



THE UNIVERSITY  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
at CHAPEL HILL

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
CENTER FOR SLAVIC, EURASIAN & EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

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## MEMORANDUM

September 20, 2013

TO: Bobbi Owen, Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, College of Arts and Sciences, UNC Chapel Hill

FROM: Silvia Tomášková, PhD, Acting Director, Center for Slavic, Eurasian & East European Studies

SUBJECT: Proposed Concentration in Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies (REEES) in Global Studies MA

The Curriculum in Russian and East European Studies of the Center for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies (CSEEEES), proposes to add a track dedicated to Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies (REEES) to the Master of Arts in Global Studies program. The new track would offer a regional and language specialization, an addition to the more general and globally focused master's program.

The proposed track builds on the existing MA in Russian and East European Studies, which has been offered at UNC-CH since 1999. Similarly to other area studies centers, the strength of the program has always been in training students in the region's history, culture, politics and languages. While this will continue to be the focus of the concentration, the program will draw upon the opportunities and challenges of new global flows, connections and reconfigurations. Students in the REEES track will gain the opportunity to situate their training and knowledge in a larger and a more comparative framework, working side-by-side with Global Studies MA students pursuing other concentrations.

The CSEEEES Advisory Board and the Director of the Center for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies discussed this opportunity over an extended period of time in the 2012-13 academic year. We also held several meetings with the leadership of Global Studies and look forward to working together to guide students in the new program. Attached please find the Memorandum of Understanding drawn between the Directors of CSEEEES and Global Studies, and a sample of a joint course plan that outlines the two tracks.

Signature:

*Silvia Tomášková*

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Silvia Tomášková  
Acting Director, CSEEEES

## Concentration in Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies (REEES) in Global Studies Master of Arts Program

### Background to the program

The interdisciplinary Curriculum in Russian and East European Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has offered MA degrees to a select group of students since 1999. While small in size, the program has excellent graduation and completion rates and just as importantly it has excellent placement rates. Fifty percent of graduates of the program have joined the military or have gone to work in the US government, while the rest work for a range of national and international NGOs, businesses and educational programs. The U.S. Department of Education has recognized the RUES MA as the preeminent program of its kind in the South and the only program of its kind within the UNC system. In the field of Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies, UNC Chapel Hill ranks as one of the premier institutions in the world, on par with programs at Georgetown University, The University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Indiana University at Bloomington, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and The Ohio State University. This recognition is supported by the size of financial awards received from the Department of Education: the Center for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, jointly with our partner Duke University CSEEEES, was awarded \$2.1 million in the last round of Title VI grants – the largest such award in the United States. The funding is not restricted to graduate students; from academic year 2006-2007 through 2012-2013 UNC CSEEEES awarded \$1,949,000 in FLAS fellowships to both undergraduate and graduate students. The Center for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies has a community of nearly fifty core and affiliated faculty on campus.

### Description of the program

Cognizant of the importance of studying global systems and how they play out in different world regions on one hand, and the growth of global studies at UNC Chapel Hill on the other, the leadership of RUES seeks to bring historic strengths in Russian and East European Studies into a conversation with the emerging field of Global Studies. The result, the Concentration in Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies (REEES) in the Global Studies MA will do just that. The program and concentration will equip students with global knowledge and awareness, and provide them with regional specialization. Core courses will be rooted in the post-communist reconfigured region of Eastern Europe and Eurasia, while electives will be chosen particularly from Global Studies and from other relevant academic units. REEES graduates will have the deep regional and language training that employers demand, as well as the broader context to render them competitive on a global stage. With its training in languages, history and politics of a region, the REEES Concentration will complement the Global Studies MA focus on issues with contemporary significance and policy relevance.

