



# RLUS Ltd.

Russian Language Undergraduate Studies

## Welcome to Petrozavodsk!

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We hope that you will have an enjoyable and rewarding stay in the capital of Russia's lake land! If you have any questions that are not covered in this document, please do not hesitate to contact any of the representatives of RLUS or the university!

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## PETROZAVODSK

Petrozavodsk is a small but eventful city. There are some very good bars, restaurants and shops favoured by many of the university students living here. The stadium is well within walking distance of the university, and hold many free, local matches. While some may say is incomparable to Moscow or Saint Petersburg, it is hard to think you are in the middle of nowhere: free wi fi is prevalent throughout for your mobiles, and if you need anything that your small grocer cannot provide, there is a huge supermarket called Lenta (ul. Volnaya), not far from the University.

## UPON YOUR ARRIVAL

The RLUS **group flight** will be met at the airport by a representative from the university and your RLUS representatives, who will welcome you to Russia. The university representative will accompany you to Petrozavodsk by bus. Your return journey will be provided by train, as long as you are on the group flight. You will have to make your own way from the train station to the airport.

If you have booked a group air ticket you will be able to change the return date for a fee of approx. 2500 roubles. You can do this by contacting your RLUS representative in St. Petersburg, who will help you change it.



## YOUR COURSE

**Classes** will begin the Monday after you arrive at 10am.

The University is a 5 minute walk from the train station (see map at the end of the document).

During your course, you will study a number of subjects taking in various aspects of Russian language and culture. Classes include Conversation, Grammar, Translation and Analytical Reading.

Unlike the system in the UK, where lessons are 60 minutes long, lessons in Russia are 90 minutes long. If there are any problems with your course, or things you would like to change, then do speak to

the university about them. If that doesn't work, please get in touch with your Reps!

## VISAS AND REGISTRATION

When you arrive in Russia, you will be provided with a migration card at immigration. This small piece of paper is very important, so please make sure that you have it stamped by the immigration officer and keep it safe. On arriving at the university, you will be **registered**. This is required by the authorities to make your stay in the country legal and must be done within three working days after your arrival. You have to bring the following items to the university in order to register:

- Passport
- Visa
- Migration Card
- Registration fee

If you leave the country for any period, you definitely have to re-register. Please make sure that you know the rules about registration, even if you are travelling within the Russian Federation.

Your visa will be extended and converted to a multi-entry one, which will allow you to leave the country freely and return afterwards. You will be able to get it within 6 weeks of your arrival. The processing time usually takes 4 weeks, but can only be started after your initial registration is completed (up to 2 weeks). In order to apply for your multi-entry visa, you will need:

- 4 passport photos on matte paper
- Extension fee – 1000 rubles

At the moment, a **HIV test** is also required for Petrozavodsk, but Sasha or Kostya will help you to do this once you arrive. Please note that this law changes regularly, so you may arrive and find out that it's not necessary after all, but until now it has been and UK HIV tests have not been accepted.

## ACCOMODATION

Petrozavodsk is now offering **hostel** accommodation in a newly refurbished hostel, situated about 10 minutes walk from the University. Students will be expected to share a room. A few single rooms may be available. At a maximum of 2500 roubles per month for a shared room this is the cheapest accommodation that RLUS offers anywhere in Russia. There are two or three showers on each floor and a kitchen where you can prepare your own meals.

If you choose to stay in **homestay** accommodation, you will be assigned a room with a family living in Petrozavodsk. They are always friendly and do what they can to help you. They usually do not speak English, so this will be a great opportunity for you to practice your Russian!

You will pay your rent directly to the University at the beginning of the month (for prices, please see the document on the RLUS website entitled **Accommodation Costs**). The price you pay for homestay includes breakfast but not dinner. You can arrange to make extra payments for an evening meal or laundry. Please note that bedding will be supplied, and so you only need to bring a towel (...and clothes!).

Homestay is a great insight into life in Russia but please be aware that you are staying in someone else's home. There isn't a curfew as such, but it is a good idea to let your hosts know if you will be home later than 11pm. There are also a couple of cultural differences that might be helpful to know in advance: you should wear slippers indoors and the food might differ from what you are used to. If you talk to your host family about your preferences, they will try to accommodate you as far as possible. You will, no doubt, wish to **contact** your family when you arrive, in which case we suggest using an international phone card if Skype is not available.

Homestays more often than not have access to the Internet – but not always! In this case, you can buy a dongle quite cheaply (see MOBILE PHONES AND INTERNET).

If you should decide to leave your homestay and find your **own accommodation**, you must give a month's notice or pay the rent for that month. You should also tell your university's liaison officer and your RLUS Rep. Unfortunately, RLUS is bound by legal conditions not to get involved in your search for a new apartment.

We do encourage students to remain in homestay to avoid difficulties with papers, registration, money and difficult landlords.

