

Teacher Development Course:

The Creative Classroom: Tools and Tips for Russian Language Teachers



Who should attend?

This teacher development program is designed for international Russian language teachers, who teach Russian as a foreign language, and university graduates from the European Union, the USA and other countries.

The program will help language teachers find, explore and nourish the passion for teaching and breathe fresh life into their personal way and style of teaching as well refresh their own language skills.

The participants will be encouraged to learn how to practice modern interactive methods of teaching that help get students interested in learning the language. The participants will be able to share their own best practices in teaching with colleagues from other countries.

Course program

Preparation

Prior to the start of the course, each participant will be sent a questionnaire in order to specify his/her needs and expectations towards the course, preferred learning style, personal interests, challenges in working with students, etc. The data collected will be used to incorporate into our program some additional elements particularly important/beneficial to the course participants.

Objectives

1. To get acquainted with the theory and practice of the use of modern interactive methods focused on developing communication skills, and their practical application for teaching Russian as a foreign language.
2. To overview new ideas and new possibilities to liven up the teaching.
3. To provide very practical teaching ideas and new techniques
4. To review the latest teaching materials.
5. To refresh and upgrade participants' knowledge of contemporary Russian; intensive Russian languages practice.
6. To explore aspects of modern Russian life and culture.
7. To get acquainted with the history and modern life of the multicultural society in Daugavpils region.

Methodology

- Applying interactive games and real life simulations to encourage participants to find new ways of expressing their ideas in the framework of negotiations and teamwork;
- Methods of incorporating various contemporary cultural and media sources (Russian songs and movies, cartoons, TV shows, Internet etc.) into classroom activities, aimed at building up cultural awareness, enriching modern vocabulary and practicing listening skills;
- Methods of increasing students' motivation and responsibility for the language studies;
- Discussions and demonstrations aimed at exchanging experience between participants.

Course details

Dates:

2018: 30.04 – 11.05; 15.10 – 26.10

2019: 18.03 – 29.03; 23.09 – 04.10

Other dates may be provided upon request of 6 or more participants.

Duration: 10 study days

Program: 42 lessons (training course),
cultural program

Group size: minimum 6 students

Unique features of the program:

- Specialists of Daugavpils University deliver theoretical part of the course, practical part of the course is run by leading teachers-experts in the region.
- Study visits to schools and getting acquainted with the modern practice of teaching Russian as a foreign language.

Participants will be provided with:

- Course materials, stationery;
- Mobile phone, local SIM-card with a pre-paid deposit;
- Free Internet access in the class;
- Certificate of attendance.

Course price includes the following excursions (tentative):

- Welcome to Daugavpils sightseeing tour;
- The Church Hill a symbol of multicultural history;
- The Russian House – culture center of Daugavpils Russian community;
- Dinaburg Fortress.

No visa required:

Citizens of the European Union, the USA, Canada and many other countries do not require a visa to enter Latvia.

Daugavpils – the most Russian city in the EU

This intensive course for Russian language teachers and university graduates is arranged in Daugavpils, the second largest city of Latvia.

Daugavpils is a unique place – a Russian linguistic enclave at the territory of the European Union. It is the perfect place for Russian language immersions and communication skills training for the EU students.

Daugavpils is a multinational city, where

- 96 000 people live;
- more than 50% of the population are ethnic Russians;
- nearly everyone speaks standard modern Russian as their native or primary language;
- Russian is the language of everyday communication.

Daugavpils region has inherited remarkable ethnical, confessional, and cultural diversity. This small territory is a home for different communities – Russian, Latvian, Latgalian, Jewish, Polish, Byelorussian, Roma – where they have been living and cooperating for centuries. Daugavpils is a positive example of intercultural society and integration for the whole EU.

Daugavpils is a cozy, compact, green, safe and clean city with a modern infrastructure. Comfort, quality of service and low prices attract visitors to Daugavpils.

Sample course timetable

Course content and cultural program may be adapted to incorporate the needs of participants of each specific group.

WEEK 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.00 – 10.30	Opening of the course Discussing the students' questionnaires and final adjustments to the course	Study visit to a local school. Observing the practice of teaching Russian as a Foreign language	Russian language in the context of literature: tales, short stories, legends, novels	Russian language used in songs	Russian language used in films
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break				
11.00 – 12.30	General overview of interactive methods and their potential for teaching a language	Discussing observations, exchanging opinions on teaching methods	Russian language in the context of literature: tales, short stories, legends, novels	Russian language used in songs	Russian language used in films
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch				
Afternoon activities	Daugavpils sightseeing walking tour Inter-cultural dialogue: Daugavpils past and present	Excursion: The Church Hill – a symbol of multicultural history and tolerance in Daugavpils	Excursion: The Russian House – culture center of the Daugavpils Russian community	Excursion: Dinaburg Fortress. Mark Rothko Art Centre (optional)	Russian language used in films
Evening	Welcome event (optional)	Free time	Russian film (optional)	Daugavpils theatre (optional)	Friday restaurant (optional)

