

Ivan Savvine

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

PEC Inc./VL247.com: Russian Instructor & Curriculum Developer

November 2025 - present

1. Advanced Language Instruction & Assessment (ACTFL/ILR Focused)

Deliver synchronous Russian language instruction across all levels.

Incorporate specialized Area Studies (Culture, Geography, Economics, Politics, History) to provide learners with comprehensive contextual knowledge.

Prepare students specifically for proficiency exams, including the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) and Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT).

Assess learners' progress and language knowledge using formal and informal methods.

Work with diverse learners from varied backgrounds and levels.

2. Curriculum Development & Instructional Design

Develop comprehensive curriculum and learning materials based on the ILR (Interagency Language Roundtable) scale.

Create robust assessment test materials for various proficiency levels.

Apply advanced knowledge of teaching methodology and applied linguistics to design optimal, non-formal online language teaching models for adult learners.

Develop specialized individual programs to meet unique student needs.

3. Technology Integration & Virtual Learning

Utilize and integrate modern technologies into the learning and teaching process.

Actively incorporate media and digital technologies, creating interactive online activities and course materials with specific experience using H5P technology for rich HTML5 content.

Train colleagues on incorporating new technologies and best practices for strategic instruction in the virtual classroom.

Conduct and develop immersive language projects and out-of-class activities to enhance language acquisition.

Inlingua Utah: Russian Instructor at Joint Base Lewis–McChord (Tacoma, WA)

- Two-week intensive enhancement/refresher course for intermediate high/advanced low students (July 2025)

San Diego State University Research Foundation/DLIFLC – Russian Instructor II

January 2025 – July 2025 (40 hrs/week)

- employ computer skills to organize data and teaching materials.
- work in an intensive student-centered environment with diverse opportunities for faculty development.
- teach listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills, as well as geopolitical, economic and social issues, in an immersion based environment.

- integrate technology in the classroom and in homework assignments.
- employ resources such as Smart Boards, the Internet, iPads, and Tablet PCs.
- stay abreast of current foreign language teaching theories and methods.

Colgate University (Hamilton, NY) – Russian Program Assistant/Intern

August 2024 – January 2025 (20-25 hrs/week)

- Providing assistance to instructors and professors of the Russian language
- Teaching sections of Russian 101, 201 and 301 courses; curriculum development
- Providing one-on-one and small group tutoring services to students learning the language
- Correcting student homework and essays
- Organizing extracurricular cultural and language activities with students (i.e., creating social events for students outside the class)
- Taking part in informal language conversations (i.e., Table of Babel)
- Supporting CLAC (Cultures and Language Across the Curriculum) courses
- Collaborating with staff of the Keck Language Center at Colgate
- Actively participating in the relevant language club on campus
- Other duties assigned by the relevant program or department chair.

Ohio State University (Columbus, OH) – Russian Instructor

January 2024 – June 2024 (20 hrs/week)

Job duties: teaching elementary Russian at Columbus International High School; curriculum development; cultural events and presentations (20 hrs/week).

Oklahoma City University: STARTALK Russian Instructor

(Virtual: February – November 2024; Residential: July 2024): 2

hrs / week for online segment; 40 hrs/week for the residential part

(3 weeks). Job duties: curriculum development based on authentic audio, video, and written texts in the target language; teaching group classes on Zoom (advanced level); teaching in-person classes and conducting cultural activities during the residential part of the program.

Concordia College: STARTALK Russian Instructor (Virtual:

February – November 2024; Residential: June 2024): 2 hrs / week

for online segment; 40 hrs/week for the residential part (2 weeks).

Job duties: curriculum development based on authentic audio, video, and written texts in the target language; teaching group classes on Zoom (intermediate level); teaching in-person classes and conducting cultural activities during the residential part of the program.

Concordia College Language Training Center – Russian Immersion Instructor

(September 2023): 8-10 hrs/day 6-7 days/week in 2-3 week immersion

programs. Job duties: teaching DoD and DoS personnel Russian language and culture (Intermediate High – Advanced Low levels); planning and conducting cultural activities in the afternoons and evenings; organizing field trips; preparing for OPI and DLPT tests.

Lewis University – Russian Instructor (Project GO)

June – August 2023: 40 hours/week, 8 weeks.

Job duties: Teaching ROTC students Russian language and culture (beginner level); preparing students for the OPI interviews (target level 1/1+); conducting evening cultural activities; organizing weekend field trips.

www.ivansavvine.com

2012–present

Private tutor of the Russian language, literature, and history: 15-20 hours per week Job duties: creating individualized curriculum, teaching Russian language, literature, history and culture for the students of various levels (from complete beginners to Advanced High).

