

# UNDERWOOD

THE EDITION OF URAL INSTITUTE OF HUMANITIES

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November, 2017

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## Our Meeting point

The World Map where all the countries, people and events are bonded with a red thread is a well known symbol. The origins of it can be found in the Chinese culture — it's the legend of red destiny thread which connects those who were meant to meet each other. It can get stretched or dragged — but never torn apart.

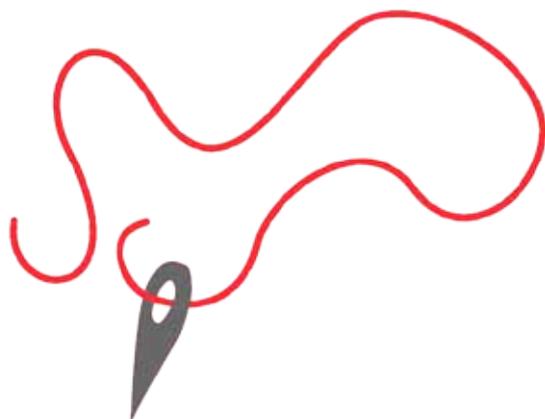
That is how we, students and professors of the Institute meet our groupmates and colleagues — sometimes they come from different countries and continents. The path of each one of them is special and unique and so are the little paths paved by the students of UrFU, doing their internships in different parts of the world. We all meet each other here at this point of the map — at the Ural Federal University.

Students and graduates of our Institute are the ones of the most active participants of international activity of the University: they study languages, do their internships, meet the foreign students, do the volunteering activities and not only participate but also run students organizations connected with working with foreign students or learning foreign languages (to know more about them go to the pages 5 — 6!).

We wanted to say about how much the development of international way means to us but couldn't choose only one thing: every little piece of such activity — a person, a culture, an organization — they all are connected with each other very tight and that's why every page of this issue represent a part of this huge and significant sphere.

We are sure that you won't stay unconcerned. The variety of cultures and abilities, kindness of our students and the foreign ones, desire for development and interaction is what make the atmosphere at the University so special and capable of ruin all the borders. We are together — and you are with us!

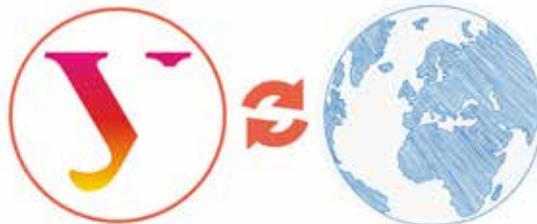
*The editorial board of "Underwood"*



## Round trip

We are glad to announce the amount of foreign students in our university and institute, also the amount of students and partner universities participating in exchange programs

**288**  
of foreign students  
are exchange students



**124**  
UrFU students have  
participated in the international  
exchange program

**2354**  
of foreign students  
studies in UrFU



**4** They'll need  
**Boeing-747**  
to travel together

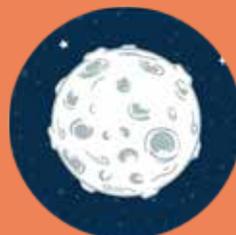


**Every fifth**  
foreign student studies in UIH



**27 UIH students**  
have participated in exchange  
programs this autumn

**498**  
foreign students  
study in UIH



It's **41** times  
the number of people  
visited the Moon

Infographics: Maxim Poltavets

### «Ундервуд» на связи

**Сайт:** [urgi.urfu.ru/underwood/](http://urgi.urfu.ru/underwood/)  
Электронная версия нашего издания на русском и английском языках уже на сайте института!

### “Underwood” in touch

**Website:** [urgi.urfu.ru/underwood/](http://urgi.urfu.ru/underwood/)  
The digital version of our edition in Russian and English is already on the Institute website!

## Question to the Rector

*In 1920 there was signed a decree on formation Ural State University. Besides, there's another starting point in life of our Alma Mater – 2009. We asked our rector, alumnus of historical faculty of Ural Institute of Humanities, Victor Koksharov, about main achievements of UrFU for the last year*

*The formation decree of the UrFU on the basis of the USTU-UPI was signed in 2009. The point-rating system for full-time students on the basis of USU was also installed that year, more than 4000 students participated in the festival “UPI Spring”, hot water and steam destroyed hundreds of books from the USU fiction fund. In your opinion, what are the most significant changes occurred in the UrFU over the last eight years?*

— Since the formation of the UrFU united scientific schools, the experience of teachers and student traditions of the two largest Ural universities, a process of establishment of a new world-class university has been going on. By this we mean the worldwide popularity, participation in nothing but global researches, leading scientists and students from different countries. Towards this goal, we became participants of the 5-100 project — a federal program to increase the competitiveness of Russian universities in the world. The first results are obvious to our partners: we've entered the world ratings, we've purchased the newest scientific equipment, teachers and students have come to us from abroad.

