RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN AND CENTRAL ASIAN STUDIES, GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE

The graduate/professional certificate in REECAS provides graduate students with a general background in the areas of anthropology, economics, foreign policy, geography, government and politics, history, language and literature, law, and sociology. It also provides specific knowledge about one of these areas. With its emphasis on interdisciplinary study, a REECAS certificate enhances the training of Ph.D. candidates who wish to teach and do research at the college level, and serves the needs of M.A. and Ph.D. students who wish to make a career in broadcasting, government service, journalism, library work, or other professions requiring a well-rounded acquaintance with this diverse and highly important area.

Candidates for the Graduate Certificate in REECAS must take at least two years of language study (or the equivalent) in one of the region’s languages. At UW-Madison, Czech, Finnish, Kazakh, Persian, Polish, Russian, and Turkish/Azeri are offered regularly during the academic year. Other regional languages may be available during the summer session (e.g. languages of Central Eurasia through CESSI (https://cessi.wisc.edu/)).

REQUIREMENTS

To receive the certificate, a student must take 12 credits of required courses distributed over three programs. Of these required courses, one must be a seminar in which a research paper is written on a topic approved by the major professor. The student must demonstrate a working knowledge of one language of Eastern Europe or the former Soviet Union before beginning the second year of REECAS and will be expected to write the seminar paper utilizing original source material in the target language(s). Students should contact the program office for specific information regarding these requirements.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Regional expertise: advanced knowledge of the societies and cultures of the region through in-depth understanding of the principal historical, social, political, cultural and scientific forces and conditions that have given rise to the unity and diversity in the region today.
2. Multi-disciplinarity: analyzing contemporary political, economic, and cultural realities in the region from at least two disciplinary perspectives, ideally including humanities, social sciences and sometimes natural science approaches.
3. Depth of knowledge: advanced knowledge of particular facets of life in the region by taking courses on particular sub-regions or countries, by studying a regional language, or by taking at least two courses on the region in one discipline.
4. Research and methods: Students must demonstrate the ability to conduct interdisciplinary research that shows knowledge of research methodologies, demonstrates analytical skills, and the ability to articulate and elaborate research findings.

PEOPLE