

**Russian House Charter
Dickinson College
2019-2020**

Philosophy: The Russian house provides a community space for students interested in Russian language and culture to actively engage with the subject matter in an immersive and collaborative environment. The Russian house works closely with the Russian Department and Russian Club to arrange opportunities for students to gain a deeper understanding of Russian language and culture.

Selection Process:

In order to live in the Russian House, applicants are expected to be enrolled in courses in the Russian Department or display a strong interest in Russian language and culture. Members are accepted into the house based on availability of rooms, as well as level of interest in Russian language and culture. To apply, applicants should speak with Professor DeBlasio or the house manager for the current year.

Member Expectations:

Members of the Russian house are expected to further the philosophy and goals of the house. While living in Russian House, members are expected to engage themselves in Russian language and culture. Members are expected to be enrolled in courses in the Russian Department and/or participate in events sponsored by the Russian Department. Participation in weekly Russian Table is especially encouraged. While living in the house members are expected to practice their Russian language skills by speaking Russian whenever possible. If any members of the community are significantly felt to be not contributing to the philosophy and goals of the house, their membership will be evaluated to determine whether there may be a better place for them.

Community Standards/Conflict Resolution:

Members of the house should also be reminded that in living in the house they are also living in a community of individuals, and are expected to treat the other members of the house respectfully, and behave courteously. Problems within the house should be brought to the attention of either the house manager or the faculty advisor. The primary method of problem resolution within the house is through community meetings, which any member of the house can call in order to address problems that affect the house as a whole. These meetings should provide an open forum for members of the community to address issues within the house, as well as discuss and vote on decisions that affect the house as a whole. All members are expected to make their best effort to attend.

Programming Goals:

Within the community: the Russian House will strive to cultivate further interest in Russian language and culture among the members. Members of the house are expected to actively practice their Russian language skills with everyday use. This is further aided by the fact that the Russian exchange student is a member of the community and is an important resource available to those that live in the house. Events within the house such as Russian dinners and movie nights will also help to strengthen the community as well as build interest in Russian culture. The house will be decorated with material that exhibits important cultural places and events, adding to the practical part of the houses teaching goals.

Within the larger Dickinson community: The Russian House works very closely with both the Russian Department and the Russian club to help sponsor events for students interested in Russian culture. Examples of events include Russian cooking days, movie nights, and parties for various holidays (e.g. Easter, New Year), and Russian game nights.

Events:

Beginning of the Semester - The house wishes to welcome the new students to the Russian Department, inviting them to learn about the house and its role in the community of Russian students at Dickinson.

October or November – A casual event such as a movie or game night, that in order for the Russian OSA to share modern cultural aspect of Russia with the members of the house.

November or December – A cooking event, most likely blini or some other well admired Russian food, most likely in coordination with the Russian club.

Ongoing – Students in the house encourage any of those enrolled in the Russian Department to come to the Russian House for study groups and homework support. Members of the house are very open to the other students in the Department, and want to make the house a community space.

Spring semester - Similar events to the movies, games and cooking will occur.

Evaluation:

In order to evaluate what was gained from the experience of living in the Russian House, and whether it is accomplishing its purpose, the relationships between the students that live there, and their enthusiasm for the Russian language and culture are the most important factors. If the atmosphere of the house was not friendly and respectful, it is hard to imagine that mutual interests among residents would have been strong enough ties to promote an educational environment.