



## STARTALK DISCOVER RUSSIA

***Are you looking for an opportunity to take your Russian language study to the next level? Then the Startalk Discover Russia program might be right for you!***

### Program Overview

Startalk Discover Russia is a summer and year-long program for students who have either already studied Russian and want more than their school program offers or for heritage speakers of Russian who would like to improve their understanding of the fundamentals of Russian and learn more about Russia. Students will need to have standard computer equipment and regular internet connection in order to participate. All expenses for materials and instruction are covered by this scholarship program.

### The Program Features

- + 60 hours of virtual summer camp (3 weeks) from June 26, 2024 to July 17, 2024
- + 60 hours of online programming during the 2024-25 academic year
- + Classroom activities will feature current, authentic materials to help students explore Russian language and culture in all four skills (speaking, reading, writing, listening)
- + Guest speakers and culture workshops thoughtfully connected with course content
- + Virtual field trips and connections with native speakers and experts in Russian language, history, and culture
- + Pre- and post-program testing that allows students to prove their knowledge of Russian
- + Opportunities to showcase students' knowledge of Russian in the ACTR Olympiada of Spoken Russian, the National Russian Essay Contest, and NEWL exam
- + Highly experienced, award-winning teachers of Russian trained in communicative, student-centered methods

## Application Instructions

- ✚ The application is available through this online portal.  
<https://ais.americancouncils.org/startalk>
- ✚ Application deadline is March 30, 2024.
- ✚ The application requires one essay, a teacher recommendation, and a transcript.
- ✚ Notification of selection decisions will take place mid-March, 2024.

## Eligibility Requirements

- ✚ Students should be rising ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth graders (will be in 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grades in fall 2024)
- ✚ Students must be U.S. citizens

Program funding is provided by the National Security Agency under its STARTALK program, which aims to increase the number of Americans with knowledge of critically important world languages.

This program is administered by American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS. Founded in 1974 as the American Council of Teachers of Russian, American Councils mission is to strengthen international ties and mutual understanding through excellence in academic, professional and cultural exchange, language acquisition, educational development, and research.

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