Fluent City (New York, NY)

2014-2019

Russian instructor: 20-25 hours per week depending on enrollment Job duties: teaching in-person evening classes of Russian language in various locations in Manhattan and Brooklyn (from complete beginner to Advanced Low levels); curriculum development; organizing field trips to museums and other relevant cultural events.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

- **Pushkin State Institute of the Russian**

Language

Master of Arts, Philology/Teaching Russian as a Foreign Language (2022)

- **Peoples' Friendship University of**

Russia

Fundamentals of teaching Russian as a non-native/foreign language (phonetics, reading, writing and speaking) – post-graduate certification (2020)

- **Syracuse**

University

Master of Arts, History of Art and Architecture (2009)

- **SUNY**

Purchase

Bachelor of Arts, Liberal Studies (2006)

- **South Ural State**

University

Four years of undergraduate studies in Linguistics and Translation (2000 – 2004)

Other education & experience:

- **CEFR Tester of Russian as Foreign Language certification Levels A1-C2 (April -June 2024)**
- **ACTR Olympiada of Spoken Russian 2024, Judge (The Ohio State University)**
- **Arizona State University WELL Center: Creating Virtual Field Experiences in Foreign Language Classroom (Spring 2024)**
- **University of Maryland National Foreign Language Center – Connecting Classrooms/Integrating Culture, Content, and Language (2024-2025)**

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS:

AATSEEL 2025 Conference (February 2025): panel member, “Designing Alternative Forms of Assessment for Russian Language Teaching)

ACTR 50th Anniversary Conference (April 2025): panel member, “Teaching Russian to Heritage Speakers”

DLIFLC Teacher Training Conference (May 2025): “Designing Thematic Lessons Based on Authentic Materials for Low-level Proficiency Learners”

Oklahoma City University STARTALK 2025: “Russian Proficiency and Career Opportunities in Government and Private Sectors” (July 2025)

TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE

MS Office, Adobe, Zoom, Canvas, Blackboard, Moodle

| Summary of Skills and Experience | |
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| Educated native or near-native speaker of the language (preferably Level 4 or higher on the ILR proficiency scale). | Native speaker of the Russian language. Took OPI in Russian from DLIFLC and scored “Superior” |
| LI 2: A minimum English proficiency level of a 2/2 on the ILR proficiency scale. | Obtained a Bachelor’s and a Master’s degree from U.S. universities; published several articles in English; Initial undergraduate program was in Linguistics and Translation (English/Russian/German); Took OPI in English for a job offer from DLIFLC and scored 3+ |
| Possess the cultural background of the specific country or geographical region required. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Raised or educated in said country ○ Lived in a cultural enclave or heritage community ○ Demonstrated through work experience or academic preparation ○ Completed formal education (secondary school or beyond) in the cultural environment (desired) | Was raised and educated in Russia (secondary school and 4 years of college); Returned to Russia for graduate school (2020-2022) to obtain a Master’s degree in Russian Philology. |
| LI 2: Minimum of three (3) years of experience teaching adult learners the foreign language they will be providing to FSI in a classroom setting (2 or more students). | Taught Russian language and culture to adult American learners at Fluent City (2014-2019), Lewis University (Project GO 2023), Concordia College LTC (2023), The Ohio State University (Spring 2024), STARTALK 2024 (Oklahoma City University and Concordia College), Colgate University (August 2024 – January 2025), DLIFLC (January 2025 – July 2025), Joint Base Lewis-McChord (July 2025), and as a private tutor from 2012 until present. |
| LI 2: BA/BS, MA/MS, or PhD., or foreign equivalent degree(s) in any field. | MA – Russian Philology (Moscow, Russia); MA – Art History (Syracuse University, USA); BA – Liberal Studies (SUNY Purchase USA); 4 years of undergraduate studies in Linguistics and Translation (South Ural State University, Russia) |
| LI 2: Minimum of one (1) year of experience administering proficiency-based assessments (i.e., DLPT, ACTFL, OPI, etc.) | Prepared students (government, military, ROTC) for OPI and DLPT exams at Concordia College LTC, Lewis University (Project GO), DLIFLC, JBLM. |
| Knowledge of basic computer skills | MS Office, Adobe, Zoom, Canvas, Blackboard, Moodle |
| Preferred Qualifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience developing foreign language instructional materials and/or curricula preferred. • Experience using a Learning Management System as an instructor or administrator preferred. • Experience teaching with a communicative approach preferred. • Experience incorporating a range of educational technology in teaching preferred. • Experience teaching blending learning activities preferred. • Experience integrating social media applications for educational purposes preferred. • Experience teaching with task-based learning materials preferred. • Experience administering proficiency-based assessments preferred. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience with curriculum development based on authentic Russian materials (audio, video, written texts); • Experience with Canvas and Blackboard LMS, • Experience teaching with a communicative approach (including full immersion); • Experience with integrating social media apps; • Experience with task- based learning materials and proficiency-based assessments. |