



Guide to Yaroslavl

This guide contains the following useful information for the duration of your RLUS course in Yaroslavl:

- Contact details, school location map
- Your arrival in Moscow
- Your course
- Visas and registration
- Accommodation
- Safety information
- What to do in an emergency
- Life in Yaroslavl: mobiles, internet, food, entertainment, transport



Russia is a wonderful and unique place, which will undoubtedly leave you with memories to treasure for the rest of your life. We hope you enjoy your stay! Please feel free to contact us if you have questions that are not covered in this document.

Contact Details:

International Office,

P.G. Demidov Yaroslavl State University
Ul. Sovetskaya, 10
Yaroslavl, Russia 150000

Your RLUS representatives:

Alex Rigby mobile +7 965 269 2318
Emma Booth mobile + 7 903 758-57-04
Sophie Morrow mobile
e-mail: rlus.moscow@gmail.com

Send your post to:

RLUS student (your name), International Office, P.G. Demidov Yaroslavl State University, ul. Sovetskaya, 14, Yaroslavl, Russia 150000.



Your Arrival in Moscow

If you arrive **on the group flight**, you will be met at the airport by the RLUS representatives and a staff member from the university in Yaroslavl. There may be many students coming through all at once, so please be patient! Once everyone has come through, you will be taken to a minibus, organized by the university in Yaroslavl, and will be taken to the city and dropped off at your homestay address in Yaroslavl. You will be accompanied on the journey by a staff member from Yaroslavl. The journey takes around 4 hours but traffic may make the journey longer.

If you **don't arrive on the group flight**, you will be expected to make your own way to Yaroslavl. Once you arrive there, you will be met by a member of the university 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 400 roubles and takes 45 minutes to get to the city, depending on which airport you arrive at. When you arrive at the station, follow the signs to the metro which is characterised by a big red M. If you didn't get the train ticket that includes one metro ride, you can buy tickets at the cash desk when you enter the metro. Once you get into Moscow, you can take a train to Yaroslavl. They leave from Ярославский вокзал, which is located at Metro Komsomolskaya, and take about 4 hours – timetables can be found here: <http://rzd.ru/>. Tickets can be bought on the internet on the RZD site in advance and you can print the tickets too once you've registered an account.

Your Course

Your course will start on the day after your arrival. On this day, **you will meet at the school in the morning at around 10 am. Do not forget to bring your passport and migration card on the first day** as you will need them for registration. You'll be shown around the area, taken to get passport pictures done, have your documents registered. You will have a briefing meeting where you will be told some important information, and introduced to the faculty of "The Centre for Intercultural Communication," who will be conducting your course. The head of the department is Albina Valerevna Egorova, the assistant head is Julia Vladimirovna Tarakanova and the head of academic studies is Lena Zelenkova. During your course you will study grammar, Russian conversation, reading and writing, translation and modern Russian culture. We will have regular phone calls with you to see how your course is going as well as come to visit once a semester.

Visas and Registration

When you arrive at the airport, make sure you have filled out a migration card (see picture, left), if it hasn't been done for you automatically (most Moscow airports 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**. This is especially important if you are not arriving with the group as the RLUS reps won't be there to check.

Most RLUS students have an initial 3-month single-entry visa which is converted into a multi-entry to cover the duration of their course after the first month. Be aware that you may not be able to travel outside of Russia for the first 6 weeks of your course, as your visa will be with the authorities undergoing extension. Due to laws passed in 2007, if you are planning on leaving Yaroslavl (even if just to another city in Russia) for any reason, you **must** inform your RLUS representative as well as Albina or Julia. You **must** re-register by 11am on the **first** business day on returning to Yaroslavl by handing in your documents at the relevant university department, this will all be explained during your briefing

meeting. If you don't want to do this, be prepared to pay the 6 digit fine you will incur! You are responsible for any costs incurred for visa extension and registration.

Accommodation

Most RLUS students will stay in homestay accommodation, never too far from the university. The hosts are generally women of an older age, affectionately referred to as babushkas. Within the first couple of days of arrival, you will be expected to pay your rent directly to your landlady. They will also ask for a deposit from you, which will be returned at the end of the course, if nothing has been broken or damaged. For those opting for Bed and Breakfast, you may only have limited use of the kitchen. It is best to ask your landlady directly if you can use her kitchen facilities. You will usually be expected to pay for washing machine powder too, if you want to use the machine.

