

Introduction to "R" Language Tutorials at Harvard

Independent Language "R" Tutorials

Students who are interested in studying a language not normally offered by the department (e.g., less commonly taught Slavic languages such as Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Bulgarian, Macedonian, Slovak, etc. may propose a plan of study according to the tutorial model ("R" courses). It is primarily the student's responsibility to identify an instructor or tutor and to create a plan of study for the semester. To propose an "R" course, first download and read the document "Independent Language Tutorial Proposals" linked at the Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures website (<http://slavic.fas.harvard.edu/pages/language-study>) and follow the instructions on how to fill out and submit this proposal form.

For students with the requisite placement or background, courses in advanced Czech and Polish and both intermediate and advanced Ukrainian are regularly approved in the Department. Students with a demonstrated academic need for Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian also regularly receive approval and we have available instructors on hand to conduct these tutorials.

Some additional non-Slavic languages of Central and Eastern Europe (e.g., Estonian, Hungarian, Lithuanian, etc.) as well as languages of the Caucasus and Central Asia (e.g., Georgian, Kazakh, etc.) may be appropriate for sponsorship by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. If you are interested in studying a non-Slavic language from these areas of the world, please contact the Director of the Language Program, [Dr. Steven Clancy](#).

There is no guarantee that tutorials can actually be set up or approved, so students should not rely on them until approval is received. These tutorials take time to set up and sometimes considerable effort on the part of students. If you are looking for a traditional language course experience you should not apply.

We must receive all proposals no later than Wednesday of the second week of classes and preferably by Friday of the first week of the semester as timing is critical for gaining approval and successfully launching these tutorials, which must be approved by both the Department and the Dean's office. If you are uncertain, it is better to submit a proposal on time and later withdraw it than to submit your proposal late. You should assume that late proposals will not be accepted.

Your proposal should include a summary statement at the end of the form based on the models presented below regarding why you wish to study this language, including the academic purposes for studying this language (e.g., in-country research

projects, internships, thesis reading in the original language, relation to degree or professional goals, extension of knowledge already gained in other languages, etc.). Family heritage, intellectual curiosity, or other personal reasons may be supplemental to your justification, but are usually not sufficient for us to gain approval for your proposal.

Basic Information

Student Name:

Harvard ID:

Student email:

Campus address:

Phone:

Language (choose from the list below or propose a less commonly offered tutorial:

- BCS Ar: Elementary Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian
- BCS Br: Intermediate Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian
- BCS Cr: Advanced Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian
- Czech Cr: Advanced Czech
- Polish Cr: Advanced Polish
- Russian 102r: Advanced Russian
- Russian 120r: Supervised Readings in Russian
- Ukrainian Br: Intermediate Ukrainian
- Ukrainian Cr: Advanced Ukrainian

Other (please specify):

Proposal for semester:

- Fall
- Spring

Proposal for year:

- 2016
- 2017
- 2018
- 2019
- 2020

Proposed level of language study:

- Beginner
- Intermediate
- Advanced

Student classification:

Undergraduate

Graduate

Visiting or Special Student

Undergraduate Year:

Freshman

Sophomore

Junior

Senior

Concentration:

Graduation Year:

2017

2018

2019

2020

Other:

Graduate Year:

G1

G2

G3

G4

G5

G6 or higher

Harvard School:

Department or Program:

Degree expected:

MA

PhD

Other:

Expected graduation year:

If you are a Visiting Student or Special Student at Harvard, it is not likely that an "R" Tutorial will be approved, however, it may be possible for you to join an "R" Tutorial already running for one or more students (e.g., Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian tutorials or other tutorials which typically enroll more than one student). Please contact Steven Clancy (sclancy@fas.harvard.edu) for more information.

Proposal Information

Are you proposing this course...

	Yes or No	
	Yes	No
as part of an undergraduate concentration?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
to earn a Foreign Language Citation (undergraduates only)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
to fulfill a FLAS requirement?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
to support work on a thesis or dissertation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
to prepare for study abroad or an internship?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
to prepare for in-country research or fieldwork?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Proposed instructor:

Instructor name:

I am still searching for an instructor.