Moreover, the University is constantly the center of major international events: the forum “Petersburg Dialogue” was held here with the participation of the Russian President and the German Chancellor in 2010, we kept the ACM ICPC Programming World Championship ahead of schedule in 2014. Each year we have a large-scale action “Test Drive” for high school students of Russia and the near abroad, thousands of conferences, forums, meetings, round tables with the participation of prominent public figures, scientists, businessmen, politicians. The grand prom, which brings together six thousand of our graduates each year has become a new tradition.

By the way, as for the graduates, their own association has been established, that is still being grown. The organization is engaged in interesting projects. Graduates became active participants in university life and help solving the most ambitious tasks, supplementing the endowment fund.

The life of students and teachers becomes more comfortable. All these changes are not always large, our biggest victory is the opening of two new dormitories for 1000 and 1230 spots. The university team does a great deal of work every day, so that the university can change from inside and outside.

*UrFU rector Victor Koksharov*

# Interview with University

In honor of 97 anniversary of our University we decided to interview the main hero of the celebration — Ural Federal itself. UrFU not just answered our questions, but also gave warm-hearted parting words to its students



– Hey, Ural Federal University! We've been long concerned by only one question: Ural Federal is the most... what?

– International!



– UrFU student, tell us, how can you combine studying and extracurricular life?

– We choose something we love, which means it brings pleasure to us. As a rule, there's no problem with finding time for activity you're inspired with. However sometimes there's something you like, but you just don't have time for everything – then it's about appropriate assessment of your capabilities. In this case, you should review your schedule, keep the most priority businesses and the others probably should be set apart for sometimes.



– POS News UrFU, how students congratulated our University on the day of the birth?

– This year students celebrated Birthday of the dear University by the most extensive Circle dance! Every Institute tried to introduce itself in a better way! The celebration was attended by 4500 people. That amount of people needed 4 cakes instead of usual 2!



– Sport UrFU, tell us how to stop being late on PE classes?

– You need to love it! Understand, which positive emotions it brings to you or which friends you meet only there. Expect interesting time spending, when you go to the class, even if it's the first class on Saturday ;)



УГИ УрФУ @ugi\_urfu  
@urfu, wake up and tell us about yourself in 140 words!



УрФУ @urfu  
В ответ @ugi\_urfu  
Why do I need 140, if it can be said much more easier?



P. S. "Study, do what you're really fond of and enjoy your life! I wish you have time on everything you like. You can do it, we believe in you!" – UrFU student

# International direction in the Union of Students

According to the data for the autumn of 2017, about 2500 foreign students are studying at the UrFU. They need to be met with dignity, to show them the city and the university, to settle in hostels. The solution of these issues is the international direction of the University Students Union

## Composition and tasks

The International Direction of the Students' Union of the UrFU is a complex system that is a mix of student organizations belonging to the Students' Union: SOUN, Buddy, Foreign Languages Club, ESN, AIESEC and BEST. The main objectives of the course include the adaptation of foreign students, handling

the accommodation, organization of various events aimed at preserving the ideas of multiculturalism and acquaintance of russian students with the cultures of other countries.

## Managers

Mikhail Kochnev, deputy chairman of the Students' Union in the international field, oversees the whole complex and solves the problems that foreign students face.

Mikhail is on his position for two months only, but he has already made his contribution to the development of the field. Within successful cases that have been implemented during this time, it is possible to single out an introduction to the SOUN (Student Organization of the United Nations) ranking of compatriots. It determines what position each of the communities in the country occupies within the whole organization and who should be encouraged for activity.

Foreign students also participate in the work of the international direction. In particular, Henry Jagaryan, who came



Photo by Oksana Dolgoshcheyeva

## Foreign Languages Club

The club teaches 10 languages (French, Arabic, Spanish, Korean, etc.), for most of them there are several levels of training.

Students, employees and graduates of UrFU can study. Participants of the club expect seminars, debates, games and a lot of interesting communication.

To attend classes, you need to make a contribution to the Endowment Fund UrFU, which is 300 rubles in a semester for members of the trade union, for all others — 1000 rubles.



10 foreign languages are learned



### Contacts

[vk.com/club\\_urfu](http://vk.com/club_urfu)



### Our proud

Head of the FLC  
Ekaterina Vaulina  
and her deputy  
Dinara Beksheneva — student  
of UGI



### Contacts

[vk.com/esn.urfederal](http://vk.com/esn.urfederal)



### Our proud

More than 50% of  
volunteers ESN Ural Federal  
— students of UGI

Esn is from 37



29 000  
participants  
and volunteers

WFYS — 2017



## International Exchange Erasmus Student Network (ESN)

ESN Ural Federal is one of the three Russian departments of the international organization. ESN helps students who study in another country to exchange, enter a new cultural environment and feel comfortable in the host city and university.

