



RLUS BRIEFING PACK

KAZAN

YOUR RLUS REPRESENTATIVES

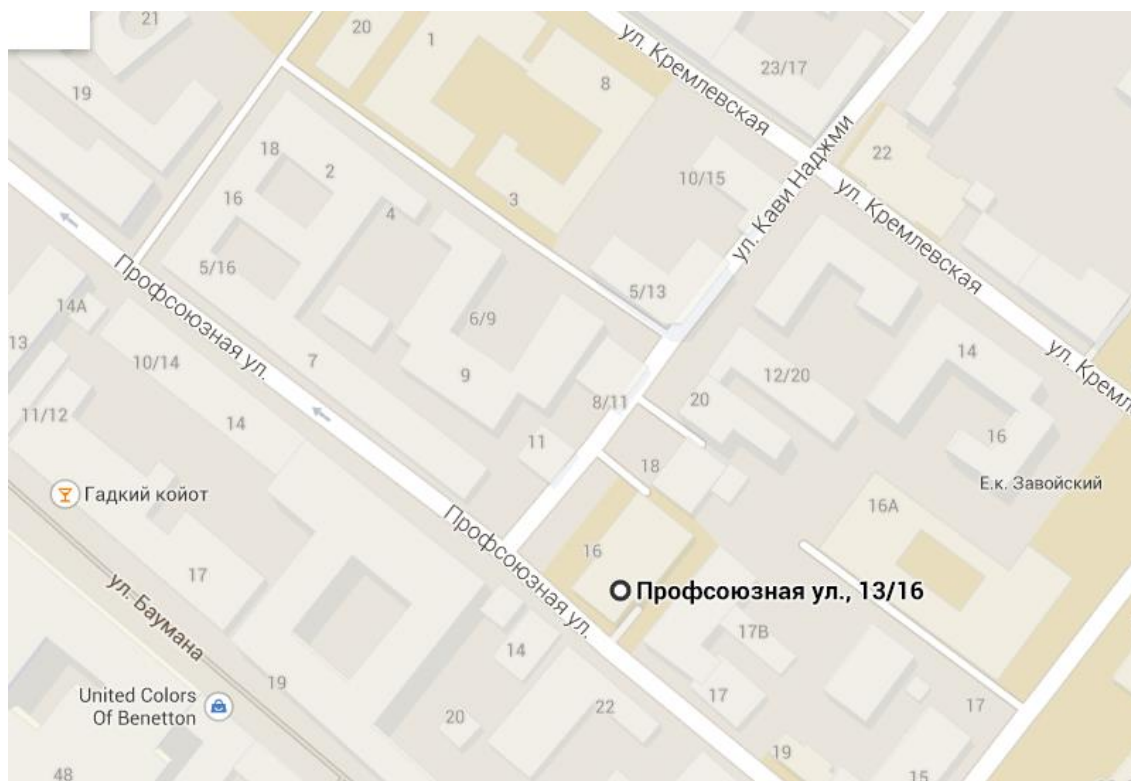
Alex Rigby Mobile: +7 965 269 2318
Emma Booth Mobile +7 (903) 758-57-04
Sophie Morrow

Email: rlus.moscow@gmail.com

KAZAN CONTACT DETAILS:

The Centre of Russian Language Studies
Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities
ul. Profsoyuznaya, 13/16
420111 Kazan, Russia
e-mail rus.centre.isgz@gmail.com

MAP



YOUR ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW

If you arrive on the group flight, you will be met at the airport by the RLUS representatives and by the representatives of our Centre.

They will welcome you and give you some important information. Once everyone has come through, you will be taken by overnight train to your accommodation in Kazan.

If you do not arrive on the group flight, you will be expected to make your own way to Kazan. Once you arrive there, you will be met by a member of the Centre staff.

