

Move to Russia

Live. Study. Work. Explore. Enjoy.





Hello!

So, you decided to move to Russia. Congratulations! Welcome to our country! However, you won't be spared the red tape unless you're someone like Gerard Depardieu, who became Russian in 2013 by personal decree of Vladimir Putin 😊

Let's see all possibilities and options how to live in Russia for foreigners.



Some information

The job market in Russia

If you want to work in Russia, you need to obtain an official permit and get your documents ready for a work visa. There is also a possibility to apply for an entry visa to seek employment opportunities in Russia upon arrival.

Most expatriates working in Russia are employed by international companies and language schools. In those cases, the knowledge of the Russian language is not obligatory, but basic vocabulary would be really helpful as most of your subordinates or students will speak Russian with each other. Moreover, you will have access to a wider spectrum of job opportunities with proficiency in the Russian language.

Healthcare in Russia

In fact, all Russian citizens are eligible for gratis medical treatment in public healthcare institutions. However, the quality of healthcare services is not always superb in public hospitals and may significantly differ from what the expats are used to. Non-Russian citizens are obliged to acquire a health insurance policy that could be purchased in specialized establishments or granted by employers.

Both local citizens and expats consider private health insurance policies due to the range of advantages it provides. There are many private hospitals and medical institutions in Russia (especially in Moscow and Saint Petersburg) offering high-quality medical services.



All types of Russian visas

- **Tourist visa.** This type of visa is intended for a short-term stay in Russia. It provides a possibility to enter the country for up to a 30-days period (it's a maximum for this type of visas), visit local historical and sightseeing places, museums, resort areas, etc.
- **Student visa.** If you are enrolled in a Russian university, you can easily apply for this type of visa. So, you can get such visa in accordance with the invitation from every Russian university (you can stay at Russia during the all period of your education).
- **Business visa.** It allows staying in Russia during a longer period of time mainly for business purposes. Business visas are issued for up to 30, 90, 180, 365 days (The total period of stay in each half year should not exceed 90 days). Business visa could be single, double or multiple.
- **Work visa.** If you want to work in Russia, you need to get this visa. Ask your employer in Russia to arrange all work-related documents as you will obligatory need those to apply for a work visa and residency permit. A work visa allows staying in the country for up to 3 years and could be prolonged upon necessity. The process of obtaining a work visa and residency permit can be really exhausting, but the procedure is simplified for highly qualified professionals (engineers and IT experts, for instance). To get citizenship, you must be a resident of Russia for at least 5 years, but that's already the other story.
- **Private (guest) visa.** Such visa is issued on the basis of an invitation from a citizen of Russian Federation. It provides a possibility to stay at Russia for up to a 90-days period.
- **Transit visa.** You need this visa for transit purposes for through Russian Federation. If you have this visa, you mustn't stay in Russia more than 72 hours.



All types of Russian visas

Now we will consider the most popular and useful visas, ways of getting them, advantages and disadvantages.

We won't describe Tourist visa and Transit visa, because firstly they don't allow to stay in the country for long period, secondly I hope you know how to get the simple tourist visa 😊



Student visa

The easiest way to live in Russia is to study. You should be able to study at no cost and easily get a dorm room. Many universities have quotas for foreigners, and if you're accepted, you'll receive an invitation for a free educational visa.

Advantages:

1. You can live in Russia four years (the time to get a bachelor degree), and see if you like it here. Or, you can receive a temporary residency permit through a slightly simplified procedure.
2. With a student ID, you can visit museums cheaply, whereas foreigners usually pay much more to enter. Also, a public transportation pass is half the price.
3. International students don't need any permits if they are employed at universities (or affiliated organisations) outside class time (including vacations). In all other cases, a permit is required. Permits are issued only to students on full-time courses at state-accredited universities.

Disadvantages:

1. Students can work only according to the profession specified in the permit, and in the region (city) where their university is located.
2. Entry into higher education is by a competitive basis.