Mentors conduct excursions, help to solve the difficulties and simply create a warm and friendly atmosphere to help foreign students get comfortable and make the learning experience in Russia unforgettable.

The Social Erasmus project involves foreign students in social activities, for example, participating in the "Christmas tree of wishes" or helping children from shelters.

## ANY QUESTIONS?



**Mikhail Kochnev**  
Deputy Student Union of UrFU  
on international activities  
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vk.com/misha\_kochnev



**Dinara Beksheneva**  
Deputy Chairman of the UUI Student Union for Work  
with International Students  
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Тел.: +7 (912) 641-94-34

to us from Armenia. He is the deputy chairman of the Council of Nations and the main assistant of Mikhail:

— *For me, the most important thing is the opportunity to convey the voice of foreign students to the administration, since I am an international student myself.*

### SOUN

The student organization of the United Nations is the largest in the international sector. And this means more responsibilities and tasks, which include not only the adaptation of foreign students to the university life, but also the promotion of fellow citizenship.

Zemlyachestvo is an association of students in UrFU for cultural and geographic features. In total there are fourteen: “Kazakhstan”, “Latin America”, “African countries”, etc.

The communities organize quests, intellectual games, Independence Day, club nights, bicycles, sports competitions aimed at rallying children, and organize training seminars for the laggards. Teams of compatriots represent their country

at university sports days and other events that interact with diasporas.

In February, SOUN plans are to hold the annual festival “Friendship of Peoples in the Ural Federal”, in which almost all foreign students of the university participate. They demonstrate their culture, cuisine and national folklore.

### Actively seeking

The International Unit of the Union of Students is always open and happy to welcome new assistants into its staff. Daily there are many problems — both ordinary and more serious.

“A student who wants to work with us needs to be mobile and know at least two languages (including Russian, ed., Ed.),” Explains Mikhail Kochnev. — We have many different tasks. One of them is information support in Vkontakte. If there is a desire, just write me “Misha, I want to engage in international affairs!”

Tatiana Selezneva, UGI-263303

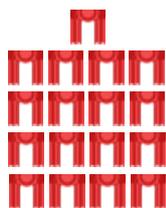
# International student organizations



**Contacts**  
vk.com/lingteatr



**Our proud**  
UGI students and members of the theater Tatiana Orda, Elena Tarasova, Maria Kuznetsova, Veronika Shamrikova and Vladislav Novisova develop the theater's relations with the public



“Lingua-T” gave  
17 performances

### Linguistic Theater “Lingua-T”

The only polyglot theater in Russia allows you to completely immerse yourself in the artistic world of the work, because it puts the plays in the original language. During the performance, a sequential translation sounds. The actors take classes in scenic speech and acting, the language of the chosen play.

The repertoire of the theater is very wide — it includes the works of the best playwrights of world literature, such as O. Wilde, F. G. Lorca, L. Pirandello.

### AIESEC

An international organization that unites students and graduates to develop their leadership potential and professional skills.

Global Volunteer — volunteer internships, whose participants are working to address one of 17 goals of sustainable development of the UN. Global Talent — internship abroad in the field of marketing, teaching, IT or hotel management. Global Entrepreneur — international internships in young companies in the fields of marketing, business analytics, sales, IT, design.

Also AIESEC implements projects of the all-Russian level — IT Growth, Eco-future, YouLead and Breakpoint forums.



**70 000**  
participants  
from 126 countries



**Contacts**  
vk.com/aiesec\_ekb



**Our proud**  
The head of the organization at the city level is already the third student of the UGI — Diane Salahova

Anastasia Nesterova, UGI-443501

# Life Balance Wheel

**The Wheel of Life is a technique used for planning and analyzing your life balance. Do you remember how in the "The Devil wears Prada" Stanley Tucci's character said "... Tell me, when it all goes down, is it the right way up?" Well, that is not the right way.**

Life balance is very important for those who want to be happy. Do you feel like something is missing or something goes wrong? It means that's something is not right with your life balance. The easiest and most useful way to check what is it that is not right — Life Balance Wheel.

Here you can see this wheel with its eight life sections and a scale from points 1 to 10. Usually the sections are "health", "family", "friends", "career", "finances", "education", "self-development", "leisure". You don't have to take these exact spheres, it will be more effective if you create your own wheel and choose the ones that are important for you personally.