I need help identifying an instructor for this tutorial.

If proposed instructor is not a Harvard instructor, please provide their email contact and/or telephone number:

How did you find your instructor and what are their academic qualifications and expertise

in the language?

What is your background in this language? Be specific.

If you studied here at Harvard, give the courses and years. Have you taken a placement exam at Harvard? If you studied somewhere else, give the location, courses and years. If you are a heritage student, give the number of years you studied, where you studied, and when you came to the U.S.

Please clearly understand that these tutorials are not regular language courses, in which the teacher organizes the course for students. These tutorials are essentially guided self-study. Depending on the number of students who submit proposals, the tutorial may be individual or group, and your teacher may combine the interests of several students into the curriculum you will follow, but you are still responsible for your own goals, beyond those of the group.

Even if you know that yours will be a group tutorial, your answers to the following questions are essential. These tutorials are available only to students who have the preparation, self-motivation, and self-discipline needed to take responsibility for their own learning. The most successful language learners take that responsibility, and these tutorials are available only to such students.

It is imperative that you demonstrate an academic justification for your proposed R course.

A mere interest in the language or desire to study the language for reasons of heritage or family background are usually not sufficient for us to gain approval for your proposal.

Do you understand that this tutorial is essentially guided self study and that you are responsible for setting goals for yourself and meeting them?

Yes

No

This tutorial requires mid-semester and final self-reports on your progress in meeting your own goals. Do you understand that it is your responsibility to submit these reports, without reminders?

Yes

No

Date by which you will submit your mid-semester report:

Date by which you will submit your final report:

If you do not submit reports, you will not receive a satisfactory grade and subsequent proposals will not be approved. Progress in self-study requires that you be aware of your goals and participate in self-monitoring throughout the semester.

Please provide the academic justification for your proposal. Since these tutorials are

guided self-study (and not regular courses), the reasons for this study must be your own and must be integrated with your course of study at Harvard (e.g., thesis topics, career goals, future degree work, internships, publishing plans, etc.). If you cannot provide academic justification, your proposal will likely not be approved.

If you are a beginner, please describe your goals for yourself for the first semester of study. Your proposal will be strengthened by showing awareness of aspects of the structure of the language you will study and what you need to learn.

If you are beyond the beginner level, please assess your existing knowledge and discuss what you think you need to do to make progress.

Please describe the topic/content focus of your proposal and how it serves your goals. For example, you might be interested in literature of particular authors, or certain political or

social topics. If you are a beginner, you still need to describe a content focus and how you might begin to address it.

Please suggest the kinds of materials you would like to work on this semester and why. Although you may have spoken with an instructor or with other students, suggesting "doing what X proposes" will only weaken your proposal. Since these tutorials are for self-study, you must be able to articulate the materials you propose to use and why.

Please suggest concrete goals that you can meet this semester. You might set goals for the number of vocabulary items you will learn (on the order of 1000 words per semester is expected), the amount of grammar you will cover, the number of pages you will read, the number of pages you will write, etc.

Assuming that you will spend 8-10 hours a week on this course (including class time), how

do you propose to spend your time? Keep in mind that you must include both reading and writing, and that vocabulary lists are your responsibility (under the guidance of your instructor).

What kind of assessment of your progress do you propose? That is, what kinds of work will be graded? Keep in mind that if you propose quizzes on your knowledge, you will need to provide your instructor with the material on which you wish to be quizzed.

We may receive as many as two dozen such proposals and the submission and approval process is incredibly time consuming. For this reason, it is especially important that you provide all necessary information in your original submission so that it is not necessary to contact you for supplemental information or clarification.