For more information about programs, documents, universities on official website about higher education in Russia for foreigners:

<https://studyinrussia.ru/en/>

<https://studyinrussia.ru/en/life-in-russia/arriving-in-russia/visa/>



Work in Russia

Russia's economy has greatly diversified in the last few decades, and there are now several attractive industries for expats looking to work in the country.

Acquiring a work visa is complicated and needs to be started well in advance of your arrival in Russia — however, the process is much easier if you are eligible to be a Highly Qualified Specialist.

Working in Russia has long been a feasible choice for those expats looking to gain further experience in the construction and energy sectors. (The latter in particular is highly lucrative for the country as a whole) Russia is the world's second-largest producer and exporter of natural gas and the largest producer of oil. Furthermore, there is a steady need for construction and renovation in Russia, especially in cosmopolitan cities such as Moscow and Saint Petersburg.

If you are in the lucky position of having landed a job in Russia as an expat, chances are you will receive more than adequate compensation.

Employment in one of the largest expat domains — predominantly finance, energy, and construction — could also turn out to be a wise career step for you! It is certainly a lucrative option.

Social Security: You Don't Have to Pay

As an expat in Russia you will be covered by a social security scheme that, while it may not be as all-encompassing as in your home country, covers all the most important aspects, from sickness to work injury and unemployment. This is perhaps the most interesting fact for every expat about to start working in Russia: only your employer is required to pay into the various social security and insurance funds. As an employee, you do not have any responsibility to contribute.



Business visa

Russian business visa is the most popular type of Russian visa for businesspeople and long-term trips. They are generally used by people who travel to Russia on official or private business and allow them to travel when and stay where they wish (within the validity of the visa). A business visa may be issued for different reasons including cultural relationships, accompanying family members and commercial driving.

This visa allows for business-related travel to Russia, such as professional consultations, presentations, congresses, or contract negotiations. This is also the visa you require to attend anything of commercial nature, such as an auction. If it is your first visit to Russia, the visa is usually issued for a duration of up to 3 months. For frequent visitors, multiple-entry visas for up to 12 months are available as well. The business visa is only issued upon invitation by a person or legal entity from within Russia. It does not allow for any actual employment to be taken up; for this purpose, there is the distinct category of work visa. It is not possible to convert a business visa into a work visa from within Russia: you normally have to leave the country first. However, if you are engaged in the setup or upkeep of imported machinery, a business visa is enough.

Business invitation to Russia may be issued by:

1. The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) or its regional representatives;
2. The Ministry of Interior Affairs (ex FMS) or its local offices;
3. An authorized Russian company (this type of invitation can only be used by EU, US and Japan passport holders). As per the governmental agreement between Russia, several European countries, the US, Japan and China passport holders are eligible to obtain a business visa using an invitation issued on a registered Russian company letterhead. An official invitation processed via FMS or MFA is no longer compulsory for a business visa processing.



Business visa

Your business visa application must be supported by an invitation from the Ministry of Interior.

Please note that we can apply for the invitation only 45 days before the visa start date.

Please note that an invitation is not a visa! A visa has to be stamped into your passport by the Russian consulate!

If you would like to apply for a Business Invitation (telex) you can do so online. After the payment, you will get documents by post, fax or email.

When you apply for a standard (30-day) multi-business visa, please make sure that you are able to provide your passport for a period of 20 days for processing at the Embassy.

Advantages:

1. You can stay in Russia for long time (1 year and more)
2. You have opportunity to apply for Business Visa or Business Invitation using special agency and on-line

Disadvantages:

1. You can't work officially and can't have all opportunities Russian workers (such as medical care, work's conditions and others).
2. Business visas are issued to foreigners at the invitation of foreign organizations. This is a temporary residence permit for the purpose of a business trip or business trip, for negotiations, participation in seminars, conferences, meetings with business partners, conclusion of transactions without the right to receive income.



Work visa

Visa and other permit regulations can be mildly complicated at best and a bureaucratic nightmare at worst. However, with the right preparation — and a good deal of patience — it is definitely manageable.