Public transport from the airport is cheap and easy. All Moscow airports have a train service to the city, called Aeroexpress. The train costs 320 roubles (or 350 roubles with the cost of one metro trip included) and takes between 35-45 minutes to get to the city, depending on which airport you arrive at. Once you arrive at the station, follow the signs to the metro which is characterised by big red **M**. If you did not get the train ticket that includes one metro trip, you can buy the metro tickets at the cash desk when you enter the metro. Once you get into Moscow, you can take a train to Kazan. They leave from Kazansky Station (Казанский вокзал), which is located at Metro Komsomolskaya station, and take about 12 hours – timetables can be found here: www.rasp.yandex.ru

YOUR COURSE

Your course will start on the first Monday after your arrival. On this day, you will meet at the school in the morning. Do not forget to bring your documents on the first day as you will need them for registration in the Migration Service. You will be shown around the area, you will have a briefing meeting where you will be told some important information, and introduced to the teaching staff of “The Centre of Russian Language Studies”, who will be conducting your course. The head of the Centre is **Natalya Kraeva**, the assistant head is **Margarita Ignatieva**.

During your course you will the following disciplines:

Intensive Russian language course

We recommend all our students immerse themselves in the Russian-speaking environment from the very start of their stay in Russia, which allows a more rapid learning process. The Course uses intensive language learning methods: the consistent complication of the language material, focusing on everyday language in use. Well-structured course flow and constant revision of the previous knowledge allows the students to acquire new vocabulary and grammar forms in a rapid and coherent way. The students are encouraged to read authentic language materials and produce their own written essays.

General Russian

The aim of this course is to teach students to speak Russian with the simultaneous learning of basic grammar forms. Working on lexical items teaches the students to read Russian with or without a dictionary. During the course the students master all four language skills: speaking, writing, reading and listening. The course is adapted to suit students' language ability.

Conversational Russian

Conversational Russian includes much of the same core language tuition of the General Russian course, but has a particular focus on the oral and aural elements of Russian. Our teachers involve students in discussions and dialogues from the very first class, to build their confidence and fluency. It is thus ideal for those who wish to quickly master the practical communication skills vital for their stay in Russia. Although the course emphasizes the spoken word, correct grammatical constructions and writing skills are also studied in the context of conversational topics, and students learn about Russian customs, traditions and etiquette.

Translation course

This course intends to put into practice newly learned grammar and vocabulary. Also, it gives a good opportunity to those who seek to develop abilities in the field of translation.

Special Course of Russian Language

This course targets the development of language skills needed for a specific reason, i.e. to help establish business contacts with Russian specialists in certain industries, such as politics or mass media. The focus of the course is to teach students to read and understand texts, to acquire specific vocabulary, and to comfortably use this vocabulary in conversation. The course includes getting acquainted with the traditions and customs of the everyday life of Russian people and their mentality (to be able to successfully carry out business in joint ventures). Our teachers will guide students through the economic, political and cultural life of modern Russia and will teach them practical communicative and behavioral skills. By the end of the Course students will be able to freely express their ideas and opinions in Russian (both written and spoken). The course lasts 4-8 weeks, with 16-20 hours of teaching per week.

Cultural Programme

We invite students to take part in a variety of cultural activities. These include visits to the Theatre (Kazan's Theatre of Ballet and Opera is one of the best in Russia), Concert Halls, Jazz and Rock Festivals, Museums and Art Galleries. We can also organize boat trips down the Volga river (to Samara, Nizhniy Novgorod). And we are also happy to take you to various entertaining trips round Republic of Tatarstan with its famous architectural and historic monuments. These activities build on classroom material and help develop students' speaking skills. You will be expected to pay for any trips.

VISAS AND REGISTRATION

When you arrive at the airport, make sure you have filled out a migration card (see the picture on the right), if it has not been done for you automatically (Moscow Domodedovo airport will print it for you at passport control). You cannot enter the country without it. Please check it has been stamped and dated, **before you come through customs**.

RLUS students have an initial 3-month single-entry visa which is converted into a multi-entry to cover the duration of their course within the first two months. Be aware that you may not be able to travel outside of Russia for the first two months of your course, as your visa will be with the authorities undergoing extension. Due to the Russian laws, if you are planning on leaving Kazan (if just to another city in Russia) for any reason, you must inform either Natalya or Margarita! **You are responsible for any costs incurred for visa extension and registration.**

Your visa support is undertaken by our Institute. For all required document please refer to RLUS in the UK.