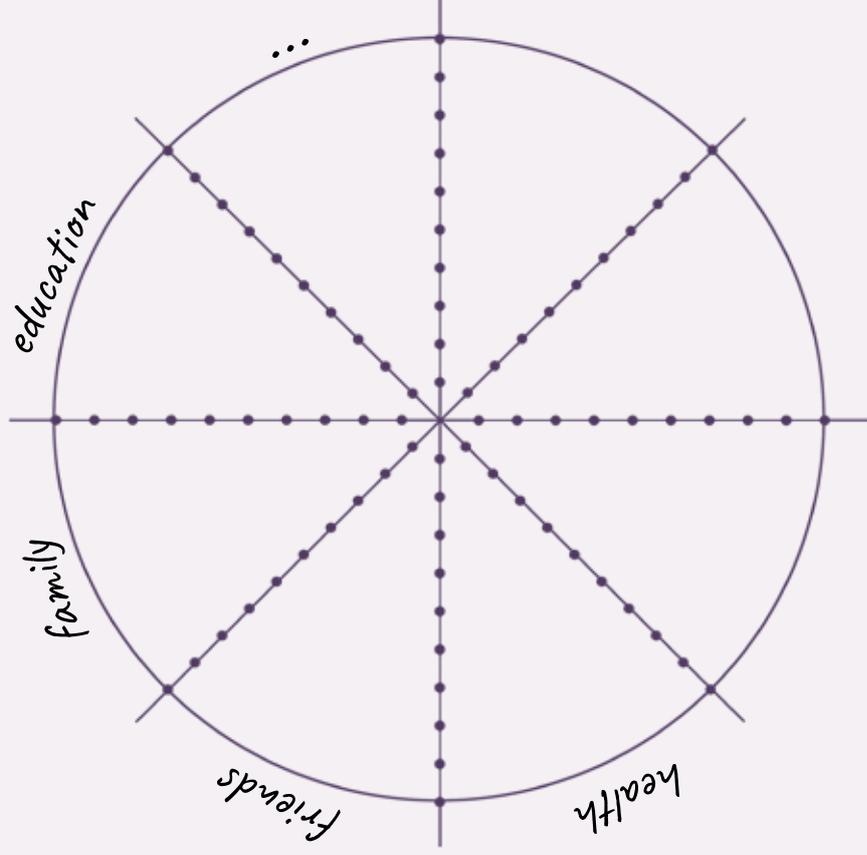
Here it is:

**Step 1** — write down your Life sections.

**Step 2** — mark each section by the scale from 1 to 10 where 1 — not satisfied and 10 — satisfied. Don't think too long, trust your feelings.

**Step 3** — draw the line between the sections across the highest points of the scale.

Got a smooth round wheel? Congrats, there is no need to worry about your Life balance, but if it's nothing close to a circle, then you should look at each aspect of your life carefully and think of you can make the situation better. In front of each section write down some points that you can bring into your life at the moment, and don't forget to actually do all of them!



## Our tips

 Use pen, pencils or highlighters of different colors for each section

 Fill in the wheel monthly and compare your results

 On the Student Union page in VK you will find a model of the balance wheel for the new analysis

 Share your photos with the Wheel using hashtags #УчдепвудУги

## Rate your result

What are you the best at?

What is your weak point?

Which part of the wheel needs to be improved so the other ones get the positive changes too?

What step should you take first of all?

When will you be ready to change the situation?

*We created the self-development map to make the process much easier for you*

Think of the family traditions: which of the old ones should not be forgotten and the new ones you can try

Got a minute? Call your family!

It's New Year soon - time to choose some practical presents

Make a note with your photos, jokes and funny moments

Discover something new: if you're the movie fan - try going to the theatre!

Choose a new board game for your evening

Go to bed earlier and wake up earlier, follow your schedule

Make up your personal healthy eating menu

Yoga, fitness or athletics - whatever it is, we are sure that you will find something you like

Choose 3 main activities that make you really happy

Plan time for your hobbies - these are the times that will bring you joy

Go to the exhibitions and festivals connected with your interests - get inspiration from talking to the like-minded people

Find a convenient place for the class schedule - we know you still haven't yet

Think of how to write down your lectures rationally and interesting

Make up the schedule of working on your Coursework

Watch the TED Talks: they are inspiring and they tell about amazing accomplishments of common people

What about learning a new language? It expands your mind and makes the world brighter

Take a notebook, write down the things that are urgent and the ones that you still have plenty of time for