Work visa- the central piece to the puzzle of your future expat life in Russia. Acquiring a work visa is the most important step to be taken before you actually relocate. Taking care of this procedure is mainly your employer's responsibility, but there are certain duties that you will need to tend to yourself.

If you would like to bring your spouse and/or dependent children along on your expat venture to Russia, make sure to inform your future employer so they can include any accompanying family members in your work visa application.

After your arrival, you have to notify the local immigration authorities about your place of residence within seven business days. If you have a work contract with a company in Russia, they usually carry out this task for you. Make sure to clarify whether it is your responsibility or theirs beforehand, violations against Russian immigration regulations can have unpleasant consequences. In the worst case, they could even lead to deportation.

Most expats reside in Russia on their work visa for a predetermined stretch of time, usually up to three years. Officially, you have a temporary visitor status. Should you opt to stay in Russia beyond your original expat assignment, you need to apply for a temporary residence permit.

As with many other bureaucratic processes in the country, this is a rather intricate task for which you may want to seek professional assistance. Luckily, relocation and immigration agencies offering legal advice and practical help are readily available throughout the major expat hotspots in Russia, although you should make sure that your chosen agency is reputable and experienced. Your employer should be able to recommend one to you.



Work visa

So, if you are a foreign national coming to work in Russia, you will need both a Russian work permit and a work visa. However, you can only apply for a Russian work permit and visa if you have received a job offer from a Russian employer who has secured an employment permit that allows them to employ foreign nationals for specific jobs.

The number of employment permits available for overseas workers is decided yearly by government quotas depending on Russia's economic climate and government policies. Within the overall quota, there are specific quotas for regions of Russia, occupational sectors and foreign nationalities. The overall quota for 2017 has been set at 177,043, which is 17% down on the quota for 2016 (However if you have close relatives in Russia or you marry to citizen of Russian Federation, you can easier get the quota).

Foreign nationals that need a visa to enter Russia will need a Russian work permit and work visa to work in Russia. See our article on Russian visas and residence permits for more information on who needs a visa to enter Russia. There are certain exemptions which are detailed below.

Nationals from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), who don't need a visa to enter Russia, are the only nationals that don't require a Russian work permit and visa or a guaranteed job offer from a Russian employer. As of 2015, CIS nationals are no longer bound by Russian work permit quotas. Instead, they have to apply for a work patent within 30 days of arriving in Russia and then have to find employment within 60 days of receiving the work patent.

You cannot enter Russia on a visa other than a Russian work visa (e.g. business visa or tourist visa) and start working. You will need to exit the country and re-enter on a Russian work visa.



Work visa

The following groups of foreign nationals are exempt from requiring a Russian work visa or permit:

1. Foreign nationals living in Russia who have already acquired a Russian permanent residence permit
2. Foreign nationals working on a temporary basis for an overseas company can apply for a Business Visa, which enables workers to stay in Russia for business purposes for up to a year.
3. Employees of diplomatic missions or consular institutions of overseas countries in Russia, along with any private domestic employees
4. Employees of foreign countries carrying out installation, servicing or repairs on installed equipment
5. Journalists accredited in Russia
6. Students with a valid Russian Study Visa working in holiday time or in their place of study
7. Those invited to Russia for teaching positions in educational institutions

Those working in highly skilled fields can apply for a special Russian work permit for Highly Skilled Migrants which grants them certain concessions.



Work visa

As mentioned, Russia issues quotas on the number of foreign nationals it can employ per year. If an employer wants to hire foreign staff, they have to demonstrate that they have a need for foreign workers by filing a 'Declaration of Need' and then applying for an employment permit from the Russian Directorate of Migratory Affairs (GUMV). The employment permit issued to the employer will specify how many foreign staff can be employed, what nationalities they can employ and which positions can be filled. So in order to find a job in Russia, you will need to find an employer with a suitable employment permit. Once you have found a job with an employer with the necessary permit, the employer will then apply to the GUMV for your work permit. The following types of Russian work permit can be issued:

Standard Russian Work Permit

This is the general Russian work permit issued for those from non-CIS countries taking up employment in Russia. It is valid for the length of the employment contract but you will need to renew your Russian work visa annually if the job lasts longer than a year. You will also need to secure a temporary residence permit. This is different to the Russia open work permit which is not job specific.