It is especially important that you provide a clear and cogent justification for the course as an answer to this final question. Departmental approval will depend on the entire application, but administrative approval is largely dependent on what is summarized in this question. Models are provided below of previously approved proposals as examples of what is expected. The goal is for Dr. Clancy to be able to add and approve the line: "His/Her request is highly justified and his/her plan for carrying out this study as a guided tutorial is solid and well-developed." Please peruse these samples below and think of

ways your proposal can be similarly structured. Although heritage, future professional goals, and travel are mentioned as part of some of these proposals, they are supplemental justifications alongside the academic and immediate research goals. Don't feel that you can't mention these items if they are part of your reasons, but know that you must provide solid academic reasons for your study of the language. Note that you should write this paragraph in the third person so that it may be more easily compiled into the group summary provided to the Dean's office.

Please provide a short paragraph below based on the models provided in "Independent Language "R" tutorials," which you can find on the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures website (<http://slavic.fas.harvard.edu/pages/language-study>). These example texts are also provided below for your reference. **This summary of your proposal is one of the most important elements of the proposal as it comprises most of what the Dean's office sees in order to decide whether or not to approve your proposal.**



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FirstName LastName, a sophomore concentrating in Human Evolutionary Biology, requests an elementary tutorial in **Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian** (BCS Ar) for Spring 20__ in support of research interests in archaeological sites related to human evolutionary biology, specifically the Vindija Cave site in Croatia. He plans to pursue fieldwork and in-country research in the future and would like to continue study of the language in order to earn a Foreign Language Citation. His request is highly justified and his plan for carrying out this study as a guided tutorial is solid and well-developed. The tutorial will be conducted with Aida Vidan, who has agreed to work with this student and others in an elementary tutorial.

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FirstName LastName, a graduate student in the Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures (GSAS, G1), requests an **elementary tutorial** in **Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian** (BCS Ar) for Fall 20__ in support of future field work and in-country research related to her dissertation and minor field. Study of the language is also imperative for fulfilling the requirements of her FLAS Fellowship. Her request is highly justified and her plan for carrying out this study as a guided tutorial is solid and well-developed. **StudentName** needs a professional understanding of the BCS literary languages so as to pursue comparative work with BCS and Russian literature in her dissertation. The tutorial will be conducted with **Aida Vidan**, who has agreed to work with this student and others in an elementary tutorial.

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FirstName LastName, a junior concentrating in Chemistry (AB expected 20__), requests an **advanced tutorial** in **Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian** for Fall 20__. She is a student of Croatian heritage who would like to pursue study of the language for heritage purposes as well as for future study abroad and research interests. She plans to travel to Croatia next summer for an internship and has future plans to do pediatric work in Croatia. She is also currently working as a research assistant for **ProfessorName** at the Harvard School of Public Health on a project that monitors the well-being of Roma populations in several nations in Eastern Europe, including work compiling information from Serbian, Croatian, and Bosnian newspapers. Her request is highly justified and she has a well-developed plan for the tutorial. The tutorial will be conducted with **Aida Vidan**, who has agreed to work with this student in an advanced tutorial focusing on medical issues and human rights in the Balkans.

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FirstName LastName, a senior concentrating in History (AB expected 20__), requests an **advanced tutorial** in **Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian** for Spring 20__. He is a student of Croatian heritage who would like to pursue study of the language for heritage purposes as well as for future study abroad and research interests. His study of the language will directly support his proposed senior thesis research on the role of privatization in the transitional period of the former Yugoslav countries as well as Yugoslav-US foreign relations and economic diplomacy. He spent the past summer working with the President of Croatia and will likely have more professional opportunities in the region in the future. His request is highly justified and his plan for carrying out this study as a guided tutorial is solid and well-developed. The tutorial will be conducted with **Aida Vidan**, who has agreed to work with this student and others in an advanced tutorial.

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FirstName LastName, a freshman with undeclared concentration (AB expected 20__), requests an **advanced tutorial** in **Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian** for Spring 20__. She is a student of Balkan heritage who would like to pursue study of the language for heritage purposes as well as for future study abroad and research interests. Last semester, she wrote a research paper discussing the healthcare system in Bosnia, a topic she found deeply engaging and which she hopes to continue learning more about when she travels to Bosnia to discuss the healthcare system with executives of various hospitals. She also plans to use this language and topic as a basis for her senior thesis. She would like to use this course as a way to improve her speaking, writing, and comprehension for furthering these academic goals. Her request is highly justified and she has a well-developed plan for the tutorial. The tutorial will be conducted with **Aida Vidan**, who has agreed to work with this student in an advanced tutorial.