If you have any problems with your host, please let one of us know. If you wish to move out of university arranged accommodation, then speak to one of the staff members at the university and make the RLUS reps aware. If you wish to rent a flat privately 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. Securing a flat for a short period of time is rather difficult in Yaroslavl too as landlords prefer a longer commitment from tenants.

We strongly recommend that you read the document on the RLUS website entitled 'Living in a Homestay' for more information to help you prepare for your forthcoming homestay experience. You can find the document at: <http://rlus.co.uk/homestay%20info.pdf>

You may want to contact your family to inform them that you've arrived. We suggest that you get an international calling card (see example, right), if Skype is not available. Please ask your host's permission to use the phone.



Please be aware that facilities differ from homestay to homestay, some will have wireless internet installed and a washing machine etc. whereas some addresses will not. Unfortunately RLUS cannot guarantee that the standard of homestays will be the same across the board, one, because RLUS is not responsible for organizing accommodation, it's the university's responsibility. Two, hosts are selected on their experience hosting foreign students, not necessarily on the facilities available in their homes.

Safety in Russia

You must have a **copy of your documents** (passport, visa, migration card and registration slip) with you at all times. Do not carry your passport with you as if you lose it then the process of getting a new one, plus a new visa and migration card is a costly and difficult one, that's why photocopies are best. The police have the right to arrest anybody without documents. You can be detained for up to 72 hours or until your documents are produced. You should also carry your student card with you, as the police may ask to see it.

Common Sense Advice:

- Foreigners are particularly vulnerable to crime in tourist areas so avoid drawing attention to yourself – don't walk in big groups speaking loudly in English.
- To make a claim, you will need to obtain a police report (справка) within 24 hours of the crime. A member of the university staff can accompany you to the police station. Don't tell the police something was stolen; your RLUS representatives will know how to deal with the police better, so always contact us as this will make things much easier for you.
- Absolutely **never touch drugs** here. The penalties are simply not worth the risk, and if you break the law we cannot help you.

- If you go out for the evening, stay in a group, and plan it so that you accompany each other home right up to the front door. Always be aware of yourself, your belongings and your surroundings, and you shouldn't come across any major problems.
- If you're out at night, where possible, try to make sure girls are accompanied home.
- If you engage in sexual activity, **always practice safe sex** and use a condom as STIs are not uncommon.
- Stay away from Gypsy cabs, use a reputable cab company such as Taxi: +7 4882 34 66 66. Gypsy cabs can often 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 the reps immediately. Along with the relevant departments at the university, we'll help you sort everything out.
- Don't drink the tap water – it's better to boil the water first, or buy bottled water. Water filters are cheap in Russia so buying one and filtering your own water may be the best and most economic alternative.

If in doubt, always feel free to contact your RLUS representatives. **Please text us** with any questions and we'll reply as soon as possible. If you decide to call and we don't answer it is likely that we are teaching – that's another part of our jobs! – and will call you back as soon as possible. Please only call if it's an emergency, if it's a general query then please text or email.

If Something Goes Wrong...

Our phone numbers and the number of the school are at the beginning of this document. Other useful numbers to have are:

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

Fire: **01** Police: **02** Ambulance: **03** Or, call **112** and state which service you require.

You should be able to get adequate medical treatment in Yaroslavl. 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.

Some recommended clinics include Поликлиника on ул. Пушкина 1 and Частная поликлиника on ул. Чайковского 53 а. See Albina Valerevna Egorova or Julia Vladimirovna Tarakanova at the university to book an appointment. Both Albina and Julia should be able to advise according to the nature of the health complaint.

If you don't 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 even for things covered by your policy, you may have to pay all charges directly to the clinic where you are treated and make an insurance claim afterwards.

We recommend avoiding contact with the **police** (полиция) as much as possible. This, of course, is a general rule and the necessity depends on the nature and severity of the issue. If in doubt, ring your RLUS representative first. If the police visit you at your home to check your documents, you are not required to open the door. In the unlikely event 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 the embassy duty of officer as they will be of more help in this kind of situation.