Russian Work Permit for Highly Qualified Professionals

This is a special Russian work permit for those in skilled professions who gain employment with a salary of over million rubles. The benefits of this permit are that it is usually processed within 14 days, is valid for three years and entitles relatives including spouses, children and parents to Russian visas.

Work Patent for CIS Nationals

If you are a citizen of a CIS country that doesn't need a visa to enter Russia, you don't need to have either a Russian work permit or a job to enter Russia for work purposes.



Work visa

Your employer will take care of acquiring the Russian work permit by applying to the GUVM. You will need to supply documents including:

- color passport photograph
- passport or valid ID
- copy of the necessary qualification certificates
- medical certificate confirming absence of diseases
- receipt for payment of fees

Once the permit has been obtained, you will receive a Russian work visa invitation from the GUVM. You need to do this at the Russian embassy or consulate in your home country.

You will need to provide the following documents along with the completed Russian work visa application form:

- passport
- one passport photograph
- letter of invitation from the GUVM
- letter from employer with job details, work location and dates of contract
- medical certificate confirming absence of diseases



Work visa

The Russian work visa processing time is around 20 days although the total time from enquiring about obtaining a Russian work permit to receiving your Russian work visa can take anywhere from 3-6 months.

Once you have received your Russian work visa, you will be able to travel to Russia. All foreign entrants to Russia need to register your arrival with the local GUVM office within 7 days. This will often be done by your employer but it's worth checking to ensure this is done. Failure to register with the GUVM can result in a fine and in some cases expulsion from Russia. A list of local GUVM branches is available [here](#).

The Russian work visa is usually valid for 90 days, but can be extended to a year and then renewed annually after that. This will need to be done through your local GUVM branch in your region. If you are staying in Russia for longer than 90 days, you will also need to apply for a temporary residence permit through the GUVM (other than Highly Qualified Professionals who get a 3-year residence permit automatically). See our article on [Russian visas and residence permits](#) for more information.

The Russian work visa costs vary from country to country, whether the visa is single or multiple entry and whether you opt for standard or express service. Russian work visa costs for UK citizens start at £165.

There is also a charge for the Russian work permit, which is payable in Russian roubles after arrival, but this is often picked up by the employer. The cost is around 1 000 ₺.



Work visa

Work in Russia as a freelancer or self-employed person

You can apply for a Russian work permit and visa to work as self-employed in Russia using the same system as for employed workers, although you will need to apply to the GUVM for the permit yourself. You will probably need a letter of support from an individual or an organization in Russia justifying the benefit of your self-employment in Russia. When applying for the Russian work visa, you will need to provide the introductory letter that would otherwise come from the employer.

If you are an entrepreneur looking to start a business in Russia that might generate revenue for the country and create jobs, you can look to do this using a Russian Business Visa rather than a Russian Work Visa. You will also be eligible for a Russian residence permit if you are investing a certain amount of money into the Russian economy.



Work visa

Advantages:

The temporary residency permit, and the permanent residency permit, allow you to live in the country with the same rights as a citizen. You'll be entitled to free medical care, to work anywhere in the country that you want, and to send your child to a nursery or a school.

Disadvantages:

1. During the first six months you'll have to pay not 13 percent but 31 percent income tax. You must file income taxes every year, and if you don't then you won't get a permanent residency permit in three years.
2. While you are waiting for a temporary residency permit, you won't get free medical treatment in Russia as well. So don't get sick!



Private (guest) visa

Such visa is issued on the basis of an invitation from a citizen of Russian Federation. It provides a possibility to stay at Russia for up to a 90-days period.