The degree is designed to train professionals to handle the multi-dimensional tasks of a complex global society. As a two-year interdisciplinary program, the REEES Concentration in the Global Studies MA will enable students to pursue a rigorous and coherent program of study

of issues with contemporary global significance and policy relevance. All students will start with a solid background basis in the history of the region in the *History of Russia and Eastern Europe course* (HIST 783). Knowledge of history is absolutely essential for understanding contemporaneous conflicts, alliances, and potential solutions to problems in the region. This graduate level 3 credit course has been taught successfully for over a decade and has been the stepping stone for all RUES courses in the past. The historical background will be combined with the gateway course of the Global Studies MA program, *Introduction to Research and Theory in Global Studies* (GLBL 700). In addition to serving as an introductory survey of issues and topics in global studies, this graduate level course will serve the purpose of building the cohort of the incoming class in the Global Studies MA in both tracks. Considering that this is a professional master's degree, an alumni network will be essential for all future graduates of the program. Approved language training will fulfill the remaining credits of the REEES Concentration. Historically all graduates of the RUES MA have undergone language training. We continue to believe that it is essential for all professionals with regional specialties in the global context to have familiarity with foreign languages. Past experience has demonstrated that this will serve the students well in the competitive job market and prepare them for a wide range of career opportunities. Language training may be substituted by methods courses in appropriate academic units for native speakers of the region. This may be carried out only with a prior approval and a consultation of the Director of Graduate Studies of the REEES Concentration.

The second semester of the program will require students in the REEES Concentration to complete one additional required three credit core course: *Identities and Transitions* (GLBL 730, formerly RUES 730). The course has been a required course, successfully building on HIST 783, linking issues of the past with present-day post-shifts, instabilities and new alliances, while connecting them to larger global concerns. REEES Concentration students will continue their language training, for the most part a sequence of the language taken in the first semester. The second semester will provide opportunity for electives focused on thematic Global Studies MA courses or electives from other academic units tailored to specific student interests. REEES Concentration students will be interested in *The Global Economy* (GLBL 701), *Global Politics, Institutions and Societies* (GLBL 702), and we envision particular interest in *Global Migration and Labor Rights* (GLBL 703), given its theoretical and policy importance in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Although these courses are global in a general nature, enrolled students will work on topics and research seminar papers in their area of interest. REEES Concentration students will be strongly encouraged to enroll in Global Studies MA electives, benefiting from the expertise of the Global Studies MA faculty, while applying the acquired knowledge to the area of their concentration.

All students historically enrolled in the RUES MA have continued their graduate work during the summer following the first year. Language training, either in the relevant country of the region, or at select summer language programs in the United States has been by far the most common path. This will continue to be the course of study in the REEES Concentration, in addition to internships or targeted placements relevant to the student's field of study. Regardless of their

chosen summer experience, students will be registered in the Global Studies MA internship course (GLBL 712).

The second year of the program in the REEES Concentration of the Global Studies MA will focus on the production of an MA Thesis, a path that has been historically taken by all RUES MA students. Students will have to register for *MA Thesis Project* (GLBL 993) both semesters. Under the supervision of the primary advisor, each student will use the Fall semester to choose a topic and draft an outline the MA Thesis. In the Spring semester students will focus on the production of the thesis. Students will also continue with their language training, so that by the end of their program they will have received two years of intensive language instruction. In addition they will choose each semester an elective graduate level course relevant to their thesis topic and a future professional path. All REEES concentrators will be advised to choose electives from the Global Studies MA offerings, GLBL 701, 702 or 703, depending on their interests and availability of offerings in any particular semester.

All Global Studies MA students, regardless of their concentration, will be required to complete 36 credits. Students enrolled in the Concentration in Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies program will satisfy these requirements. In addition, they will be able to pursue intensive language study and a thesis project, as employers have come to expect from graduates with a designated regional expertise.

#### Justification for the program

The REEES Concentration within a Global Studies MA program will highlight issues of current and emerging global significance as they are situated in a specific region of the world. It will equip highly trained professionals in government, business, education, private and non-profit sectors with knowledge and conceptual skills needed in international work. In-depth knowledge of a region, language skills and the ability to make global connections will prepare graduates of the program for the job market locally, nationally and internationally. Global Studies are inherently interdisciplinary and draw on the strengths of experts in many fields. The REEES Concentration within the Global Studies MA program will build on this expertise and anchor it in a region that continues to be one of central importance to global problems and their potential solutions. The significance of Russia, Eastern Europe and Eurasia will not diminish, even as the region has been re-configured. The need for experts who understand the imbrication of the local and the global in this part of the world continues to be high and we look forward to training professionals with solid education.

## Program curriculum

### **Overview of Two-Year Global Studies MA Course Plan**

(already approved)

We recognize that Global Studies MA course offerings will vary based on faculty availability. Student plans will be modified as necessary in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies.

