

SAINT PETERSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

POCKET GUIDE 2010

FOR INCOMING STUDENTS

HOW TO GET TO SAINT PETERSBURG

By plane

Pulkovo Airport serves a wide variety of destinations both international and domestic. Terminal 1 serves domestic flights, while Terminal 2 is for international connections. The airport is located approximately 17 kilometers south from the center. Taxis are abundant at the airport, but the prices they insist on can be quite astounding. Those who speak Russian can order a taxi by phone for a lower price than the taxis at the airport. For this purpose please call: 068 or 7000000. The operator will take the order and then call you back to tell you the license plate number and color/model of the taxi that will meet you. A cheaper option is to take a minibus to the nearest Metro station, Moskovskaya, which will cost you approx. 20 RUR. (Bus 39 to/from Terminal 1 and bus 13 to/from Terminal 2). From there you can go to any station on the Saint Petersburg Metro for a 20 RUR token.

By train

There are three suitable stations:

- **Moskovskij Railway Station (Московский вокзал):** If you land in Moscow you can book train tickets from the Leningradskij Railway Station (Moscow) to the Moskovskij Railway Station which is situated in centre of St.Petersburg near the metro stations Ploshchad Vosstaniya (closer) and Mayakovskaya.
- **Vitebskij Railway Station (Витебский вокзал):** for Belarus, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria, Poland, Germany, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia. It is situated at Pushkinskaya metro station.
- **Finlandskij Railway Station (Финляндский вокзал):** for various destinations including Helsinki (Finland). This railway station is situated at Ploshchad Lenina metro station.

By bus

The cheapest, although by no means the most comfortable way of reaching Saint Petersburg from neighboring countries are long distance buses. Buses from Belarus, Ukraine, Germany, Finland, the Baltic states and Scandinavia stop at the main bus station (Автовокзал). The nearest metro station is Ligovskij Prospekt.

Two private bus companies also run overnight routes to and from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as well as to Belarus and the Ukraine:

- Ecolines: has a daily departure to Riga as well as twice-weekly service to Minsk, Belarus and Kiev, Ukraine. From Riga, one can easily find connections to Poland and from there to most countries of Western and Central Europe. Tickets can be purchased online or through their Saint Petersburg Office. Tel: +7 812 314 2550, +7 901 300 6170
- Euro lines have multiple daily departures to Tallinn with a stop in Narva. They also maintain a daily route to Riga from which buses to most of Western and Central Europe can be found. Connections can also be made to the Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova from Riga and/or Vilnius. Tickets can be purchased or at their Petersburg office Tel: +7 (812) 438 28 39

By ferry

There is also a regular ferry connection from Stockholm, Kaliningrad and Rostock, which arrives at the harbor station. The nearest metro station is Primorskaya.

VISA

To obtain a visa to our country you need an official letter of invitation issued by the Migration Service of Russian Federation. Please note that together with your application package the PDF copy of your travelling passport (page with photo and the date of expiry) should be sent to CA Coordinator in SPSU. Please note that the passport should be valid six (6) months more after the end of planned exchange period. Otherwise the invitation will not be issued.

As soon as the official invitation is ready (usually the procedure takes a month) it is sent to home university CE coordinator by mail. Having the invitation a person can apply for Russian visa at Russian Consulate at her\his home country.

How to reach the University

The Office for International and Foreign Economic Affairs of Saint-Petersburg State University is situated on the Vasilievskii island (Universitetskaya naberejnaja, 7-9). The best way to reach the university is to use metro. You should arrive to the station "Nevskij prospect" and take the bus number 7 and trolleybuses number 1, 10, 11 to the bus stop called "Universitet".

LIVING IN SAINT PETERSBURG

St. Petersburg is considered to be the cultural capital of Russia, the place where national traditions and cultures are merged with the Europeans. Since its first days of the foundation it has been regarded as “the window into Europe». The wide range of museums, churches, galleries parks, gardens are at your disposal during your leisure time.

There is a large variety of shops at St.Petersburg. As for food shops the best choice are “Nachodka”, “Dixi”, “Pyatorochka”, big supermarkets such as “Ashan”, “O`key”, “Lenta”. There are lots of not expensive cafes in the city (e.g. “Chanaya Lozka” which offers various salads and traditional Russian bliny (crepes) with fillings).

There is no problem with spending leisure time. Museum ticket prices varies from RUR 50 to RUR 300 depending on the museum, some of them are free for students. The price of cinema tickets varies from RUR 100 to RUR 300. Concerts and theatre tickets costs RUR 500 – RUR 3 000. Night clubs offer different kind of music and almost all of them stay open till 6 a.m.

REGISTRATION AT THE UNIVERSITY

➔ REGISTRATION

The application package is available on SPSU Campus Europae web page:

<http://ifea.spbu.ru/int/en/study-a-research/international-academic-mobility-programmes/128.html>

All the documents should be sent from Home University CE Coordinator to SPSU CE Coordinator by e-mail or fax. As soon as the decision is made by the host faculty CE Coordinator will inform you about the further procedure.

➔ CALENDER OF ACADEMIC YEAR

Fall (1st) Semester: from 1st of September to 31st of January

Application deadline: 15th of May

Spring (2nd) Semester: from 14th of February to 1st of July

Application deadline: 15th of November

➔ ACCOMMODATION

The place at the dormitory is provided by the Office for International and Forien Economic Affairs of SPSU. The address of the SPSU dormitory is: Kapitanskaya str. 3 (Primorskaya metro station). The approximate price for one person is RUR 3 000 - 5 400 per month.

➔ SERVICES AT THE UNIVERSITY

- Gorky scientific library. Over 7 million copies (over 1.5 million book titles). Collection of books dating from the 15th-20th centuries, incunabula, early printed books and books in Cyrillic script. 50,000 manuscripts and xerographs in Oriental languages. University press. The largest University Publishing House of Russia — publishes literature practically on all branches of knowledge.
- Research centers as Laboratory of Biochemical Genetics, Center of Nano-technologies, etc.
- Sport centers: for sport training as a course in university and for sport training as a hobby. They include swimming pool, well equipped sports hall, gyms, etc. You can choose football, basketball, volleyball, badminton, dance, fitness, snowboard, ski, etc.
- Moreover, you can find computer center, WiFi, book shops, snake-bars, media center, language laboratory and other services in every faculty.

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OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

➔ CURRENCY

The national Russian currency is ruble. All payments for goods and services throughout Russia must be done in rubles, or by credit cards. Foreign currency can be exchanged in banks or currency exchange offices at the airport or in the city.

➔ MOBILE PHONE

There are several networks (MTS/Beeline/Megafon/Tele2) The cheapest are Tele-2 and Beeline. For international calls consider buying a calling card which allows cheaper calls to Europe.

➔ INTERNET

Free Wi-Fi is available in the airport, most major hotels, business and shopping centers, restaurants and other public places. It is also available at SPSU Main building.

➔ TIME

St. Petersburg is situated in the Moscow standard time zone (MST), which differs from Greenwich Mean

Time (GMT). MST = GMT + 3 hrs.

CONTACTS

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