An Invitation for Private visa is issued (on a stamped form) by the local department of the Migration police upon the request of an Russian citizen. The Private Visa Invitation processing time can take up to 3 months.

To receive a guest invitation a citizen of the Russian Federation must:

- Take a copy of the foreigner's passport and passport of the citizen of the Russian Federation;
- Write a letter of guarantee, where a citizen of Russia provides the invited person with a place of accommodation, as well as medical and material support;
- The application for a guest invitation;
- Pay the State fee at the bank and take a certificate of payment;
- Go to the FMS office and submit all documents and wait 30 days a maximum;
- Come to the FMS department and receive a guest invitation for a foreign citizen;
- Send the received guest invitation to a foreigner by contacting the international courier service.

According to this invitation you can get the private (guest) visa at the embassy.



Private (guest) visa

Advantages:

1. The significant advantage of using a guest visa is that it is issued for a longer period, compared to a tourist visa. The validity of the private visa is 30-90 days and the validity period of this visa can vary from 1 to 2 times.
2. This visa could be useful, if you want to move in Russia and you need time to find a job here.
3. This type of visa is suitable for those people who plan visit relatives or friends registered in Russia. In addition to this, the foreign organization or enterprise may give a guest visa too. The main thing is to get an official invitation from a private individual or a legal entity.

Disadvantages:

1. The recipient party completes the invitation single-handedly. This process is lengthy, because it requires the collection of a large package of documents.
2. As it was said above, this process sometimes lasts up to 30 days, whereas the tourist visa is issued much faster and does not require an invitation from the person living in Russia.
3. The visa fee is higher, compared to other types of visas. For example, the fee for the guest visa is 2700 ₺, whereas the fee for the tourist visa is 1000 ₺.
4. After the arrival in Russia, the foreign citizen must be registered at the place of residence of the inviting part.
5. If the foreign citizen uses the private visa, he or she can travel only within the region to which he or she was invited. So, it is difficult to get acquainted with all the beauties of the country.



Visas and the Residence permit

Okay, we've got everything about Russian visas. Let's see deeply – how to live in Russia constantly without visa.



Residence permit

Residence permit - a document issued to a foreign citizen in confirmation of his right to permanent residence in the Russian Federation, as well as his right to freely leave the Russian Federation and enter the Russian Federation. It is a well-known phenomenon: people who live in Russia for a long time love the country but want to get rid of the hassle of constantly having to apply for a new visa.

For those foreign citizens willing to stay in Russia for a longer period or intending to obtain Residence Permit or Russian Citizenship, it is necessary to acquire "Temporary Resident Status" in the first place.

Temporary residence permit (TRP) is a document granting a foreign citizen the right for temporary residence in the Russian Federation before obtaining Residence Permit or Russian Citizenship.

Temporary Residence Permit is valid for 3 years, so is the registration at the place of residence. This saves the trouble of undertaking migration registration procedure (registration of notifying character) each time a foreigner enters the Russian Federation.

The temporary residence permit (Разрешение на Временное Проживание) offers the possibility to a person from a visa country to live without a visa and work without a work permit in Russia. This temporary residence permit is granted for a period of 3 years and is a step towards a residence permit that allows for a more Permanent residence, the Вид На Жительство, which is valid for 5 years.

Just like the normal work permit, this document can be obtained with and without quotas. These quotas are fixed annually by the Russian Government after having received a proposal on the distribution of quotas from the subjects of the Russian Federation.



Residence permit

Quotas for the coming year will be adopted by the Government of Russia annually no later than November 30 of the previous year.