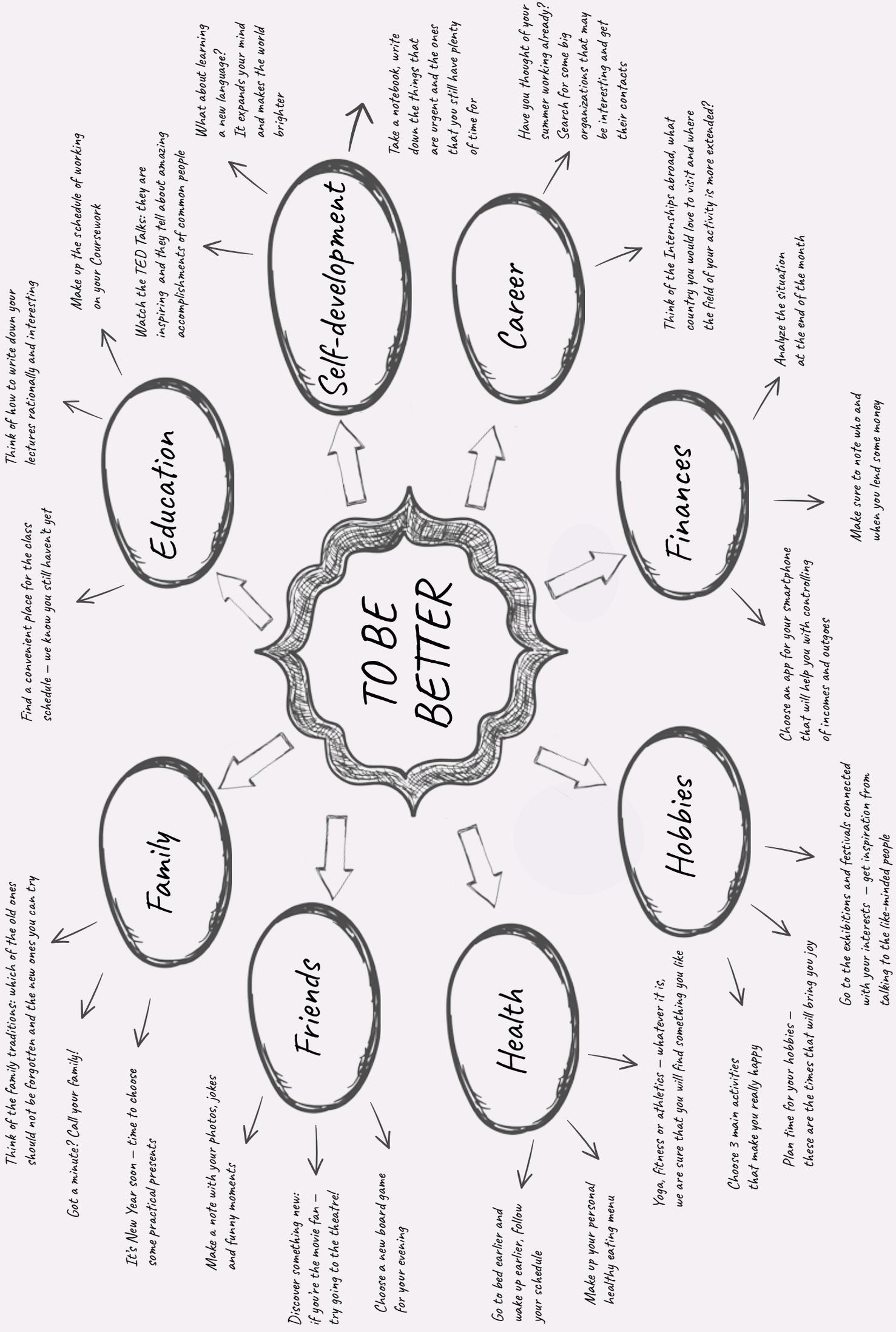
Have you thought of your summer working already? Search for some big organizations that may be interesting and get their contacts

Think of the Internships abroad, what country you would love to visit and where the field of your activity is more extended?

Analyze the situation at the end of the month

Choose an app for your smartphone that will help you with controlling of incomes and outgoes

Make sure to note who and when you lend some money



## Soul of the East

We couldn't avoid wise and mysterious East-in Ural Institute of Humanities it's being studied by the direction of "Oriental and African studies". Heroine of the article, Alexandra Hramcova, has visited several student internships to China and taught Chinese for beginners at Institute of Confucius during her study on this direction. Now Alexandra is a freshman of magistracy on the direction "Modern China: economy, policy, society" at Saint-Petersburg State University. She shared her feelings about studying and told us about her travelling

### East in Ural Federal University

There're two words, which exactly characterize "oriental brotherhood" of our Institute: zeal and warm-heartedness. No matter, which language you study, — you penetrate with common aspiration — real, not imposed — to achieve something new. It inspires with desire to overcome linguistic divide, learn about French colonies in Africa and finally understand what true Tao is; and with years this zeal turn into the ability to find unusual solutions in stressful situations. Whereas, warm-heartedness, which unites people with totally different interests. Probably, complexity of oriental languages joins people together, so It was really sad to part with everyone in July, but as our common hashtag says orientalist don't give up.

### East in the east

Student Internship is a cherished dream of every orientalist and also the experience, which will provide you with tales for the rest of your life. I've twice visited China on short-term internships for the time of my study at UrFU, but many of other students were able to spend time in the country of a target language from a semester to 2 years. Everything here depends on your priorities and wishes, but there's one thing I sure about — if you start learning foreign language, trip to the country is necessary for you. The most productive time is the end of the second or the third course, when you acquired with basic vocabulary and you need to whet your appetite to the language. You don't need to go to the East after the first year, but at the same time you shouldn't delay it: a lot of friends came to China after 3-4 years of study and having experienced culture shock, reject to come back to learning Chinese. Also important question: choose the place of your future internships carefully; then this time'll fill with invaluable experience, vivid memories and new foreign friends.