«В» (Выезд/Departure)	
Российская Федерация Russian Federation	Республика Беларусь Republic of Belarus
Миграционная карта Migration Card	Серия/ Serial 65 06 № 0008758
Фамилия/Surname (Family name) WATKINS	
Имя/Given name(s) CHRISTOPHER	
Отчество/Patronymic	
Дата рождения/Date of birth День Month 6 Месяц Month 11 Год Year 1981	Пол/Sex Муж./Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Жен./Female <input type="checkbox"/> Гражданство/Nationality РОССИЯ 377
Документ удостоверяющий личность/ Passport or other ID	Номер/Visa number: 20 1261608
Цель визита (нужно подчеркнуть)/ Purpose of travel (to be underlined): Служебный/Official, Туризм/Tourism, Коммерческий/Business, Учеба/Education, Частный/Private, Прочее/Other	Сведения о приглашающей стороне (наименование юридического лица, фамилия, имя, (иногда) фамилия физического лица), местонахождение/ Name of host person or company, locality: РОССИЯ 377
Срок пребывания/Duration of stay: С/From: 7.7.07 До/To: 7.10.07	Подпись/Signature: Служебные отметки/For official use only
Въезд в Российскую Федерацию/ Республику Беларусь/ Date of arrival in the Russian Federation/ Republic of Belarus	Выезд из Российской Федерации/ Республику Беларусь/ Date of departure from the Russian Federation/Republic of Belarus

ACCOMMODATION

Convenient and comfortable accommodation is vitally important for the success of your training at the Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities, Kazan.

RLUS students will stay in homestay accommodation, never too far from the Centre. The hosts are young, intelligent families with children of a student age. They are all lovely people, and also want to ensure that your stay here is wonderful. Within the first couple of days of arrival, you will be expected to pay your rent directly to your landlady. You will usually be expected to pay for washing machine powder too, if you want to use the machine.

It is important to remember that living in a homestay is not like living in your own house. You have to be respectful and clean. For example, it is rude in Russian culture to walk around the house with your shoes on or leave your clothes lying around on the floor in your bedroom. Please be attentive, and remember that you are a guest in someone else's home. In Russian homes it is not acceptable to wear your street shoes in the house. Instead, people wear slippers (тапочки / тапочки) or socks.

If you have any problems with your host, please let one of us know. If you wish to move out of the accommodation arranged by the Centre, you must give us one month's notice or pay rent for that month. You must inform us of your plan to move out as well as your RLUS representatives. RLUS cannot legally assist you with looking for alternative accommodation. If you move out, you are responsible for dealing with the landlord, paperwork, rent and other related issues.

SAFETY ISSUES

You must always have a student card and copy of your documents (passport, visa, migration card, and registration slip) **with you**. The police have the right to arrest you without documents. You can be detained up to 72 hours or until your documents are submitted. However, Kazan is a European level city,

so the police work very well. You can be stopped by them in the street only if you have broken the law. In case you have something stolen, etc., please, refer to the administration of the Centre.

Common Sense Advice:

- Avoid drawing attention to yourself – do not walk in big groups speaking loudly in English.
- Absolutely never touch drugs – the penalties are simply not worth the risk, and if you break the law we will not be able to help you.
- Always be aware of yourself, your belongings and your surroundings.
- If you are out at night, try to make sure girls are accompanied home.
- If you are engaged in sexual activity, always practice safe sex and use a condom as STIs are not uncommon.
- Stay away from so called Gypsy cabs, private people offering you a lift for payment. Use a reputable cab company such as Такси Татарстан (567-1-567), Такси Везёт (5-333-222). Gypsy cabs can lead to trouble.
- Minimize your losses! Avoid carrying too much cash on you or unnecessary cards. **Carry a maximum of one** credit or debit card, and keep driving licenses, British student cards, etc. at home.
- If you lose your documents, inform your reps immediately. We will help you sort everything out.
- Do not drink the tap water – it is recommended to boil it first, or buy bottled water. Water filters are cheap in Russia so buying one and filtering your own water before boiling it may be the best and most money saving alternative.

