

Federal State-Funded Educational Institution
«THE RUSSIAN PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMY OF NATIONAL ECONOMY AND
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION»

School of Political Research

**Program for entrance test in a foreign language administered by the Academy
for foreigners**

41.04.04 Political science

(code and name of educational program specialization)

Russian Studies. Political economy and cultural analysis.

professional direction

Master

qualification

Full-time

mode(s) of study

(Language of instruction: English)

year of enrollment 2022

Moscow 2021

1. General information on entrance examination

Russian Studies. Political economy and cultural analysis is academic and professional English speaking program. Its ideal student should possess substantial abilities and experience in areas of Russian studies and political science, as well as appropriate knowledge of the English language.

All applicants should be able to demonstrate how they are prepared to succeed in the program and use the degree to advance their professional careers.

An academic background and research experience in Russian studies and related areas, such as political science, history, sociology, statistics, are especially desirable. Work experience, even internships, is an advantage. Applicants who did not do major in Russian studies or a related field should clearly explain how other academic and nonacademic experiences have prepared them to undertake graduate study in the program.

The purpose of the entrance test is to identify among the applicants those who are motivated to study in this area and have the necessary level of political science knowledge for training in the master's program in the direction of 41.04.04. Political science.

The purpose of the entrance examinations is realized by solving the following tasks:

- establishing the degree of general theoretical knowledge of the applicant in the field of political science;
- determining the extent of the applicant's awareness of the applied possibilities and functions of political science and political science practice.

2. Format of entrance examination and assessment criteria

To prove their qualification and desire to undertake the Russian Studies program, all applicants should pass complex oral exam in English Language (the total score 100 points) and oral text in English Language (the total score 100 points). The total score for both should be not less than 200 points.

1. *Complex exam*

Complex exam consists of 2 parts: 1. Case task (problem solving interview) (90 points maximum); 2. Statement of purpose (10 points maximum).

A) *Case task (problem solving interview)*

An applicant is offered a case task on one of the public policy issues. An applicant will have 15 minutes to prepare an answer and then will discuss it with the commission. This allows commission to check the level of general and political knowledge and to understand the ability of an applicant to identify important issues, deal with the implications of facts and data, formulate conclusions and recommendations, and articulate thoughts in a fast-moving discussion.

EXAMPLE OF THE CASE TASK: Last World Bank report states that “COVID-19 cases have risen sharply in the euro area – Russia’s largest trading partner – in the fourth quarter and have imperiled

the nascent economic recovery as authorities in several countries maintain, reintroduce, or tighten pandemic-control measures.

The Russian economy contracted in quarter 2 by 8 percent and quarter 3 by 3.4 percent: this negative momentum is expected to continue in quarter 4 amidst the resurgence of the pandemic.

However, countercyclical fiscal policy, accommodative monetary policy, pre-crisis, sizeable macro-fiscal buffers, and targeted social policies put in place to attenuate the effects of the crisis on poverty, have helped contain its impact.

Social policies put in place earlier this year -- such as increase in the maximum level of unemployment benefits and a series of family allowances and pension benefits -- are compensating the severe impact of the crisis on employment and disposable incomes. However, the crisis has increased unemployment in all regions but with most job losses concentrated in only a few economic activities (manufacturing, construction, and retail / hospitality services).

Given Russia’s relatively low public debt, sizeable macro-fiscal buffers, and expected persisting negative output gap, we argue that Russia has some fiscal space to allow it for a more gradual consolidation. Russian regions have been affected to varying extents, based on their exposure to the pandemic, pre-existing conditions, and the type of regional activity.

Yet, at the current pace of fiscal consolidation, regional transfers are set to drop more than 10% in real terms in 2021-2022, compared to the 2017-2019 pre-pandemic average. A more relaxed pace of consolidation will allow for further increases in spending on social support and to maintain support to regions in real terms till the crisis tides over.” (Russia Economic Report. № 44 // URL: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/russia/publication/rrer>)

What key policy recommendations will you give? What economic areas should be the priority in your opinion?

| Points | Criteria description |
|---------|---|
| 70 - 90 | <p>A. Excellent</p> <p>An answer (case solution) at this level will demonstrate:</p> <p>1) <u>a thorough understanding of the topic and its implications;</u></p> <p>2) <u>originality and/or breadth of thinking on the majority of the issues discussed a wide knowledge and appropriate use of critical contributions on the topic;</u></p> <p>3) <u>a consistent ability to organise material to support an argument;</u></p> <p>4) <u>an ability to express the argument in a fluent and lucid manner.</u></p> |