There are no guaranteed ways to obtain a place in the quota. As a rule, the following factors can help to obtain a place in the quota:

- Close relatives in Russia
- Marriage with a citizen of Russian Federation
- Ownership of real estate in Russia
- A very large sum of money in a Russian bank
- Choice of a region: moving to a big city is much more difficult than moving to a place where there's a lack of manpower
- If applications from companies, organizations, diasporas, national-culture autonomies, public authorities are available



Residence permit

Required Documents for a temporary Russian residence permit

The following documents must be submitted with the application for a temporary residence permit in Russia:

- Diploma (translated, unless you have a Russian diploma)
- Migration card
- Registration
- Doctors declaration that you do not have HIV (this document may also be submitted later)
- Passport photograph
- Application form
- Proof of payment fees (amounts to 1600 ₺)
- Declaration of good behavior / document proving the absence of a criminal record (this condition only applies to residents of visa countries).
- Legalized copy passport with Translation
- Proof of knowledge of the Russian language, Russian history, and Russian legislation (there is a separate exam for this).



Residence permit

Advantages of the temporary Russian residence permit

You no longer need a visa

You can establish yourself as a self-employed entrepreneur in Russia.

You no longer need a work permit to be allowed to work in Russia (but you will only be allowed to work in that area of Russia where your temporary residence permit was issued).

You'll be entitled to free medical care, just like Russians. This means medical care in public hospitals. A lot of people who can afford it turn to private medical care in Russia.

After one year, you can apply for a permanent residence permit

Disadvantages of the temporary Russian residence permit

The main disadvantage of the temporary residence permit is that it only gives the right to work in the territory of the particular region of Russia where the temporary residence permit has been issued. (The city of Moscow and the Province of Moscow are 2 different regions).

the procedure for obtaining a temporary Russian residence permit takes a long time: the Law on the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens gives civil servants a maximum period of 6 months to approve or reject an application.

If you do not qualify for a quota-free position, the chance of obtaining a temporary residence permit is small because the competition is very large.

The temporary resident person may not reside in a region of Russia other than where he received his residence permit.



Residence permit

Although the temporary residence permit has a huge downside with the territorial limitations attached to it, it does offer people the possibility to quickly apply for permanent residence afterwards. So, if permanent residence is your goal, temporary residence might be seen as a necessary evil.

Permanent residence. Foreign nationals in Russia can apply for Russian permanent residency after having lived in Russia for 1 year.

The Russian permanent residence permit is seen as a step towards taking full Russian citizenship, although many people are happy to settle in Russia on permanent residency alone. There are certain rights and benefits afforded to both Russian citizens and permanent residents. Both are entitled to take up employment in Russia without a work permit. In addition to this, both are able to:

- Freely enter and exit Russia without needing a visa;
- Access Russian social services;
- Permanently register at a Russian address;
- Engage in self-employment or set up a business;
- Vote in local elections and referendums.

The Russian permanent residence permit is valid for 5 years but can be renewed an unlimited number of times. However, it has to be registered with the GUVM every year. If a Russian permanent residence permit expires, it cannot be renewed. It will also become invalid if you leave the country for an unbroken six month period.



Residence permit

You can apply for Russian permanent residence after one year of legally residing in Russia. You should do this six months before your temporary residence permit expires. The Russian permanent residence permit is valid for 5 years, can be extended an unlimited number of times but it cannot be issued beyond the expiration date of your passport. Renewal of a Russian permanent residence permit needs to be done at least two months prior to its expiration. If you fail to comply with the conditions of the Russian permanent residence permit and it is revoked, you will be required to leave Russia within 15 days.

Russian permanent residence applications need to be made at the GUVV office in your region. Exact documents required vary depending on whether you are from a CIS or non-CIS country, but will include the following:

- 4 x passport-sized photographs;
- Passport or valid ID;
- Proof of income to sustain yourself and any family members you are supporting;
- Proof of accommodation;
- Medical certificate confirming absence of HIV (AIDS). For about \$50 you undergo a whole array of medical, psychiatric and drug examinations, and even have to take an STD test. This takes about 3-4 hours;
- Proof of proficiency in Russian language, knowledge of Russian history and of the foundations of the Russian Federation. You need to take an exam for Russian language, history and legislation (about \$60). If your knowledge of Russian is at least at the B1 level, you will pass. The answers to history and legislation questions can be found on the Internet. Children, retirees and those who graduated in Russia are exempt from the exam.