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

Life in Yaroslavl

While not as big and happening as the capital cities in Russia, Yaroslavl has plenty to offer. As it is a university city it has a young population and you should find a selection of different activities such as sports, theatres, cinemas, music and night life to keep you occupied. People are generally friendlier and more helpful in Yaroslavl compared with a bigger city like Moscow. You may get a few funny looks for speaking English if you're out as a group but that's all part of the experience! And if you run out of inspiration, you are only a train ride from Moscow for a bit of variety!

Mobile phones and internet

There are some internet cafes in Yaroslavl. Internet access is cheaper than at home, and is fairly simple to set up using a portable modem (a dongle which allows you to connect wirelessly to the internet), this can be purchased from almost any phone or electric shop. It is possible to get WIFI connection almost everywhere, especially in chains of coffee



shops and cafes, and it's usually free as long as you buy a coffee or cake. There is also a WIFI signal at the university.

You will be taken on your first day to a telephone shop where you will be able to purchase a SIM card, and a phone at a good price, if you need one. If you want to get one yourself, good networks include Beeline, MTS, and Megafon. If you want to use your landlady's phone to call home, you should ask first, and use an International calling card. You can buy these from any phone shop. Before coming to Russia it might be an idea to get your UK phone unlocked so you're able to insert a Russian SIM in it. Another alternative would be to buy a cheap, basic phone from a shop and use that while you're in Russia



Money

There are plenty of places in town (обмен валюты) where you can **change cash**. It is generally better to change money in a bank, such as Sberbank, VTB, RBS, CitiBank or other big banks. We don't recommend bringing traveller's cheques as they are simply a nightmare to change. **Cash machines** (банкоматы) are everywhere. Your bank will probably charge you 1.5% to 2% per withdrawal for roubles and some banks may make an additional charge if you withdraw dollars or euros. It's a good idea to let your bank know that you will be in Russia for a certain period of time so that they don't think your card has been stolen and block access to your money. There are cards which you can sign up for in the UK such as Caxton FX or Halifax Clarity which charge no fee when you take out roubles from an ATM.

Entertainment

The university staff will give you a lowdown on events that go on around Yaroslavl and at the university during your initial briefing meeting. There's an events board in the building where you study so look out for any exhibitions or excursions. The university organizes a 'language cafe' event once a month where students from the university wanting to speak and practice a foreign language meet to have a chat. It's been popular in the past amongst RLUS students and a good opportunity to speak Russian and meet people. You can find listings for many interesting events such as concerts, plays and classes in a variety of local newspapers.

Yaroslavl was once the ancient capital of Russia, and there is a lot of history here. There are lots of museums along the river bank, of which the Museum of Music and Time and the Museum of the History of Yaroslavl both

deserve a mention. The Transfiguration Monastery (often known as the Kremlin), with its fairytale skyline, is situated right in the centre of town. It contains some of the city's oldest buildings and museums of the town's history, old Russian art and the town's pet bear. Yaroslavl also has a Catholic Church, located at проспект Толбухина 43, and a mosque not far from ул. Некрасова, where they sometimes even offer Arabic lessons. The Exhibition Hall (Выставочный зал) on ул. Максимова often has work by local, contemporary artists. The largest western-style cinema you'll find in Yaroslavl is Родина on ул. Республиканская. Tickets are always cheaper on Wednesday evening. Otherwise, the cinema Волга is on the number 1 tram route, which you can catch near McDonalds (about seven stops, past the Shinnik stadium). There's also Победы, found on ул. Трыфанова. Also a brand new shopping mall has opened up called 'Aura', it's just like any other big shopping mall with a wide range of shops, a food court on the top floor with many of the western fast food brands, also they have a cinema and bowling alley. The mall is located on ул. Победы 41 (<http://www.auramall.ru/yaroslavl/#>), it's around a 10 minute walk from the city centre.

Sport and Leisure

The stadium of the local football team, Шинник Ярославль, is situated on площадь Труда. Шинник is consistently one of the worst teams in Russia, but going to matches can be a fun way to spend some time outdoors. For swimming, situated right next to the Континент bar, off ул. Свободы, is Казармый бассейн. There is also a good swimming pool on проспект Толбухина (turn left at the top of ул. Некрасова) and one on площадь Юбилейная (near the internet club). There is a very good and cheap banya located at Большая Октябрьская, 80.