If in doubt, always feel free to contact your RLUS representatives. Please text us with any questions and we will reply as soon as possible. If you decide to call and we do not answer it is likely that we are teaching – that is another part of our jobs – and we will call you back as soon as possible.

IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG

Our e-mail and the contact details of the RLUS representatives are at the beginning of this document. Other useful numbers to have:

British Embassy in Moscow: +7 495 956 72 00 (if you cannot get through in an emergency situation, let us know and we will keep trying for you)

FIRE: 01 POLICE: 02 AMBULANCE: 03

COMMON EMERGENCY NUMBER: 112

You can get adequate medical treatment in Kazan. Most RLUS Centres will send students first to a general clinic and then to a more specific doctor, depending on the nature of the ailment and/or the diagnosis given by the doctor. A member of staff can accompany you to the doctor and help you arrange an appointment.

100 metres from our Centre there is a **medical clinic AVA-Kazan (Клиника АВА-Казань)** on Astronomicheskaya str., 15 (Астрономическая, 15).

If you do not feel well or have been involved in a dangerous situation, always **tell one of us**. Please **read your insurance policy** before you have any medical treatment, because if you have any treatment which is not covered then you may have to foot the bill (e.g. treatment on problems which existed before you came to Russia are normally not included).

Please be aware that in most cases it can be arranged for your insurance company to pay the clinic directly. However, this cannot be guaranteed. Please make sure that you have your insurance policy with you. If you can't find it, the RLUS representatives in Moscow and Dr. Bivon will have a copy. In the unlikely case that you are arrested, **say nothing and sign nothing**. If you are forced to sign something write that **you do not understand what you are signing**. Keep demanding to speak to your RLUS representative or the Embassy Duty Officer. You should be allowed one phone call; use it to call one of us and we will contact the embassy.

Finally, be wary of food poisoning, and be careful when buying fast food from street kiosks.

LIFE IN KAZAN

Every city has its unique appearance, its "flavour". The flavour of Kazan is to combine in incredible ways and organically two sources of life. In this amazing city extreme antiquity and extreme modernity, Asia and Europe, Islam and Orthodoxy, the Russian and Tatar cultures merge together, giving birth to new, unexpected, interesting unity.

Kazan is the capital of the Republic of Tatarstan (Russia) and one of Russia's largest cities. Its history spans over 1000 years, and including the invasion of the Golden Horde which Kazan withstood, the conquest of Ivan the Terrible in 1552, followed by a massacre, as well as the forced Christianisation of the Tatar people and the destruction of Mosques. It is a major industrial, commercial and cultural centre, and it still remains the most important hub of Tatar culture, and one of the most important for Russian culture. In April 2009 Kazan got the legal right to "brand" itself as the "Third Capital" of Russia, as approved by the Russian Patent Office. Kazan lies at the confluence of the Volga and Kazanka Rivers in the centre of European Russia. Kazan became the host city of the 2013 Summer Universiade (Olympic Student Games).

The city has a beautiful citadel, which was declared a World Heritage site in 2000. Major monuments in the Kremlin are the 5-domed 6-columned Annunciation Cathedral (1561-1562) and the Soyembika Tower, named after the last queen of Kazan and regarded as the city's most conspicuous landmark. Also the places of interest are the towers and walls, erected in the 16th and 17th centuries, and later reconstructed.

Kazan surpasses most other Russian cities in terms of the number of educational institutions. Kazan Federal University is ranked among the three major Universities of Russia. It was founded in 1804 and has had several prominent students, including Nikolai Lobachevsky, Leo Tolstoy and Vladimir Lenin.

Kazan is a student city. There are more than 20 higher educational institutions in Kazan with more than 150 000 students. Kazan is a student-friendly city. Here you can find a lot of sporting venues, cafes (where one can do his home assignment or use Wi-Fi), entertainment establishments, concerts of all kinds to fit any taste, many theatres, museums, including a branch of the famous Hermitage.

Kazan is a modern city. There are many new buildings with a unique architecture here. And the building process never stops as Kazan is the third capital of Russia.

Kazan is a very hospitable place where everyone can find some enjoyable occupation (after classes) and friends.