WEEK 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.00 – 10.30	Use of Internet resources	Study visit to a local school. Observing the practice of teaching Russian as a Foreign language	Use of art techniques in the classroom: practical workshops	Use of social media in the classroom	Levels of language competence. Various levels of tasks
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break				
11.00 – 12.30	Use of Internet resources	Discussing observations, exchanging opinions on teaching methods	Use of art techniques in the classroom: practical workshop	Use of social media in the classroom	Closing of the course Course review, evaluation and feedback. Action plan
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch				
14.00 – 17.00	Use of Internet resources	Excursion: Local Museum	Excursion: Clay Art Centre	Use of social media in the classroom	Free time
Evening	Free time	Free time	Free time		

Accommodation and Meals

Host family. We offer a private room in a carefully chosen local Russian family.

We look not only for comfortable living conditions but for the family's friendly attitude towards potential "family member" as well.

Our host families always have time to talk to our students, are patient, understanding, careful and prepared to provide help with any problem that may arise during the student's stay in Daugavpils. The cost for living in a host family includes a daily breakfast. Free Internet access is available in all host families.

We do our best to offer accommodation in host families that live close to our training facilities, so the students can reach the class in less than 20 minutes walking.

Students are provided with coffee, tea, water, biscuits free of charge during coffee breaks.

Course price and Registration

Course participants from the EU countries may be eligible for obtaining financing under the European Union support program Erasmus+ (Key Action 1: Mobility project for school education staff/Mobility project for adult education staff).

Erasmus+ projects should be submitted by schools. Please contact your school administration or the National Agency representing Erasmus+ programs in your country about the terms and dates for applying.

Course price:

Course fee	700.00 Euro
Registration	100.00 Euro
• Accommodation fee	
host family (breakfast included)	220.00 Euro
host family (breakfast and dinner included)	270.00 Euro

Participants pay for:

Transfer in a group from/to Riga-Daugavpils	75.00 Euro
Individual transfer, one way	120.00 Euro

Additional excursions and social program

(upon request):

• Riga – the capital of Latvia (upon arrival)	25.00 Euro
• Mark Rothko Art Centre	15.00 Euro
• Aglona Basilica , King's Hill and Bread Museum in Aglona (Saturday or Sunday)	45.00 Euro
• Vilnius – the capital of Lithuania, Trakai Castle (Saturday or Sunday)	80.00 Euro
• Museum of Dolls in Preili	30.00 Euro
• Multicultural Russian-Latvian-Polish-Jewish Dinaburg-Dvinsk-Daugavpils	20.00 Euro
• Daugavpils theatre, Russian films;	
• Dinners in cafes with teachers.	

The price of lunch/dinner in a café is about 3.00 – 7.00 Euro.

Project "Learn Russian in the European Union"

The project "learn Russian in the EU" is a combined initiative of the Daugavpils University and Training Centre LatInSoft.

The goals of the project are:

- Providing educational services in the sphere of Russian language and culture
- Promoting Daugavpils as the ideal place for studying and full immersion into the Russian language and culture within the territory of the European Union

Daugavpils University, established in 1921, is the major academic and research institution in Eastern Latvia. The Department of Russian and Slavic Linguistics has a long tradition of research and teaching the Russian language and literature to teachers, philologists and linguists from Latvia and many foreign countries.

The programs offered by the University are aimed at students with different level of language proficiency: courses for students who have just started learning a language as well as those who want to improve and develop their knowledge in linguistics. The academic courses are run by the faculty of the Department of Russian and Slavic Linguistics, who hold Doctoral degrees and who work in implementation of the Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral programs as well as professional pedagogical and translator's programs and programs related to intercultural communication.

Training center LatInSoft was established in 1993 in Daugavpils.

Training Centre LatInSoft is an educational institution, accredited by the Ministry of Science and Education of Latvia, working in the sphere of teaching Russian and other languages, professional education and advanced training.

Since 2004 Training center LatInSoft runs various Russian language-training programs for foreign students.

All teachers of the project "Learn Russian in the EU" are native speakers and have an appropriate degree, professional qualifications and substantial experience in Russian language teaching.

Experience in teacher development courses. For several years the project "Learn Russian in the EU" has been offering development courses for teachers of Russian as a foreign language. Numerous teachers from the EU received Comenius and Grundtvig grants to study with us.

Our programs received very favorable reviews from the participants.

Welcome to Daugavpils!

To apply individually or request additional information about our Russian language programs or the "Learn Russian in the European Union" initiative or Daugavpils:

Project "Learn Russian in the European Union"

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