Gyms are everywhere. The Старый город complex is located opposite McDonalds through a small arch. The Дворец культуры on Юбилейная площадь has a gym inside and offers some classes like martial arts. There is also a gym on ул. Свердлова opposite the outdoor market. 10-pin bowling enthusiasts can try out the facilities on ул. Свободы (Комета бум) or at the hockey arena. For tennis there are five very high quality tennis courts situated on the Volga embankment, about five minutes' walk from Советская площадь. There is a nice little cafe that serves refreshments on the pavilion overlooking the tennis courts. Unfortunately, you cannot hire tennis rackets, you have to bring your own.

There are activities which you can do in the university itself, such as singing in the choir and balalaika lessons. The teachers will come and introduce themselves in your first week. Belkino, outside of central Yaroslavl, is a winter sports place for sledging, skiing, etc. that has been mentioned by students in the past.

Shopping

Western style **supermarkets** are now common in Russia. The main chains include Перекрёсток, Седьмой Континент and Пятёрочка. There is bound to be at least one small продукты shop within 5 minutes' walk of your home-stay, where you can buy basics like bread, cheese and frozen food. In such small shops, the products are stored behind counters so you have to explain to the attendant exactly what you want. The prices tend to be a little higher than in the supermarkets. Most fruit and vegetables can be bought from small kiosks on the street. There is a smaller variety of fruit and vegetables in Russia than in the West, and availability depends greatly on the season. There's a 'hypermarket' called Globus, which has a free bus service from the centre, this enormous supermarket meets general store has everything from pick n mix to well-priced electronics. The shopping mall 'Aura' is a good one stop place to buy clothes, electronics, food etc. Some of the brands include Reebok, Media Markt- this is good for electronics such as headphones etc., Pull & Bear, O'Stin Reserved, Bershka- all these four are similar to River Island, Next, Topshop etc. Also there's McDonalds, KFC, Burger King, Sbarro and other different kinds of cuisine as part of the food court, not just fast food!

A large market that you may want to check out is the Центральный рынок, situated off ул. Депутатская, one street towards the Kremlin from ул. Кирова, with another entrance on ул. Андропова. It has a large covered

food hall, as well as outdoor stalls selling clothing, bags, shoes, sunglasses, kitchenware, cosmetics, etc. Note, good-quality clothes are not cheap in Russia.

When you are unwilling to attempt haggling in Russian at a market, catch a bus to Vernisazh (ул. Дорожная, д. 6а) on the other side of the Volga. There is a sufficient choice of shops selling more European choices of clothes, shoe shops which don't sell only heels and a food court. For a more upmarket shopping centre with slightly less reasonable prices you can also try Altair shopping centre across the Kotorosl (Ленинградский пр-т, д. 123).

Transport

The city is served by an extensive system of trams, trolleybuses, buses and marshrutkas, which look like transit vans and carry around sixteen people. They differ from buses in that they tend to travel more quickly and do not stop at fixed points, but on the request of passengers. To get out, say: "Остановите [на остановке], пожалуйста". They cost around 16 roubles per journey. Trams, buses and trolleybuses stop automatically and have a fixed rate of 18 roubles. You buy tickets from a controller who will come round and issue you a ticket, not from the driver, so just board the tram, bus or trolleybus at the stop.



Travel within Russia

Train travel within Russia is still very cheap in comparison with the West. The two main classes are купе (four to a cabin, two up two down) and плацкарт (open carriages, less luxurious but cheaper), but if you want to travel on the cheap RZD has recently revamped their sitting carriages.

Train tickets can be bought in advance from any station. The RZD website is a good place to buy tickets. Just create an account on their website and you can play your route and buy tickets, you'll have to print off an electronic ticket to board the train but does save time by doing it from the comfort of your home. You can also buy tickets from the new ticket machines located in and around stations, if you don't want to queue or speak Russian. You **need your passport** number and date of birth to buy tickets and your passport to get on the train.