### The Confucius Institute

I can tell that the Confucius Institute is the place, which determined my fate as a sinologist. I started as an ordinary listener — attended evening classes, borrowed books in the library... but after just couple months I completely dived into the Confucius Institute's life. Chinese here isn't just learning language; you can go outside with your teachers and group, attend classes on calligraphy if you wish, then China will become a part of your life. After the I was lucky to enter the friendly team of the Confucius Institute as a manager. For more than 2 years of work I met plenty of great

people: these are my Russian colleges, who I really consider as a family — we got through a lot of difficulties together, they taught me so many things and supported me so much, that I still don't have enough words to thank them — and also my Chinese colleges: during the first months there I said goodbye to the linguistic barrier for good, besides I became friends with many nice people and we still stay in touch with some of them. Also, of course, countless students and other people connected with the Chinese language: I can say that Confucius Institute introduced me to the center of Yekaterinburg sinologist life. Thanks to it I even was able to teach Chinese in the free course. Looking back, I realize that without these four years, I could never become who I am now, and I could never believe so much in my "Chinese dream".

### What's next?

We often talked about the oldest Oriental base in Russia on our history lectures at UrFU, so after the graduation I've decided to "drop everything and go to Saint-Petersburg". It wasn't an easy decision, but I knew I need to move on. I was lucky to get full-funding in Saint Petersburg State University. It's a wonderful feeling, when everything you read or heard about, becomes a part of your life. Hermitage? — You're welcome! The Institute of Oriental manuscripts? — Easy! The names that you've seen on the covers of books are in your schedule, and the city is full of events, conferences and holidays. The abundance of native speakers and Chinese cafes also a big plus). As elsewhere you have to work hard and learn lots of all; the abundance of opportunities requires much more time and effort. However I'm really happy about everything new that happens around me. Many people ask me about my plans on future, but I don't want to make plans in advance, so I just believe that opportunity will find me by itself. In my turn I'll do everything to prepare and don't miss the chance!

Daria Pletneva



# Confucius Institute

You can tell about the international status of our university by lots of things: partnership with foreign universities, academic mobility of the students and their professors, involvement in conferences. Moreover, within the walls of UrFU you are able to study the culture of other countries, Chinese, for example. Read the material for the most important and interesting facts about the Confucius Institute

## About the organization

Confucius Institute is one of the institutes of UrFU, but it's nothing close to any other ones of our university. The branch of Confucius Institute at UrFU is one of the 17 in Russia and one of the 500 in the world, made by the State chancellery of spreading Chinese language abroad. The main goals of the organization is teaching the language, getting familiar with the culture and traditions of China, developing of friendship of the countries.

## Activity of the organization

“Our classes takes place in the evenings for all of those who wants to learn the Chinese language. At the first stage of learning one lecture is being given by Russian professor, the next one – by Chinese professor”, — says Ksenia Lozovskaya about the process of learning, one of the Confucius institute's professors. Besides these Chinese language courses, the Institute organizes scientific conferences, events, international exams, and, most importantly, the internship for students and professors. During the whole year students in the age from 16 to 35, who passed the international exam, are able to participate in the scholarship competition of the Institute and can get full or partial payments.

The institute also offers summer courses in China on the base of Guangdong university of foreign studies, and the selection of participants starts this winter. Pupils or those who attended the free courses or passed the international exam can participate, after the Russian side select the application, 20 people will be selected and then they going to have to be selected by the Chinese side. Those who are selected will get the official inviting and opportunity to get new experience and unforgettable emotions.

## The life of the Confucius Institute

Everyone can become the student of the Institute, even if you are not the UrFU student. There are two selections in the year, in September and in February, you have to fill the listener and make the first installment. There are students representing all ages from 14 to 60: schoolkids, businessmen, and those who want to feel the atmosphere of China.

There are always a lot of events going on in the Institute. The latest is The Confucius Institute Day, which let us learn more about the culture of China. Students saw national dancing and heard Chinese songs, took part in sport and intellectual games. At the conference called 'China: history and these days', which took place



on 18-20 of October, the visitors could not only listen the lectures and saw the photography installations, but also got the chance to see the performance of unique band from Dalian University of Foreign Studies.

## Straight away from China

Since 2014 for all of those students who are interested there is a library of Chinese literature (Chapaeva, 16, room 301). The library fund consists of publicistic, scientific and academic publications and audio and video materials in Russian, Chinese and English languages. Any UrFU student can borrow a book to read in the reading hall or take it home with them.