Kazan airport is located approximately 30 kilometres from the city center. Every two hours there is an Aeroexpress train running between the airport and the Kazan Station. The trip takes 20 minutes.

MOBILE PHONES AND INTERNET

You can get Free Wi-Fi connection almost everywhere in Kazan (cafes, restaurants, airport, parks, our Centre, host families, etc.)

You will be taken to a telephone shop on your first day where you will be able to purchase sim card, and a phone at a good price, if you need one. There are 3 main networks in Russia: Билайн, МТС, Мерафон. If you want to use you landlady's phone to call home, you should ask first, and use an International calling card which you can buy from a phone shop (e.g. Евросеть, Связной).



MONEY

We recommend you to change money in banks. **Cash dispensers** (банкоматы) are everywhere. It is a good idea to let your bank know that you will go abroad (to Russia) for a certain period of time so that they do not think your card has been stolen and block access to your money.

ENTERTAINMENT AND LEISURE

You can find listings for many interesting events such as concerts, plays, exhibitions, night clubs, restaurants, etc. on the Internet (www.afisha.ru/kazan , www.afisha.116.ru , www.kzn.kassir.ru , www.kazan24.ru/afisha.html , www.kudago.com/kzn) or in local newspapers.

There is a cable TV (60-100 channels) in every host family.

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Kremlin (Кремль)

Every city has its main sight, and in this case Kremlin is Kazan's symbol. It is worth going there without any doubts. After Moscow's red Kremlin complex, Kazan Kremlin with its snow-white walls tends to be the most beautiful in Russia. It includes many buildings: Annunciation Cathedral, Soyembike Tower, Spasskaya Tower, Secret Tower, Presidential Palace and mosque Qol-Sharif. In 2000 it was granted with a status of World Heritage.

Baumana Street (улица Баумана)

is the central street in Kazan, it is worth visiting at least because of its popularity among Kazan citizens. It has some of the same features as Moscow's Arbat: fountains, streets artists, a variety of shops, cafes, bars and restaurants. At the end of Baumana Str. there is a Belltower of Bogoyavlensky cathedral, the symbol of Baumana Str. It is the highest old building in Kazan (63 m) and always one of the favorite tourist sights.

Baumana street is situated in the "heart" of Kazan and became a classic place for meetings. Here you will find everything you need, if it concerns accommodation, cashpoints, food, souvenirs, entertainment or something else. You will be lucky if you see here the most popular street singer of Kazan – a strange guy with naked breast (even in winter), who plays the guitar.

Tatar State Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet named Musa Jalil (Татарский государственный академический театр оперы и балета имени Мусы Джалиля)

It is a "must go" place. It is a very beautiful classical building, and when you come inside you feel like being in 19th century. Try to attend a performance (opera or ballet) during your stay in Kazan. Comparing with Moscow and St.-Petersburg tickets are surprisingly cheap.

Soviet Lifestyle Museum (Музей социалистического быта)

In the last years it became popular to feel nostalgic for Soviet Union and everything that was connected with it. For foreign people it should be even more exciting as they have never experienced it. The best place to plunge into the atmosphere of that period is Soviet Lifestyle Museum. It's a unique place, where everybody travels through 70-80th years of the 20th century. With the help of various artifacts it is easy to understand how people lived in one of the biggest and most powerful multinational countries.

Saint Peter and Paul Cathedral (Петропавловский собор)

It is special and one of the most beautiful cathedrals in Kazan, belonging to one of the most famous Russian churches in Naryshkin Baroque style. It is highly recommended to go there on Sunday morning before the bells ring and to see the service afterwards. From the top of the steps leading to the main entrance you will have one of the most perfect views of the Kazan skyline possible.

Kazanka Riverside (Набережная реки Казанка)

Kazan at night with a lot of lights is really beautiful. I would highly recommend spending at least one evening on the bank of Kazanka river. It is one of the favorite places for Kazan citizens. Romantic atmosphere and amazing view are guaranteed. It is also really nice there when it is warm and sunny to have a picnic. You just simply find the riverside if you go straight ahead from Kremlin, or if you go to "N.K.TSE", very popular among young people in summer. The bus stop – "Ploschad svobody".