Yaroslavl has 2 railway stations; however, if you are in Moscow there are **nine railway stations**. If you are coming to Moscow from Yaroslavl, the train will terminate at Yaroslavskiy Vokzal (Ярославский вокзал). But if you are coming from Moscow and heading elsewhere in Russia, you may depart from another station. Generally, these railway stations correspond to the following travel directions:

- Western direction (to Belarus and Poland): Белорусский вокзал
- Northern/north-western directions (St Petersburg and the Baltics): Ленинградский вокзал, Савёловский вокзал, Ярославский вокзал, Рижский вокзал (NB. If you are buying tickets to St Petersburg, the tickets will say Москва-Октябрьская as the departing station, but the trains leave from the Ленинградский вокзал.)
- Eastern, north-eastern, and south-eastern directions: Казанский вокзал, Павелецкий вокзал
- Southern direction: Курский вокзал
- South-western direction: Киевский вокзал

A good place to buy **plane tickets** is STA travel. They have a website at www.statravel.ru. BA use Домодедово airport (where the group flight arrives); you can contact them on +7 (495) 363 2525. Трансаэро and Аэрофлот also offer decent deals, as well as Skyexpress, S7, Pobeda which fly to various locations across Russia. You can also buy flights online and get e-tickets. Other Russian ticket sights include:

- www.anywayanyday.com
- www.ozon.travel

Yaroslavl is also part of the 'Golden Ring'; a group of historical cities instrumental in shaping Russia culturally and religiously. These towns are famous for their beauty and for landmarks such as cathedrals, monasteries, churches and museums. The other 'Golden Ring' towns such as Rostov, Suzdal and Vladimir are very accessible from Yaroslavl and not too far. You can purchase tickets from the 'Avtovokzal' which is situated on Московский проспект, 80. The buses depart from here too. Furthermore you can buy long distance bus tickets from here too, the buses tend to be cheaper than the trains and you're also entitled to a student discount.

Changing Your Return Flight Date

Your RLUS flight is booked through BA. 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. Please give him a choice of three alternate flight times and dates. Please keep in mind that you will be required to pay a £70 change fee.

Before you plan any trips, we recommend you check out the British foreign office website (www.fco.gov.uk), 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 official travel weeks. **Attendance and marks will be sent to your universities.**

Useful Web Links

Processing your Russian visa

- <http://ru.vfsglobal.co.uk/> - Used by previous students to process visas
- www.rusemblon.org/ - Consular Section of the Embassy of Russia in the United Kingdom
- www.great-britain.mid.ru/ - Embassy of the Russian Federation in the UK

Advice about travel to Russia

- www.britemb.msk.ru/consular/index_ie.htm - Consular advice for UK citizens (see FCO travel advice: Russia)
- <http://ukinrussia.fco.gov.uk/en/> - British Embassy in Russia

General information about Russia

- www.moscowtimes.ru - English Language newspaper providing up to date news on Russia and entertainment listings for Moscow
- www.expat.ru - The Moscow Ex-pat Site: a virtual community for English speaking ex-pats and Russians
- www.rbcnews.com - news and information site
- www.rbth.com - comprehensive news and information
- www.realrussia.co.uk - everything Russia related

Travel in Russia

- www.poezdka.ru (Russian) - search engine for flights/air tickets
- www.polets.ru (Russian) - search engine for flights/air tickets
- www.poezda.net - (Russian) trip planning website for the Russian railway
- www.tutu.ru (Russian) - elektrichka timetable, as well as trains and flights
- <http://russia.km.ru/trans/moskwa/vokzal.htm> (Russian) - train timetable for Moscow railway stations
- <http://startravel.ru/eng/index.shtml> - Star Travel (STA Russia) for cheap tickets (air/train/bus) and under-26 and ISIC discount cards
- www.marshrutky.ru - useful for checking train times and routes
- www.wikitavel.org/en/russia - a wiki site dedicated to travel!

Information about Moscow

- www.afisha.ru (Russian) - Russian site providing entertainment listings for Moscow
- www.vashdosug.ru (Russian) - Russian site providing entertainment listings for Moscow
- www.waytorussia.net/Moscow/Info.html - featuring 'What is Moscow', and Practicalities, Maps, Transportation, Accommodation, Eating Out, Entertainment, Sightseeing

Final note: All information in this orientation pack is correct at time of going to press, but as things in Russia change almost daily (restaurants open and close, new registration laws are passed), it is very likely that information will change during your stay here. Please let us know if you notice any changes. Thank you!