Elizaveta Bozova, UGI-263306



# BUDDY SYSTEM UrFU

Nowadays, we can easily hear foreign voices, when we walk along the streets. Some foreigners came to conquer Ekaterinburg and the whole Russia, while the others are here to exchange experience. However, foreigners face a lot of difficulties on their way forward as we all do. Buddy System UrFU was created in our university to overcome cultural, language and other barriers

## WHO

Buddy is the first friend and mentor of foreigners, who study at UrFU. Any student can be the buddy if he speaks English well. However, this's not as simple as it seems to be: every volunteer has to get through the tutorial first. They try themselves as a buddy, taking care of one each other. It helps students understand what to do and how to behave with foreigners. Leader of the Buddy System UrFU, team-leaders and volunteers-all of them are out for helping foreigners to feel at home.

## HOW

“The most important thing is not to leave the student all alone, without any help as we understand that he is in a foreign country, where people speak foreign language and there's no one whom you know” — Ekaterina Philchakova, third year student of our university thinks. In the very beginning she didn't even know English language at the required level. Now she is a team-leader and has many friends all over the world.

Buddy is the first person who meets foreign students at railway stations and airports. In addition, they help newcomers get through the complicated system of allocation to the dormitory, make out all necessary documents and make sure that the documents contained in the right way. Searching supermarkets, entourage, solving situations connected with differences of cultures, infrastructures and climates- that's what they daily deal with.

Although volunteers dedicate themselves to the care of the wards only the first couple of days, they stay in touch all the time and always ready to come to the rescue if students need help.

## WHY

“Very often foreigners have false image of Russia, because of the stereotypes: many of them still think that bears walking the streets of our cities, — Alia Iliasova, leader of Buddy System UrFU shares with us. — Volunteers tell them about some special aspects of the Russian people and Russia in the whole.

However, cultural differences, which are the subject of many jokes, aren't the worst. There're a lot of pragmatic problems. Frequently this's hard to move out even from small towns of Sverdlovsk region to Ekaterinburg. Even Russian freshmen face the problems with orientation at UrFU: to memorize location of all university buildings and the routes between them, schedule, get outside of all student organizations and PE sections.

Then what can we say about the man, who came here from,for instant, the African continent and doesn't understand a single word in Russian? Only the buddy as a true superhero can save from difficulties that certainly will fall on his shoulders.

## ANY QUESTIONS?



**Alia Iliasova**  
Leader of the Buddy  
System UrFU  
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Elena Smogorzhevskaya, UGI-263403



Illustration: Lyubov Nesterenko

# In Yekaterinburg is “narmalno”

Foreign students are a large, cheerful and friendly part of Ural Federal University. We decided to ask students of our Institute who help them in everyday life and what kind of success they managed to achieve in the new country. And they also gave advice for anyone considering coming to study in the Urals



**Basem Atie,**  
*a post-graduate student  
of Philosophy Department*

I've heard about Buddy, but never used it. Although people say that they really help students, well, I believe!

When I came to UrFU, the atmosphere was completely open and natural — no special help from any people wasn't not required. I've been in Yekaterinburg for three years now and everything is absolutely “narmalna”.

It's really interesting to study here. I love every book I read, every article I write, each class I attend, each lecture I write down, every mistake I make, every little success I achieve and, of course, I enjoy every second of the research

process and knowledge, especially those that relate to my profession. Learning difficulties — I do not remember that I had some serious problems.

I spend my extracurricular life with my Russian friends outside university: swimming, cycling. Such events are sometimes sponsored by university: one day we made a trip near the Ural Mountains. Since I arrived in Yekaterinburg, I've had some success: I became part of the scientific community and, of course, part of university. For example, I participated in the Nordic project between Copenhagen University and Ural Federal University. In addition, I'm a jury member in various competitions Yekaterinburg, related with English literature and poetry. I want to

note that I'm a bachelor of arts, master of political philosophy, and I'm going to get a doctorate in the field of social philosophy.

I suggest all students and future students to enjoy this place, this is the best place to find all you need as a person and as a student: a good education system, prestigious university, professional teachers — all of this you can find here in one place.

In the end you will be in Eurasia, in the heart of the world, so catch the moment!



**Ris Kituba,**  
*2nd course,  
the Department  
of Linguistics*

Buddy at UrFU not only help students to adapt and find their place in the University, but play an important role in their lives in general. They help foreigners to get to university, to do the paperwork. But the most important thing is how they treat foreigners: they are always ready to solve a problem and with a smile change the mood in a positive direction!

In UrFU there are other organizations that help foreign students. I know a lot,

but I can only tell you about the Student's Union: I am very grateful to this team. In my student life, it seems like all of them were always there, thanks to them today I feel myself useful, and I've found wonderful people who always support me.

Every student knows that in university the first thing to do is study, but in addition to studying, there are different events. Now, as a student, I believe that in UrFU, everything is thought out well: studies and extracurricular life are balanced. There is enough time for other important things: meetings, friendship, entertainment and so on, and each person makes his/her own choices.

