chekhov, Bulgakov, Bunin, Isaac Babel, Andrei Platonov, Daniil Kharms, Chinghiz Aitmatov and Yuri Rytkheu; as well as modern authors such as Tatyana Tolstaya, Lyudmila Ulitskaya, Viktor Pelevin or Vladimir Sorokin. It facilitates travel and communication in post-Soviet countries and helps one to grasp the essence of the deep-rooted problems and conflicts found within these states today.

In addition, we will aim to use the Russian language in our lessons as a way of comprehending the current complex situation in Eastern Europe and especially the relationship between Russia and the Ukraine. We would like to demonstrate the spatial and temporal aspects of the inter-relationship between the languages and cultures in these regions; and how these have become, to a certain extent, the premise for Russia's contemporary policies.

Whether you want to begin studying Russian for the first time or deepen your knowledge of it, then the Ukraine is a great choice of location to do so: the country is open and still breathes the air of freedom, no Visa is required and there is no need to register with the authorities on arrival (as you must in Russia, for example).

- Courses are offered *at all levels*, from the beginner to the advanced student.
- *Course intensity*: somewhere between 15 and 25 lessons per week is optimal.
- One *lesson* lasts 45 minutes and is followed by a short break. Lessons take place in a dedicated room.
- *Length of course*: optimum is a stay of two weeks or more.



Taras Hryhorovich Shevchenko is Ukraine's most famous poet. The Shevchenko Monument, Odessa  
Photo © Alexostrov (Wiki Commons)

## Ukrainian in Odessa

Ukrainian is the official language of a European country with more than 40 million inhabitants. It is also the language of Ukrainian literature as well as the language of an original, traditional Eastern Slavic culture, with its many ceremonial songs and texts. This language links the ancient Slavic life and traditions with a modern and, to a greater extent, European country.

Today, the Ukraine is opening up to the Western world, not least thanks to modern Ukrainian authors such as Oksana Zabuzhko, Yuri Andrukhovych, Serhiy Zhadan, Lubko Deresh and Yuriy Vynnychuk. The Ukrainian language itself is very beautiful and melodic and it is often compared to Italian.

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## Our study packages

We offer individualised teaching as well as group lessons for groups from two to seven people. Furthermore, we offer intensive courses that are tailored to your specific needs.

Teachers and lecturers from the Tauride (National) Simferopol State University (who were previously esteemed members of staff at our language school in the Crimea) or from the Odessa Mechnikov University deliver our language courses. All personnel are specially trained and qualified to teach Russian as a foreign language. We use the latest teaching materials and our teachers tailor lessons to suit individuals in order to make them as varied and (enjoyably!) challenging as possible. We pay close attention to our clients' current level of language, as well as their professional needs and requirements when planning each course. We are also able to prepare students for the "European Language Certificate (TELC) A1–B2", should they wish to sit this examination.

### Tailored individual tuition

Would you like to learn Russian or Ukrainian from scratch? Or simply refresh and raise your current level of language? Are you interested in being able to



learn about politics and economics directly from the Russian or Ukrainian media? Or is it your aim to be able to read some of the great works of Russian literature in original – for example the short stories and plays by Anton Chekhov? Maybe you want to be able to interpret primary sources to research Ukrainian history first hand? Perhaps you just want to be able to speak more fluently?! With one-to-one tuition our teachers can work flexibly and respond to your needs and wishes in terms of content and material and will find a pace to suit your requirements exactly. With our language immersion concept, we can guarantee that you will have the opportunity to try out your newly acquired language immediately. At the same time you will swiftly become acquainted with daily life in Odessa. Lessons are organised into pairs with a break in the middle during which you will get to chat to fellow students and teachers in Russian whilst sipping a welcome coffee!

## Language lessons and culture in groups

Would you like to make a group booking for a course in Russian or Ukrainian and simultaneously enjoy a programme of cultural trips and excursions around the local area? Would you like to deepen your knowledge of Russian with fellow students from a school, college or university in your own country? Maybe you simply want to experience an outdoor holiday with your partner or family? On request, we are able arrange lessons for you in pairs or small groups of 5 to 7 people. Of course, group lessons are only to be recommended when all participants are more or less of the same level.

We would therefore be glad to organise a combination of class/individual tuition if that would best suit your needs. In addition to language lessons, we also offer tailor-made excursions to the many incredible towns, monuments and museums of the region, led by a member of staff who is an expert on the history and geography (and politics) of the area and who very enthusiastically shares his observations with our guests! This is another brilliant way to extend and deepen your language knowledge after classes are over. For those who love nature and the outdoors, we can also arrange hikes so you can see the glorious landscapes, the unique wildlife and coastline of this beautiful region on the Black Sea.

## Intensive business / professional language courses

The learning objectives of these courses focus specifically on your particular professional goals or the nature of your business or work. We will help you to develop the specialist vocabulary required in your area and will assist you to build a list of specific terminology and expressions/concepts pertinent to your

profession. We will of course work on grammar, but the exercises will be related to the world of business/economics and oral work will enable you to introduce and describe your company/organisation verbally. We shall also help you to get to grips with understanding formal correspondence and train you in the standard letter writing/email formats. Based on your progress and the number of lessons you are able to take, we can easily develop your language further to encompass mock interviews, negotiations and other scenarios relevant to your work, as well as the reading and translation of complex texts in your field.