#### **First Semester:**

GLBL 700 Introduction to Research and Theory in Global Studies (3 credits)

GLBL 701 The Global Economy (3 credits)

Elective or 1 methods course appropriate to the student's concentration

#### **Second Semester:**

GLBL 702 Global Politics, Institutions and Societies (3 credits)

GLBL 703 Global Migration and Labor Rights (3 credits)

Elective or 1 methods course appropriate to the student's concentration

#### **Third Semester:**

GLBL 712 course work, research and/or internship (up to 9 credits)

**OR**

Elective courses taken at UNC Chapel Hill (up to 9 credits)

#### **Fourth Semester:**

GLBL 992 Research and Writing Credit (3 credits)

Electives to fill out the 36 credit requirement

In total: 18 Core Course credit hours taught by Global Studies faculty, and 18 elective credit hours, including up to 9 credit hours earned in internship, field research, and/or classes

### **Proposed Concentration in Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies (REEES) Course Plan**

#### **First Semester:**

GLBL 700 Introduction to Research and Theory in Global Studies (3 credits)

HIST 783 History of Russia and Eastern Europe (3 credits)

Approved language course **OR** methods course appropriate to student's concentration (3 credits)

#### **Second Semester:**

GLBL 730 (formerly RUES 730) Identities and Transitions (3 credits)

Approved elective: GLBL 702 Global Politics, Institutions and Societies (3 credits) **OR** GLBL 703 Global Migration and Labor Rights (3 credits)

Approved language course **OR** methods course appropriate to student's concentration (3 credits)

**Summer**

GLBL 712 course work, research and/or internship **OR** approved language study (up to 6 credits)

**Third Semester:**

GLBL 993 Thesis Project (3 credits)

Approved language course **OR** methods course appropriate to student's concentration (3 credits)

Approved elective: GLBL 701 The Global Economy (3 credits)

**Fourth Semester:**

GLBL 993 Thesis Project

Approved language course **OR** methods course appropriate to student's concentration (3 credits)

Approved elective: GLBL 702 Global Politics, Institutions and Societies **OR** GLBL 703 Global Migration and Labor Rights (3 credits)

In total: 15 Core Course credit hours, (including 6 MA Thesis credit hours) taught by REEES and Global Studies faculty, 12 Language credit hours taken at UNC-CH or Duke, 9 elective credit hours earned in internship and/or graduate level classes.

Year	Semester	Global Studies MA	Credits	REEES Concentration	Credits
1	1	GLBL 700 Introduction to Research and Theory in Global Studies	3	GLBL 700 Introduction to Research and Theory in Global Studies	3
1	1	GLBL 701 The Global Economy	3	HIST 783 History of Russia and Eastern Europe	3
1	1	Elective	3	Language training	3
1	2	GLBL 702 Global Politics, Institutions and Societies	3	GLBL 730 Identities and Transitions	3
1	2	GLBL 703 Global Migration and Labor Rights	3	Language training II	3
1	2	Elective	3	Elective: GLBL 701, 702, 703	3
	<b>Summer</b>			Language training <u>or</u> GLBL 712 Internship	(up to 6)
2	3	GLBL 712 Internship <u>or</u>	9	GLBL 993 MA Thesis	3
2	3	Elective	above	Language training III	3
2	3	-----	above	Elective: dependent on offering GLBL 701	3
2	4	GLBL 992 Research and Writing	3	GLBL 993 MA Thesis	3
2	4	Elective	3+	Language training IV	3
2	4	-----	above	Elective	3
		<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>		<b>36</b>

## A comparison with a selection of graduate programs

The graduate programs below were selected for their distinguished reputation in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies. These programs would potentially compete for similar students as the REEES Concentration in the Global Studies MA at UNC-CH. Similarities and differences are described, highlighting what will distinguish the UNC-CH REEES Concentration program.

### **1) *The School of Global and International Studies (SGIS) at Indiana University at Bloomington:***

<http://www.indiana.edu/~reeiweb/graduate/degrees.shtml>

The Russian and East European Institute (REEI) in the SGIS at Indiana University at Bloomington offers two Master of Arts programs in Russian and East European studies tracks – a regular course based track and a mid-career track for professionals; five three year dual degree programs – MA/MIS combined with a Library and Information Science degree; MA/MLS combined with the same program; MA/MPA combined with a Public and Environmental Affairs degree; MA/MPH combined with a Public Health degree; MA/MBA combined with the Kelley School of Business degree; and one 106 credit degree MA/JD offered jointly with the Law School.

