

Russian Convenor- S1 report

- This semester I have attended multiple regular meetings to try and improve student life in the Russian Department. I have met with the other language Convenors every two weeks to discuss initiatives as well as plan events. I have attended Education Committee every week alongside the other Convenors and School Presidents and I have been invited to Russian Departmental meetings. These meetings have allowed me to bring information back to students in the Department in addition to sharing ideas and feedback.
- I helped to organise Class Rep elections within the Department and following this, I attended Class Rep training. Since then I have worked with a great team of Class Reps to gather feedback and plan Careers/ social events.
- I worked with the Class Reps to gather feedback ahead of the SSCC using a QR code which linked to a Microsoft Form (a new system used across Modern Languages). I chaired the SSCC where we presented this feedback and then I worked with the Head of Department after the SSCC to create a Microsoft Sway to present what action was taken by staff based on feedback shared at the SSCC. This was a new way of sharing information used across Modern Languages and I shared the results of this with the Modern Languages School President and the rest of the Convenors.
- I helped introduce First Year students to the Department by attending the introductory meetings for 1000 level modules. Alongside my Social Class Rep, we organised a social for First Years in the Can Do marquee which took the form of a study event. I worked to advertise this among the First Years, delegated responsibility for creating study materials to my Class Rep, gathering RSVPs and attended the social to ensure it was a successful event.
- I have sent out regular emails to students in the Department and have made use of the Russian Department Facebook group. Included in my emails has been a 'Resource of the Week' feature where I share helpful online resources students can use to improve learning. This has been well-received.
- I have organised and ordered Russian Department hoodies for students. This was a lengthy process but I managed to get them paid for and ordered before the Winter break. They will arrive at the start of this semester and now I need to work out how to distribute them in accordance with the current guidelines.
- I helped to restart and publicise the Russian language café started up again by the Russian society. Hopefully, this project will continue to develop in Semester 2.
- I have continued to work on my website for students studying Russian in St Andrews called 'Moya Rossiya'. I have tried to get students involved and I have shared it extensively in emails and on the Facebook group.
- I have planned three (!) Careers events for the upcoming semester- an evening with Dr Fiona Hill, an alumni panel and a Russian job-seeking/ professional vocabulary learning event. Some of these as part of a Modern Languages wide employability series which I have helped to plan with the other Convenors and the Careers Centre. I will continue to plan these with assistance from my Careers rep and I hope they will be successful and students will find them useful!