## SAFETY

While Petrozavodsk is not as big a city as St Petersburg or Moscow, it does have its fair share of crime so you should take the same precautions as you would in any other large town. Be particularly careful of pickpockets and make sure your valuables are not hanging out of your back pocket!

You do not need to carry your original passport but **you should have a copy of your passport, visa, migration card and registration on you at all times.** These are all stamped with the university's details, so that it's clear who to contact in the case of an emergency.

This is particularly important for gentlemen, as you may be stopped by the police. In this case, don't worry, just show them your documents and if there are any problems, get them to phone the university (+7 (814) 271-9609) or your Reps.



multi-entry visa

"Б" (Выезд/Departure)			
Российская Федерация Russian Federation	Республика Беларусь Republic of Belarus		
Миграционная карта Migration Card	Серия/Serial 40 10 № 2502311		
Фамилия/Султане (Family name)	Имя/Имя (Given name)		
Отечество/Ратоніс	Дата рождения/Date of birth		
Дни/Day	Месяц/Month	Год/Year	Пол/Sex
Цель визита (purpose of visit)	Срок пребывания/Duration of stay	Въезд в Российскую Федерацию/Entry into the Russian Federation	Выезд из Российской Федерации/Departure from the Russian Federation

migration card



registration

You shouldn't carry large amounts of money around with you; similarly it is a good idea to leave some of your credit or identity cards at home.

If you are going to go out at night, try not to overdo it as you make yourself more vulnerable to dangers.

Do plan how you are going to get home and try to go together with someone else. We recommend that you use **taxis at night**, as they are reliable, safe, and not much more expensive than other forms of night transport. RLUS does not condone the use of "private cars" or "gypsy cabs". However, if you do take one, ensure that there is only one person in the car, agree the price before getting into the car, and show caution!

Lastly: Don't drink the tap water! The plumbing system is old and badly maintained, so you should either boil your water or use a Brita filter, or best of all, both! Bottled water is inexpensive and available everywhere.

## MONEY

You can **exchange money** in numerous banks and bureaux de change. (Your host family should show you these in the first couple of days if you need to change money) You can't use dollars, euros or pounds in Russia but changing them will not be a problem.

You will be able to use your bank cards to withdraw money from **cash machines** in the city, but please remember that most banks charge a fee for this and some have limited service.

Also, many shops and restaurants do not take cards and you should be prepared for this, do carry some cash just in case. Many places ask for ID when using your card. A copy of your passport or your driving license will be fine.

There are **credit cards** available in the UK which are commission-free and great for travelling. However, beware that commission-free does not always mean that they have a great exchange rate. Please look at the website [www.moneysupermarket.com](http://www.moneysupermarket.com) for the latest information.

## WHAT TO DO IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG

In the case of an emergency (no matter what it is or when it happens), please contact your Reps to let them know. They will then call someone in Petrozavodsk to help you if the matter is urgent, or hop on the next train if needs be. Your Reps are available 24 hours a day 7 days a week, so there is always someone to help.

## LIFE IN PETROZAVODSK: MOBILE PHONES AND INTERNET

No doubt one of the first things you'll want to do is to set yourself up with a **simcard**. The main providers are MTS, Beeline and Megafon. Megafon generally seems to be the most expensive of the three, and MTS and Beeline tend to be preferred by young people. There is also a provider called Tele2, which is cheap, but does not always work when corresponding with British providers such as Orange.

You can buy a sim from any mobile shop (such as **Svyaznoi & Evroset**) and then top up using the touchscreen (orange) machines on the streets and in shops. You can also buy phone cards from Evroset, which you can use to call home quite cheaply when you don't have access to Skype. They're yellow and you can buy 300 rubles or 500 etc., depending on how much you think you might use it.

If you want to buy a **dongle**, we recommend Yota or MTS. They are a little bit more expensive than buying Beeline or another service, but they are much better and ensure you get good signal wherever you are in the city.

## LIFE IN PETROZAVODSK: TRANSPORT

Petrozavodsk has a wide-ranging network of **buses, minibus-sized private buses (marshrutkas) and trolleybuses**. Prices are cheap compared to their British equivalents, and cheaper than in bigger cities such as Moscow or St. Petersburg. Please note that travel by marshrutka is not included in the cost of any travel cards and tickets must be bought from the driver.

## LIFE IN PETROZAVODSK: FOOD

You can buy a wide variety of food in Petrozavodsk, though prices (especially for processed food, fresh fruit and vegetables) are roughly the same as and sometimes more expensive than in UK. Any fresh food and vegetables bought should be thoroughly cleaned before being eaten. There are a growing number of western style supermarkets of a generally high standard. There are also markets, as well as traditional indoor markets.

## MAP

To find your homestay address and other places, please visit [petromap.ru](http://petromap.ru). It's not particularly sophisticated but it is a good place to start!