The State Museum of Fine Arts (Государственный музей изобразительных искусств)

On display are icons, jewelry, pictures of Shishkin, Serov (famous Russian artists), also some works of European artists. The museum is located in a very beautiful old building, former house of Russian aristocrat. There are also other museums in Kazan near the Kremlin, but mostly they are about history, so first check Museum of Arts. *Address: Ulitsa Karla Marksa 64*

Temple of All Religions, or the Temple of the Universe (Храм всех религий, или Вселенский храм)

It is an architectural complex, consisting of several types of religious architecture including an Orthodox church, a minaret, and a synagogue, among others. It is currently under construction, having been started in 1992 by local artist and philanthropist Ildar Khanov. The main idea of Khanov is that all religions are equal and there is no sense to argue about it. He said that eventually the structure would have 16 cupolas, corresponding to the 16 major world religions. Although the temple is located quite far (in the Staroye Arakchino Microdistrict of Kazan), it is worth going there if you are interested in architecture. You can reach this place with "electricchka" or with a bus ("Staroye Arakchino" stop).

SPORT

Kazan has just recently earned the reputation of a sports city, due to its recent investments. Kazan organized the World Summer Universiade 2013, and will be a host city for FINA World Aquatics Sports Championship in 2015 and for FIFA World Cup in 2018 in Russia. It is said that one of the World Cup semi-finals may be held in Kazan! Many of Kazan's professional teams, such as Rubin (football) or Ak Bars (hockey), have been recent Russia champions.

There are many **Fitness Clubs** in Kazan. Some of them are near our Centre (Alex Fitness, Grand Fitness, Малина).

SHOPPING

There are many shops to fit any taste near our Center but the biggest ones are **ГУМ** (ул. Баумана, 51), **Кольцо** (ул. Петербургская, 1), **ЦУМ** (Московская ул., 2). Other main shopping centres of Kazan are **Тандем** (Проспект Амирхана, 56), **Корстон** (Николая Ершова, 1а), **Бахетле** (Павлюхина, 57), **Мера** (Проспект Победы, 141).

TRANSPORT

Kazan has a variety of public transport, including buses, trolleybuses, trams, and tube. A ticket costs 18 roubles (using a **transport card** – www.transkart.ru) or 20 roubles (using **cash**) for any kind of transport.

The railway system connects Kazan with the major cities as well as the most remote parts of Russia. The ticket between Kazan and Moscow costs from 30 to 70 pounds depending on class (from 50 to 100 pounds by plane). The passenger carriages in Russia are of four main classes – **купе** (four to a compartment, two up and two down) and **плацкарт** (four to an open compartment, two up and two down). Плацкарт is less luxurious, but cheaper. Another class is **СВ** (same as купе, but for two people and, therefore, more expensive). The most expensive is **мягкий** class.

Train tickets can be bought in advance from any station (железнодорожные кассы), ticket agencies in a town/city (with a commission fee), ticket machines in and around the stations, or on the Internet (from the official site of the Russian Railways – <http://pass.rzd.ru/main-pass/public/en>). **To buy a ticket you will need your passport number and date of birth. To get on the train you will need your passport.**

Kazan has 2 railway stations. If you are coming to Moscow from Kazan the train will terminate at Казанский вокзал (Kazansky Station).

A convenient place to buy **plane tickets in Kazan** is “Turamko” (“Турамко”) Ticket Agency which is near our Centre (Лево-Булачная, 42). You can also buy flights online, e.g. on www.ticket.yandex.ru or www.avia.tutu.ru.

CHANGING YOUR RETURN FLIGHT DATE

If you wish to change the return date, you should email Roy Bivon (roy.bivon@rlus.co.uk) directly and he will be able to change it for you.

Before you plan any trips, we recommend you check out the British foreign office website (<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/russia>) which provides up-to-date information about where it is unsafe to travel, and what regulations there may be.

PLEASE NOTE: Absence from the course is only permitted in cases of illness or during reading weeks.

Attendance and marks will be sent to your universities.

