



CENTER FOR RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN, AND EURASIAN STUDIES

Interdisciplinary expertise with deep contextual knowledge of the region's history and languages

The University of Michigan's Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (CREES) is one of the nation's foremost institutes for interdisciplinary research and training on this broad world area. Founded in 1961, CREES is housed at the International Institute, an affiliate of the Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia, and a long-time recipient of federal education funding. Regional strengths include Russia, Central Europe (especially Czech Republic and Poland), Southeastern Europe (notably former Yugoslavia), Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Ukraine. It is home to over 70 faculty area specialists who teach more than 150 courses each year on the business, cultures, economies, history, languages, law, literatures, politics, public policy, and social organization of the region.

CREES offers a variety of interdisciplinary academic programs, including an undergraduate major and graduate-level programs requiring study of area languages (e.g., Armenian; Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian; Czech; Polish; Russian; Ukrainian; and Uzbek). CREES serves as a local, state, regional, and national resource for expertise on Russia, Central and Eastern Europe, and Eurasia. In addition to long-standing breadth and depth in the core area studies disciplines of history, political science, and Slavic languages and literatures, CREES has an unusually large concentration of faculty in anthropology, architecture, Islamic studies, Judaic studies, and sociology. Our alumni have gone on to direct area studies centers at major U.S. universities, pursued careers with the U.S. government, prominent NGOs, and in the private sector. Not surprisingly, many of our graduates work with international organizations such as the United Nations and the World Bank.

Gifts to CREES help to ensure the center's ongoing excellence and guarantee that U-M students will have an opportunity to study the cultures, histories, languages, and peoples of Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asia, and the Caucasus and contribute to scholarship on the region. We seek to build its endowments that help support internships, faculty and student travel, visiting lecturers, and special courses on the region.

STUDENT LANGUAGE, RESEARCH, AND INTERNSHIP FELLOWSHIPS

First-hand experience in the region significantly enhances the education of our students, preparing them for careers where regional expertise is needed, and to become global citizens more generally. CREES welcomes expendable gifts of \$50,000 to \$100,000 annually to support merit-based fellowships for study abroad in Russia, Central and Eastern Europe, or Eurasia that support language study, research, internships, and volunteering.

ENDOWED LANGUAGE LECTURESHIPS— BOSNIAN, CROATIAN, AND SERBIAN; CZECH; POLISH; RUSSIAN; UKRAINIAN; UZBEK

Language instruction is central to a meaningful and effective understanding of the countries and cultures of our region. With federal government support for less commonly taught languages declining, an endowed gift of \$1M for a named lectureship in one of the region's languages will ensure that it will be taught in perpetuity at the University of Michigan.

NAMED ENDOWED CENTER

An endowment of \$15M to name CREES will provide for the center's annual needs, including faculty- and student-led initiatives, visiting scholars, and programming, operating, and staffing costs. A named center will assure that the University of Michigan remains an attractive destination for the study of this vast region and will allow the center director the flexibility to execute exciting opportunities.



“During my three years with MIRS-REEES, I had the opportunity to support independent journalism in Russia, translate documents for Ukrainian refugees, teach, present research, and attend professional development workshops. These invaluable opportunities have empowered me to make tangible impacts in Russia and Eastern Europe and equipped me with language skills and regional expertise, which have helped me secure several fellowships and a full-time job supporting U.S. international cybersecurity partnerships.”

—Amanda Hardy, MIRS-REEES '22



Peixin Yang

A.B. Economics/REES '18

During my undergrad, CREES programming and activities provided a very welcoming and intimate place for me to explore the richness and complexity about the history, policies, and culture of the Russian and Eastern European region. I still have fond memories of attending the noon lectures to hear renowned journalists and diplomats discussing Ukraine, and attending CREES-sponsored Polish film festivals that introduced me to many great directors outside of the English-speaking world.

I enjoyed the flexibility of course selections in the CREES major and small classes that provided ample time to connect with professors and classmates.

Moreover, the CREES staff and faculty helped me discover real-life opportunities where I could put language skill into practice. Thanks to their generous support, I was able to obtain funding for my internship in Albania, and later got connected with professors to do research in Kazakhstan post-graduation. Overall, CREES provided a world-class learning experience for me in and beyond the classroom and I'm forever grateful for it.



WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

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