The 3-year programs at IU are geared towards professional fields and provide training for specific careers with a regional focus. The REEES Concentration in the Global Studies MA at UNC-CH will offer a 2-year training that, while region specific, will provide a more general training for a broad range of careers, stressing understanding of local and global connections.

### **2) *The University of Texas at Austin, LBJ School of Public Affairs***

<http://www.utexas.edu/lbj/degreeprograms/mgps>

The Master of Global Policy Studies and Russian Studies dual degree consists of 49 credit hours; the dual program offers two complimentary master's degree programs, completed in three years. A preparation for targeted career paths, the program combines global policy studies with an area concentration.

The program at UT-Austin is offered through the School of Public Affairs, training professionals for a specific policy career. The focus in the area specialization is Russian Studies. The REEES Concentration at UNC-CH will offer a wider range of area training – East European and Eurasian, in addition to Russian studies. The program proposed here will offer topical courses that will address policy implications in a broader context.

### **3) *The University of Washington Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies***

[http://jsis.washington.edu/advise/catalog/reecas\\_ma.shtml](http://jsis.washington.edu/advise/catalog/reecas_ma.shtml)



The 2-year interdisciplinary MA program in Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies is designed to provide a terminal degree for students preparing for careers in government and non-governmental organizations, journalism, business, or teaching at the pre-college level.

The UWA program is the closest to the REEES Concentration. Offering language and area training, the program only requires a Research Methods and a Thesis course. Thus we believe that the UNC-CH MA degree will provide a more rigorous training with a common set of skills and knowledge base, preparing our graduates for the job market.

**4) *Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service***

<http://ceres.georgetown.edu/academics/ma/>

A 42 credit hour program that crosses several disciplines – anthropology, history, economics, government – the MA in Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies is specifically aimed at careers in the foreign service, requiring knowledge of two languages at the advanced level.

The REEES Concentration at UNC-CH will be offered to students interested in a broader range of career paths.

**5) *The University of Michigan, Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies***

<http://www.i.umich.edu/crees/academics/graduate/reesma>

An area focused program that provides solid language training, the CREEES at the UMI is currently a part of the Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia. The 2-year program offers an area and disciplinary concentration. In addition to a standard MA in REEES, the Center also offers a dual MA degree jointly with the Business School, the Law School, and the School of Public Policy.

The UNC-CH REEES Concentration will differ from the UMI program in its attention to global connections, being a part of the Global Studies MA.

**6) *The University of Toronto, Munk School of Global Affairs***

<http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/ceres/study-at-ceres/#graduate>

The MA in European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies at the University of Toronto is a 2-year program that distinguishes itself by offering every student a summer or a semester long fieldwork experience in selected countries of Eastern Europe. Similarly to the UMI program, the focus of the MA is specialization in an area with solid language training. Additionally the MA in ERES at the University of Toronto may be combined into a dual degree program MA/JD at the law school, MA in Jewish Studies, or MA in the Collaborative Graduate Program in Ethnic and Pluralism Studies.

Same as above – global connections will make the REEES Concentration program at UNC-CH competitive.

**7) Carleton University, Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies**

<http://www6.carleton.ca/eurus/prospective-students/ma-program/>

A 2-year MA in European, Russian and Eurasian Studies is an area specific interdisciplinary program that concentrates on language training and experiential learning through internships. The Ottawa based program is mainly aimed at Canadian students who wish to enter foreign service and/or careers in the Canadian government. The program is most similar to the Georgetown School of Foreign Service MA, thus not being in a direct competition with the new REEES Concentration in the Global Studies MA at UNC-CH.

Attachment: A copy of the signed Memorandum of Understanding between the Curriculum in Russian and East European Studies (RUES) and the Global Studies MA Program.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
Between the Curriculum in Global Studies and the Curriculum in Russian  
and East European Studies

The two curricula agree that from July 1, 2014, the Master of Arts (MA) in Russian and East European Studies (RUES) will become a concentration in the MA in Global Studies. Officially, the MA in RUES will become a concentration in the MA in Global Studies (GLBL), with the title Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies (REEES). Administration of the REEES concentration will be managed by the Director and Advisory Board of the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies (CSEEEES), as described below. Administration of the MA in Global Studies as a whole will be managed by the Curriculum in Global Studies (CGS).