| | |
|--------------|--|
| 60-69 | <p><u>B. Good</u> <u>An answer (case solution) at this level will demonstrate:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <u>a good understanding of the topic and its implications;</u> 2) <u>a competent knowledge and use of critical contributions on the topic;</u> 3) <u>a consistent ability to organise material to support an argument;</u> 4) <u>an ability to express the argument in a fluent and lucid manner.</u> <p><u>However, such an answer (case solution) will generally show less independence of thought and mastery of detail than is required for a mark of 70 and over. There may be some errors or misjudgments with regard to issues, which are not central to the argument. A low mark within this band indicates more such failings than a high one. A high mark indicates that the work is close to the kind of quality needed for a mark of 70 or over but has fallen down on a few points.</u></p> |
| 50-59 | <p><u>C. Satisfactory</u> <u>A An answer (case solution) at this level will demonstrate:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) a reasonable understanding of the topic and its implications; 2) a familiarity with critical contributions on the topic; 3) that in the majority of instances material is used to support an argument. |
| 49 and below | <p><u>D. Unsatisfactory</u> <u>An answer (case solution) at this level will demonstrate:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <u>some understanding of the topic and its implications;</u> 2) <u>some knowledge of critical contributions to the topic;</u> 3) <u>some ability to formulate and state an argument.</u> <p><u>However, it is likely to be lacking in detail and to include significant errors, omissions and misunderstandings. The grasp shown of critical and interpretative points will probably be sketchy, and the organisation of material and argument weak.</u></p> |

B) Statement of purpose

In the motivation letter, an applicant should reflect his/her interest in the field of public policy and readiness to study on the program, including also his/her achievements and the strategy of his/her career path in the near future. The maximum number of points is 10.

The main requirements for statement of purpose are:

- Structure, style and logic of the text;
- Scientific and analytical style of presentation;
- Full disclosure of the problems of the text;
- Reasonableness of conclusions and arguments.

B) Test of English as Foreign Language

If an applicant is having a valid international certificate then the following points can be awarded:

| TOEFL iBT | IELTS | Examination points |
|-----------|-------|--------------------|
| 111-120 | 8.5-9 | 90-100 |
| 96-110 | 7.5-8 | 80 |
| 75-95 | 6.5-7 | 70 |
| 65-74 | 6 | 60 |

In case when an applicant cannot provide a certificate officially proving his/her knowledge of English, he/she must take a test.

The test of English as Foreign Language should prove the applicant's level of English proficiency for academic purposes. The test consists of three parts: reading (40 minutes), listening (30 minutes) and speaking (15 minutes). To pass the test an applicant should get a score of not less than 50 points in total (20 points for Reading, 15 points for Listening and Speaking).

Reading (40% of total grade)

The reading section offers an authentic passage of 800 words in length on the subject of public policy and task based on the given text. The passage requires understanding of the topic, the rhetorical functions of the text such as cause-effect, compare-contrast and argumentation. The applicants should answer ten questions which should reveal their understanding of the text.

Listening (30% of total grade)

The listening section consists of ten questions to a ten-minute sound passage on public policy (a part of a talk or lecture on the subject). The passage may be heard only once. While listening applicants are allowed to make notes. Answers to the questions should be given in the oral form and should contain a one-sentence comment from the test-taker.

Speaking (30% of total grade)

The speaking section consists of one task: a conversation with an examiner on one of five given topics concerning current public policy issues. A test-taker is expected to demonstrate a range of oral skills such as organization of thoughts, negotiation, extended discourse and maintaining a discussion with appropriate pronunciation, intonation and speed.

| Points | Criteria description |
|---------------------|---|
| 85-100 | <p><u>A. Excellent</u></p> <p><u>The applicant showed a systematic, deep and complete knowledge of the language;</u></p> <p><u>- accurate use of scientific terminology in a foreign language, stylistically competent, logically correct presentation of the answer to questions;</u></p> <p><u>Errors are not allowed.</u></p> |
| 65-84 | <p><u>B. Good</u></p> <p><u>The applicant showed a systematic, deep and complete knowledge of the language;</u></p> <p><u>- accurate use of scientific terminology in a foreign language, stylistically competent, logically correct presentation of the answer to questions;</u></p> <p><u>- the ability to navigate the main theories, concepts and directions in the studied disciplines and give them a critical assessment.</u></p> <p><u>1-2 errors are allowed</u></p> |
| 50-64 | <p><u>C. Satisfactory</u></p> <p>The applicant showed a systematic, deep and complete knowledge of the language;</p> <p>- accurate use of scientific terminology in a foreign language, stylistically competent, logically correct presentation of the answer to questions;</p> <p>- the ability to navigate the main theories, concepts and directions in the studied disciplines and give them a critical assessment.</p> <p>2-3 errors are allowed</p> |
| 49 and below | <p><u>D. Unsatisfactory</u></p> <p>The applicant showed the inability to use the scientific terminology of the disciplines of the examination material in a foreign language, the presence of gross stylistic and logical errors in the answer. Lack of knowledge and competence related to the use of a foreign language in the applicant's questions.</p> |