

## Visa

The majority of international applicants who want to study in Russia will need a passport and a visa. Student visas are obtained through the Russian Embassy (Consular Department) or Russian Consulate in your country of residence. In certain countries, there are authorised visa centres which provide such services. Further information: <https://www.kdmid.ru/>

### [Basic rules of foreign citizen's residence on the territory of the Russian Federation](#)

Registration of foreign citizens coming to Saint-Petersburg University is under the charge of the Passport and Visa Support Department. Passport and Visa Support Department is divided into two campuses:

- Universitetskaya nab. 7-9, Saint-Petersburg, Main Building, ground floor, tel.: +7 (812) 326 4944 (entrance from Mendeleevskaya liniya)
- Botanicheskaya st., 66, Stary Peterhof, Dormitory №10, room 109, tel.: +7 (812) 428 4716 (int. 112 or 115).

All foreign citizens coming to Russia must register their residence during 7 working days calculated from crossing the border of the Russian Federation.

## Living costs in St. Petersburg

Russian national currency is Russian ruble (RUB). Here's a handy [currency converter](#).

Life in St. Petersburg on average is much cheaper than in most of the European capitals. Depending on the accommodation type the amount of EUR 260-360 per month is needed.

You can always check current prices in St. Petersburg [here](#).

## Housing

- Foreign nationals who are enrolled in SPbU for their 1st year of main educational programs are allocated places at **the University halls of residence** on the basis of a permit for allocation of a place in the halls. The permit can be obtained at [the Office of the Admissions Committee for Foreign Citizens](#). The cost of the dorms is around €80-€100.

the contact information of the Admissions Office: Universitetskaya Emb., 13 B, St. Petersburg, 199034, Russia. Tel.: +7 (812) 328-32-91; e-mail: [admission@spbu.ru](mailto:admission@spbu.ru)

### [The website of SPbU Campus](#).

- If you do not want to live at the residence hall, you can **rent a room or an apartment**. A room in a shared apartment will cost around RUB 10 000 (approximately €150), while the whole apartment would be around RUB 25 000 - 30 000 (approximately €370-€600). Note that the rental costs vary considerably based on the area of living and the type, size, and standard of accommodation. However, it will be much cheaper in non-metropolitan areas.

Payment for utilities may be included in the rental price, by agreement with the landlord. If you pay separately, the average cost of utilities per month is RUB 4000 – RUB 10000 (€40-€130).

### **Health care**

There are 2 types of medical care in Russia: state and private.

Only first aid and emergency medical care is available to foreign citizens in Russia free of charge. You need a health insurance policy in order to be treated at state hospitals and health centers, including student clinics. Private clinics admit patients without insurance as long as they cover their own expenses.

Upon arrival in Russia, you need to purchase a voluntary health insurance (VHI) policy, which covers the minimum of medical services required by Russian law. Cost of private medical insurance is RUB 3 500 - 12 000 (approximately €45-€180).

### **Public transport**

In St. Petersburg you can use the public transport and go to places by metro, bus, trolleybus and also by tram in some areas. In addition, there are some minibuses (commercial routes) called Marshrutkas, as well as taxis.

The best way to move around the city is the Metro, which is the deepest in the world and the second longest in Russia. One token equals a single trip on the subway and costs RUB 45 (appr. €0,60). There are also different types of passes available, including a student card which works for all kinds of public transport (metro, bus, trolleybus, tram). More information is on the St. Petersburg Metro Website: <http://www.metro.spb.ru/en/>

### **Places of interest**

In St. Petersburg, [World's Leading Cultural City Destination 2017](#) and the cultural capital of Russia, no one can ever be bored! There is so much to see and to visit: theatres, museums, galleries, parks, gardens, palaces, restaurants, bars...life here is in full swing 24/7.

Here is [Top 20 St. Petersburg attractions and experiences](#), [Dining and bars guide](#), [Food and cooking tours](#). It's also a good idea to take a bus [Sightseeing excursion](#) around the city or admire the sights from the water while going on a [Boat tour](#).

Welcome to MA SES! Welcome to St. Petersburg! Welcome to Russia!