Citizenship

Russian citizenship is the last point of living in Russia. It could be acquired:

- By birth;
- By naturalization;
- By restoration of citizenship;
- By following parents' citizenship.

The rules of citizenship by birth generally follow the principle of “jus sanguinis”, though a child can be recognized as a Russian citizen in several special cases.

The first and the most important thing any foreigner intending to apply for the Russian citizenship should know is that he/she will have to renounce citizenship of any other country he/she may be a citizen of.

The second important thing about acquiring Russian Citizenship is that a foreigner must first obtain Temporary Residence Permit and Residence Permit in the Russian Federation. Exception from this rule is made for the citizens of the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic. Citizens from these countries have the right of acquiring Russian Citizenship without obtaining Temporary Residence Permit and Residence Permit first.



We'd like to hear it firsthand!

People are from other countries, who moved to Russia, tell their own stories.

Real people, real stories.

I know these people personally, they are my friends, colleagues, acquaintances. I asked them these questions:

- 1) What do you like in Russia?
- 2) What do you dislike in Russia?
- 3) Do you speak Russian? Do you have problems with communication?
- 4) Tell please about your first months in Russia after moving.
- 5) What can you say about Russian winter and about a climate in general?



Paul, 56 years, Commercial Director in retail, Austria, has been living in Moscow for 17 years

1. What do you like in Russia?

I do love Russia in general! Actually that's my second motherland now. The atmosphere, architecture, people – that's what make me happy day after day.

2. What do you dislike in Russia?

Hmm... Probably the tax system 😊 Actually there are many bureaucracy everywhere and the most of process aren't automated.

3. Do you speak Russian? Do you have problems with communication?


I hope I speak Russian. That'd be strange if I didn't speak Russian after 17 years living here! 😊 When I just arrived in Russia I could speak Russian little by little, and for me that was a nightmare! 10-15 years ago here almost nobody spoke English, moreover German, so I spent a lot of time for buying something or looking for something. Now every 3th man on streets of Moscow speaks English... but I've already spoken Russian well 😊 Although I can't rid of an accent 😊

4. Tell please about your first months in Russia after moving.

That was a hard, but amazing time! I'd already had experience working in European retail companies, and the move to Russia was the outstanding step. However I often came to Moscow on business trips and wanted to improve the local market. I felt here is open field for making and creating, I was right.

5. What can you say about Russian winter and about a climate in general?

I was born in Tirol, I know what the winter is. May be the winter here is a little colder, but I can say every case is different. I remember one winter when the temperature was around -25°C, and I also remember the winter in 2008 when the temperature was 1°-8°C almost all 3 months. So, a weather is capricious, but comfortable enough for me.



Jose-Antonio, 30 years, Manager at the Marketing Agency, Spain, has been living in Moscow for 2 years

1. What do you like in Russia?

First of all are people! I'm sure Russians like Spanish, but Russians are more sentimental and nostalgic. 😊 I also like Moscow for many free events, public shows, holidays almost every weekend. There are many parks, shopping malls and museums, it's good as well.

2. What do you dislike in Russia?

Traffic jams (just pfffff 😞). I'm so sorry for it, but I can't get why that's so hard for Russians make good roads and comfortable buses.

3. Do you speak Russian? Do you have problems with communication?

I speak Russian a little bit. I has been learning Russian for 1 year, but unfortunately I don't have much time for learning. However I don't have any problems with communications. I have skills for basic conversation, and many people around me speak English and Spanish. By the way, my girlfriend is local and she is... a Spanish teacher, I'm so lucky! 😊

4. Tell please about your first months in Russia after moving.

Well, I moved to Russia to work and to study 2 years ago. Great time! I explored cities, studied, met new people and friends. Last year I was invited to work in a large marketing agency.

