



STANFORD
US-RUSSIA
FORUM

2014–2015 Program
Delegate Application
Information Packet

Due June 16, 2014 at
5:00 PST

A Message to Prospective U.S. Delegates

Thank you for your interest in the 2014-2015 Stanford U.S.-Russia Forum program!

Our organization provides a platform for Russian and American university students from across both countries to work together. As a delegate, you will be exposed to another culture and gain the valuable experience of collaborating in an international context. Additionally, and perhaps most significantly, you will create lasting connections with your fellow delegates and join a wide-reaching community of past participants. Many alumnae have gone on to become Fulbright and Boren Scholars, journalists, professors, entrepreneurs, and much more. We welcome applicants from all academic disciplines and majors, regardless of prior exposure to Russia.

Before getting started, please take the time to read the following information before you complete our [online application](#). Upload your resume (labeled lastname_Firstname_Resume) and transcript (labeled Lastname_Firstname_Transcript) to <http://dbinbox.com/USRussia>. If you have questions regarding the application process, please e-mail Ravi Patel at rspatel@stanford.edu with any questions.

Program Structure:

The Stanford U.S.-Russia Forum is an organization run by students, for students. Our primary objectives are:

- To promote collaboration and dialogue between American and Russian students in areas including but not limited to science, technology, business, politics, history, and entrepreneurship. Through participating in student-driven collaborations, we encourage delegates to embrace new ways of problem-solving while forming lasting ties.
- To develop creative ideas for improving U.S.-Russia relations that contribute to the ongoing dialogue amongst policymakers, academics, and other members of the professional world. As a delegate, you will be responsible for writing a policy proposal or a project summary that will be distributed to individuals and organizations who influence the course of U.S.-Russian relations.

Our objectives are accomplished through two key components of the Stanford U.S.-Russia Forum program: the Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs) and the conferences.

Part I: Collaborative Research Projects (October 2014 – March 2015)

The Collaborative Research Projects is the core of our program, and delegates will have will take ownership in designing and executing their projects. Each team is comprised of 2 Russian students and 2 American students; every team will be assigned a professional mentor to help navigate the collaborative research process. At the capstone conference, all groups will give an oral presentation on their research findings or project work.

Project Theme and Structure

You may structure your project in one of two ways:

- **Academic:** Your project will culminate in a research paper and (where applicable) a policy recommendation that addresses the issue you are investigating. The early period of the CRP process will be focused on identifying your research question and completing a literature review. You will then work with your professional mentor to devise research methods most suitable for your project and use the bulk of your time to research and write your paper (12-15 pages in length). Past papers have focused on a wide range of topics, from the impact of oil on Russian governance to potentialities for US-Russian cooperation in securing Pakistani nuclear material. We have also had several projects concentrated on civil society, immigration and many other topics. Selected groups will have the opportunity to brief their findings to key policy makers in Washington D.C. and Moscow.
- **Applied:** Traditionally, our organization has focused solely on policy papers and recommendations. This year, we are looking for as many as half of the delegates to engage in collaborative projects that culminate in some deliverable other than a research paper. **These projects should identify a “need” and leverage your unique experiences and skill sets to create an innovative solution to this need.** For example:
 - Create a mobile app to help English-speakers learn Russian and vice-versa
 - Prototype solutions to teen homelessness in urban areas
 - Model energy-efficient fuel sources for mass transit in large cities
 - Find a low-cost way to repair badly damaged roads
 - Generate a system to incorporate more fresh produce and high-nutrient, low-cost foods into public schools
 - Establish a civil society organization

For the applied projects, we are especially interested in candidates with backgrounds in science, engineering, business or entrepreneurship. Experience in coding, design, statistical modeling, analyzing large data sets, finance, non-profit management or other related areas is desirable. Your final project does not necessarily have to pertain to a problem specific to the U.S.-Russian space; it may address a global concern or one specific to a different country or region. We are excited for how your

unique perspective and skills will contribute to addressing these issues in an international collaborative context.

Part II: The Conferences

Moscow Conference (September 9-13, 2014)

At the four-day Fall Conference, delegates will meet in person for the first time and present the literature review of their research. Furthermore, delegates will defend their proposed research methodology. Conference events will include panel discussions and seminars with leading experts in policymaking, academia, and business as well as team-building workshops.

Stanford Conference (April 7-11, 2015)

To conclude the Program, delegates will reassemble for a four-day capstone conference at Stanford University. Groups will have the opportunity to present their work to the other delegates, professors, and professionals in relevant areas. Additionally, we will have panels and seminars on U.S.-Russia relations, business, technology, and more. There will be several exciting field trips and time for sightseeing in San Francisco.

Financial Aid

The Stanford U.S.-Russia Forum is committed to ensuring that all American delegates can attend both conferences regardless of financial need. Therefore we encourage all prospective applicants regardless of financial need to apply. We are proud to have a need-blind application process and indicating your financial situation at any time during the application or interview process will in no way affect your application.

American applicants will receive financial aid depending on the amount fundraised by our officers. In the past, delegates have received reimbursements that have covered about half their Moscow flight.

Russian applicants will have to contact their universities for travel funding through research or travel grants/scholarships. In the past, universities have supported Stanford U.S.-Russia Forum participants. There is no guarantee that our organization will offer financial aid but if funds become available, Russian delegates will have the opportunity to get partial reimbursements.

Program Costs

The Stanford U.S.-Russia Forum will cover most conference costs with the exception of flights. There is no program fee.

Estimated round trip flight cost departing on Sept 7 2014 and returning Sept 14¹:

¹ All flights are based on the cheapest prices offered by <http://www.airfasttickets.com/> as of May 28, 2014. You are not bound to the dates stated above and not that varying the dates above will generate different

To Moscow; departing from:

San Francisco, CA: \$854.66 USD
Los Angeles, CA: \$ 797.97
New York, NY: \$ 655.45
Boston, MA: \$ 780.62

Atlanta, GA: \$ 1019.84
Chicago, IL: \$ 800.53
Houston, TX: \$ 903.40

Estimated round trip flight costs for the Capstone conference in April 2015 is not yet available for booking through travel service providers. Listed below are very rough estimates of costs:

To San Francisco; departing from:

Moscow, RU: \$ 900 - \$ 1000 USD
Los Angeles, CA: \$ 150
New York, NY: \$ 400
Boston, MA: \$ 400

Atlanta, GA: \$ 400
Chicago, IL: \$ 300
Houston, TX: \$ 400

Application Tips:

- Tell us about your intellectual passion. We want students who have demonstrated an interest and engagement outside the classroom. If your interest has little to do with **Russia or foreign relations, don't worry** – as long as you communicate to us what it is that really excites you. We want to know why you are excited to engage in an international dialogue and collaboration with the other delegates. We are looking to recruit students of varied backgrounds, and a willingness to learn and create something new is a quality we value.
- We are looking for leaders who are self-motivated. Delegates who work independently and proactively are those who will see a richer, more nuanced result at the end of the CRP process. Your resume and essays should reflect not just involvement but commitment to activities and projects you have pursued in the past.
- Think forward, and think big. We are looking for outside-of-the-box ideas, for change catalysts and for delegates with bold vision for creating something better, both in terms of the U.S. and Russia but more broadly as well.

prices. This is an estimate of the flight costs for the fall conference in Moscow and not a guarantee, your flight's cost may be different. All prices are denominated in USD.