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FirstName LastName, a junior concentrating in Psychology (AB expected 20__), requests an **advanced tutorial** in **Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian** for Spring 20__. She is a student of Croatian heritage who would like to pursue study of the language for heritage purposes as well as research. Her previous study of the language led to an internship in the region, after which she is pursuing further study of the language to continue research and writing ties with her collaborators there. Next summer she plans to again be in the region for research cooperation with professors at the Croatian Medical School and the Institute for Brain Research. She will also be leading a tour promoting the Croatian edition of Author's bestseller *Title* in the region in June 20__. Her request is highly justified and she has a well-developed plan for the tutorial. The tutorial will be conducted with **Aida Vidan**, who has agreed to work with this student and others in an advanced tutorial.

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FirstName LastName, a graduate student in the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE, MA expected 20__), requests an **advanced tutorial** in **Polish** (Polish Cr) for Spring 20__. Study of Polish at the advanced level is necessary for StudentName's research on Polish university students' experiences in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s in comparison with the experiences of American students. She also plans to pursue this research at the doctoral level after completing the MA. Her request is highly justified and her plan for carrying out this study as a guided tutorial is solid and well-developed. The tutorial will be conducted with **Anna Baranczak**, who has agreed to work with this student and others in an advanced tutorial.

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FirstName LastName, a senior concentrating in Visual and Environmental Studies, requests an **advanced tutorial in Polish** (Polish Cr) for Spring 20__. He has completed both elementary and intermediate Polish in our program and desires to continue at the advanced level in support of study abroad plans and in order to earn the Foreign Language Citation. He intends to conduct graduate study in communications and Eastern European history in Poland in the future. His request is highly justified and his plan for carrying out this study as a guided tutorial is solid and well-developed. The tutorial will be conducted with **Anna Baranczak**, who has agreed to work with this student and others in an advanced tutorial.

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FirstName LastName, a graduate student in the History program (G1, Ph.D. expected 20__), requests an **elementary tutorial in Romanian** for Fall 20__ as part of her future dissertation research and general preparation for future career goals. Her request is highly justified and her plan for carrying out this study as a guided tutorial is solid and well-developed. This course is essential for StudentNames's plans to conduct field work in Moldova in Summer 20__. The tutorial will be conducted with **TeacherName**, who has agreed to work with this student in an elementary tutorial.

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FirstName LastName, a graduate student in the REECA program (GSAS, G2, MA expected 20__), requests an **advanced tutorial in Russian** for Spring 20__ as part of his thesis research and general preparation for future career goals. His request is highly justified and his plan for carrying out this study as a guided tutorial is solid and well-developed. StudentName has designed a course of study in business and legal Russian which will enable him to conduct his thesis research and after Harvard he will use this knowledge working as a corporate lawyer for a firm with an especially large and influential Russian and Eastern European clientele. He would like to be able to reach a level of Russian where he could conduct business with clients from Russia in their native language. He already has some experience gained from working in corporate finance in Moscow. This course is essential for StudentName's plans to write his thesis and for his career goals after graduation. The tutorial will be conducted with **TeacherName**, who has agreed to work with this student in an advanced tutorial.

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FirstName LastName, a second-year graduate student (GSAS, G2), requests an **intermediate tutorial in Ukrainian** (Ukrainian Br) for Spring 20__. Her thesis on Ukrainian shale gas development relies on numerous Ukrainian newspapers and journals, as well as governmental and NGO reports; materials unavailable in English. She is a heritage speaker of Russian and will bring this

knowledge to bear on her study of Ukrainian. Her request is highly justified and her plan for carrying out this study as a guided tutorial is solid and well-developed. The tutorial will be conducted with **Volodymyr Dibrova**, who has agreed to work with this student and others in an intermediate tutorial.

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