The Curriculum in Global Studies and the Curriculum in Russian and East European Studies agree to the following items:

1. The Director of the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies (CSEEEES) will serve as the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) in Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies (REEES). If the Director of CSEEEES does not serve as the DGS for the REEES track, that appointment will be made in consultation with the Chair of Global Studies.
2. The Associate Director of CSEEEES shall assist the CSEEEES Director in the academic planning, management, instruction, and advising of the REEES concentration.
3. The Advisory Board of the CSEEEES, appointed by the Senior Associate Dean for Social Sciences and Global Programs in the College of Arts and Sciences in consultation with the Director of the CSEEEES, will constitute the REEES Advisory Board. The Director of Graduate Studies for the MA in Global Studies (GLBL) will serve as an *ex officio* member of the REEES Advisory Board.
4. The Director of Graduate Studies for REEES will work closely with the REEES Advisory Board in carrying out her/his duties.
5. The REEES concentration will have a distinct admission process, coordinated by the REEES Director of Graduate Studies. The Admissions Committee for REEES will continue to be appointed by the Director of CSEEEES.
6. The Director of Graduate Studies for the Global Studies MA will be a member of the Admissions Committee for the REEES concentration.
7. The REEES Director of Graduate Studies will be a member of the Admissions Committee for the Global MA concentration.
8. A committee overseeing the Global MA as a whole will be constituted by the Director of Graduate Studies for the MA GLBL, the Director of Graduate Studies for REEES and the Chair of the Curriculum in Global Studies, who will chair it. As the Global MA program evolves and grows, the Chair of the Curriculum in Global Studies may provide for additional members to join this committee.
9. The REEES Advisory Board and the Director of the CSEEEES will have responsibility for the intellectual content of the concentration in Russian and East European Studies, including concentration requirements. Any changes in requirements and operations of the REEES Program will be vetted by the REEES Advisory Board and only made after consultation with the Director of the CSEEEES.


10. As a new master's program, the MA in Global Studies will receive one guaranteed master's merit assistantship for two years from The Graduate School. To ease the transition, The Graduate School will also work with the program accordingly to assist in supporting REEES concentration students. After two years, the MA in Global Studies will receive resource allocations from The Graduate School consistent with other master's programs.
11. Students in the REEES concentration will receive academic advising from the REEES Director of Graduate Studies, who will communicate with the Director of Graduate Studies for the Global MA in order to meet administrative requirements and approvals.
12. The existing curricular requirements for the MA RUEES will be the basis for the requirements for the REEES concentration, subject to necessary adjustments to satisfy additional credit requirements for the MA in Global Studies. Students in the REEES concentration will be encouraged to take other MA GLBL courses.
13. Existing RUEES courses will be given GLBL course numbers and future courses for the REEES concentration will be added with GLBL course numbers.
14. The Department Manager of the CSEEEES will continue to provide student services support for the REEES concentration. The CSEEEES will continue to make available a workroom for use by REEES students.
15. Advertising of and recruitment for the REEES concentration will be the responsibility of the CSEEEES. The CSEEEES will continue to maintain a website for promoting and administering the REEES Program. CSEEEES will continue to seek funding from external and internal University sources to meet these needs.
16. The CSEEEES will continue to administer independently the U.S. Department of Education Title VI programs, including the Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships. Students in the MA in Global Studies with interest in languages approved for CSEEEES awards are strongly encouraged to apply to CSEEEES for FLAS Fellowships.
17. The CSEEEES will continue to administer the Graduate Certificate in Russian and East European Studies.
18. The Directors of Graduate Studies for the Global MA and the REEES concentration will jointly prepare revisions to the Global Studies listing in the Graduate Bulletin.
19. The Chairs of the two Curricula will prepare and submit to the College of Arts and Sciences a request for funds to cover any costs associated with the merger of the degree programs.

Agreed to on this day, Aug 20, 2013

  
Andrew Reynolds, Chair, Curriculum in Global Studies

  
Robert M. Jenkins, Director

Curriculum in Russian and East European Studies  
and Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies

  
Silvia Tomášková, Acting Director, Fall 2013