**Igrayuchi winter / summer schools in Uzbekistan**

**Frequently asked questions**

**- What is the address where the classes will be held?**

The classes will be held in the center of Tashkent, in the district of Oybek (near Oybek metro station), in a modern well-equipped classroom.

The students will also live in the same area, not far from the school, because it is the best option as regards city life:

you can find lots of shops, banks, cafes, restaurants, markets, parks, national cuisine places, fitness centers, bowling, tennis, cinema, a Russian church, art galleries, etc etc

**- Are there some residential areas nearby that have some apartments available for that timeframe?**

Yes, there are a lot of possibilities. Normally our students live in a hotel in shared rooms, but we can help you book a separate room or an apartment in the Oybek area, if you wish so. You may also wish to consult the Booking.com website to check possibilities. Please provide us with information about your preferences as to accommodation (shared, single, apartment, etc), and please note that the final price will depend on the choice.

**- What does the tuition fee include?**

The cost of the program includes much more than just tuition, it comprises:

1) meeting at Tashkent international airport and taxi transfer to your hotel,

2) Russian classes (20 academic hours per week),

3) materials and handouts for lessons,

4) extracurricular activities (culinary, painting master-classes, bazaar tours, meetings with locals, board games),

5) round-trip train tickets outside of Tashkent (for example Bukhara and/or Samarkand)

**- What expenses are not included in the program?**

Participants should pay for the following expenses on their own:

1) flight tickets

We recommend you, inter alia, to check websites of these two airlines <https://www.uzairways.com> (Uzbekistan Airways) or

[https://qanotsharq.com](https://qanotsharq.com/) (Qanot Sharq).

The may not always appear through google search.

2) hotel.

Here is an example of a hotel we booked for our students with a special discount for our students: Shosh Palace Hotel <https://www.booking.com/hotel/uz/shosh-palace.ru.html>

3) meal (except breakfast). You will spend about 100 euro per week, in average.

4) museum entrance tickets (average price is 3-5 euro per ticket),

5) travel medical insurance

6) visa for Uzbekistan (if applicable).

**- Students of what levels of Russian are eligible to participate?**

All our language instructors are native-speaking and experienced university teachers. So we teach students of all levels, from elementary to advanced. The specific combination of level during a season depends on the number of applications we get. If there is no group of your level, we will offer you a personal solution.

**- What age range do you expect for the students?**

Usually students are university students between 20 and 30 years of age. However, the age range is not limited, we have some applications from even 70-year-olds!

-**How many hours per week are the classes?**

20 academic hours per week, 2 morning lessons (4 academic hours) per day, Monday to Friday. Except classes themselves, the cost of the program includes one trip per week (for example, to Samarkand, city depends on the week), cultural activities (for example, painting class, movie nights, board games etc)

-**How many students do you typically have in each class?  What is the maximum?**

We do not have more than 10 students per class, it is a reasonable maximum for efficient language learning.

-**What books will you use?  I am at the intermediate level.**

We love teaching so we choose the best books on the market. The learning should be easy, efficient and fun.  For your level we use a fresh book, Russian Lexics for Life ("Русская лексика для жизни") by Ekaterina Guskova. We also use our own material designed for the course. By the way, the author, Ekaterina, is invited to teach personally here in Tashkent.

All materials are provided and is included in the price of the course.

**- How will you group the students together into classes?  On the first day, or somehow before?**

We group students depending on their level of language skills. We try to evaluate the level as soon as possible, at an earlier stage by sending an entry test. Anyway the evaluation will be corrected on the spot.

 -**Your website says you have a cooking class in Russian.  Is that in addition to the language classes, or an alternative?  Is food preparation part of it, or just discussion?  How does that work?**

The cooking class at our Summer school is practical, with real cooking on a kitchen with a Russian-speaking cook. This is very informal, for example, students cook pelmeni (Russian dumplings). It is additional to the classes, beyond the class time, normally we choose an afternoon when we cook something Russian (borsht, bliny or pelmeni or anything else from Russian food). And, of course, we speak Russian in the kitchen!

**- What is your cancellation policy?**

If the student cancels participation and withdraws from our course, either before or after departure, voluntarily or due to illness, the student will, only if prior written notice of withdrawal is given by the student to us, receive the following refund of the tuition fee already paid:

- more than 1 month prior to starting date of the course: student is entitled to full refund of fee paid, including €100 deposit. In this case student will only be liable for expenses we already incurred (train tickets booking, hotel reservation, tourist guides, etc), but within the limit of the €100 Deposit.

- less than 1 month prior to starting date of the course: the sis entitled to refund of fee paid, less €100 Deposit. In this case the deposit becomes non-refundable.

There is no refund if the student decides to leave the course early or fails to attend any or all of the classes/sessions

 **- Do you know the process for getting a visa?**

No visa is required for citizens of EU, UK, Switzerland, Canada, Japan, S.Korea, Singapore etc, for visits up to 30 days. See more: <https://mfa.uz/en/pages/visa-republic-uzb>

In respect of USA, visa process has recently been simplified, Uzbekistan gives electronic visas (e-visas) for US citizens, There are some visa exemptions for senior people above 55 years of age. Please consult <https://e-visa.gov.uz/main>

Indian citizens can obtain electronic visas or issue tourist visas in the consular offices of Uzbekistan in a simplified manner, for more information please visit <https://mfa.uz/en/pages/visa-republic-uzb>