5. What can you say about Russian winter and about a climate in general?

One word – chilly 😊 However I like the freshness, it could be useful when you need to concentrate on something. The Russian winter could be really cold, fortunately not all time. I'm proud of myself, I could survive after 2 Russian winters! 😊



Fantine, 24 years, Artist, Designer, Student, South Africa, has been living in Moscow for 3,5 years

1. What do you like in Russia?

Russia's given me the golden opportunity to study here. Almost every day I meet like-minded people and soul mates. I'm so happy, I like Russian history and art, Russian language, the comfortable system of education, museums, streets and cozy cafes.

2. What do you dislike in Russia?

Sometimes I see bad things such as homeless people and pets, that's so awful. ☹️

3. Do you speak Russian? Do you have problems with communication?

I speak Russian. I have learned Russian since my childhood. That's my second language and like it very much! So, I have never had problems with communications here.

4. Tell please about your first months in Russia after moving.

I came to here for studying. I'm a student and sometimes I work-part time as a designer. First months were difficult, but interesting. I studied a lot, I walked a lot, made friends and ... missed home and my family. I think that was the worst – to miss home.

5. What can you say about Russian winter and about a climate in general?

I remember my first winter here...that was just hellish hell! I didn't have warm clothes and my room-mates shared with me sweaters and scarfs. The second winter was better, because firstly I had already known what to wait, and secondly seems that wasn't be so freeze as previous. 😊 Actually I'm used to climate already, however I'd like that were warmer a little bit. 😊



Masahiro, 37 years, Senior Manager of Marketing and Communication, Japan, has been living in Moscow for 3 years

1. What do you like in Russia?

I like Russia – talent people, good conditions, the convenient location of everything what you need.

2. What do you dislike in Russia?

Some things I can't get, such as an attitude to work, which could be too careless and formal, or the excessive frankness in behavior with unfamiliar people or even the impoliteness. However I think that's the difference in mentality.

3. Do you speak Russian? Do you have problems with communication?

I don't speak Russian at all. Although I haven't had any problems with communication, because in my office everyone speaks English or Japanese (I work in the subsidiary of the Japanese company in Moscow), almost every product in shops has the English annotation, every café has the menu in English.

4. Tell please about your first months in Russia after moving.

I came to Moscow, but I almost didn't feel changes in my life, because I worked hardly every day. All years here I haven't had enough time for exploring city properly. Now I'm planning to leave my job and look for a job in a Russian company.

5. What can you say about Russian winter and about a climate in general?

Cold 😊 The Russian winter is pretty cold, but I can stand it. Perhaps it could be colder in the suburb of the city or area, but I work and live in the center of Moscow, here isn't so nasty weather. Although I need to say the worst thing in the Russian weather is the sudden cold snap every season. If the winter is cold that's normal, but if the summer is chilly and rainy that's already uncomfortable.



Karma, 34 years, Doctor, India, has been living in Moscow for 1 year

1. What do you like in Russia?

Russians are hospitable and kind people. I've got much help and the support from my colleagues and new friends. Russian's medical science is on the high level and it continues to evolve.

2. What do you dislike in Russia?

Probably such things as traffic jams, overcrowded, noisy public transport, some strange rude people in the underground, high prices in restaurants and ... the cold summer.

3. Do you speak Russian? Do you have problems with communication?


I speak Russian a little bit, however people not always understand me 😊 I need to improve my knowledge, because sometimes that's inconvenient.

4. Tell please about your first months in Russia after moving.

I came to Moscow just for few months (that was the Global Medical Forum)... and stayed here for 1 year 😊 I got an offer to join to the international team of medical practices in Russian hospitals. Unforgettable! That's amazing, unique international experience and the opportunity for researching new methods of treatment.

5. What can you say about Russian winter and about a climate in general?

The Russian winter is cold, sometimes too much. But I have to admit, I could get used to this. Russian nature is harsh, but beautiful!



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All Information was collected by Anastasia Sidorova. If you still have questions,
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