There are difficulties with studies and extracurricular activities sometimes, but all problems always have a solution! To guys from other countries I want to say: we all have a goal and to achieve it, we need to work on yourself. Forget that you are foreigners. Sometimes it's like a wall that we put in front of us and we think that we can do nothing, even when there are opportunities. Join the atmosphere of the students, because we are all UrFU students!



**Cheicou Umar-Sou,**  
*2nd course,  
the Department  
of Linguistics*

I know about the Buddy System of UrFU and they helped me a lot to fill in a huge number of documents, for example, visa and other. Moreover, they helped me to get a place in a dormitory.

Now I've learned a lot about life in

university and I know university better. I am very interested to study here and learn another language! I also like to live in a dormitory — I really enjoy it, because there a lot of students from different countries. It is very interesting as every day you get more and more experience.

Next week are coming two students

from my country. They will study at UrFU too. I told them about Ural Federal University, and they decided that they also want to study here! I believe that university gives you many opportunities. So every time I talked to my friends and they said they want to come to Russia, I advised them Ural Federal University.

## Reading by foreigners

Foreign students and professors from Ural Institute of Humanities are very interested in Russian culture and always are pleased to talk about theirs. They have given us pieces of advice about books worth reading on their native language, and also shared their impressions from acquaintance with Russian culture



**Cardenas Alberto**  
*Department of Linguistics,  
English and Spanish teacher*

— There is one novel, that everyone should read — One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel García Márquez. I like his style and the method of “magical realism” that he applied. He perfectly managed to convey the sense of what was actually going on in Latin America. A Russian may think that it is not true, but it is. And it should be felt.

**“IN LATIN AMERICA EVERYTHING  
IS ABOUT LOVE — BOOKS, POEMS, SONGS.  
AND IT UNITES US WITH RUSSIA  
IN SO MANY WAYS”**

Poetry occupies a special place in our culture. I’m in awe of poet Mario Benedetti. He wrote marvelous poems, they’re nothing like European ones. My personal favorite is “Tactics and Strategy”, that tells about tactics of love. In Latin America everything is about love — books, poems, songs. And it unites us with Russia in so many ways. Much that I’ve read from Russian literature is about love — “Anna Karenina” by Tolstoy, “Crime and Punishment” by Dostoevsky. I thought “War and Peace” was a book about history, but I was totally wrong.

It may seem strange to you, but almost nobody knows about Pushkin in my country. When I arrived in Russia, I was surprised by the significance of this figure. Now I plan to read his poems in the original.



**Christian Tropea**  
*Department of Linguistics,  
Italian teacher*

—The book I would suggest to anyone, even for Italian people, is *I Promessi Sposi*. They make us study it at school and all students hate it for this, but the plot is fantastic and it is a master piece. Unfortunately, it is written in old Italian because Alessandro Manzoni wrote it in the beginning of the 19th century. I also read *Le meraviglie del 2000* by Emilio Salgari with much pleasure : in the book written more than one century ago the author tried to imaginw how it would be in 2000. He even guessed some things!

Talking about modern literature, I would suggest *Il fu Mattia Pascal* by Pirandello. I love his books, the psychological threads make it so exciting.



**Yan I**  
*Department of Oriental Studies,  
research assistant in laboratory  
of computational lexicology*

— I would recommend students to begin discovering Chinese literature with modern poetry, especially with works by Gu Cheng. Words are simple, but imagery is expressive. For example, 黑夜给了我黑色的眼睛，我却用他寻找光明。(translated as “Even with these dark eyes, a gift of the dark night I go to seek the shining light”). It is the most famous poem. It is hard to translate, but for those who study Chinese, the words are easy to understand.

I read Russian literature mainly in the Chinese language. There are a lot of translations of books by remarkable Russian writers in China— Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Pushkin. Esenin. I read “Anna Karenina” by Tolstoy, but it didn’t impress me much. Much more I liked “White Nights” by Dostoevsky. The book gave me the first impression about Saint Petersburg.

In Russian I read “Moscow and Muscovites” by Gilyarovsky. It was interesting to know, what Moscow looked like and how muscovites lived in the XIX century. Now I want to get to know with art of Ural writer Bazhov, because I used to live near his house-museum.

My specialization is the Russian language, I don’t study literature, but these things are connected. Reading in Russian expands my vocabulary, as I discover new word usage and expressions that help me to understand Russian culture better.



I love Andrea Camilleri’s books because they are usually set in Sicily, the land of my parents, so it’s like going back to my childhood. Russian people love his books, too.

One of the Russian books I liked much is *Master and Margherita* by Bulgakov: I consider it a master piece and during my visit to Moscow I visited Patriarch Ponds, where the main scenes took place. It was just thrilling! I plan to read more Russian books and especially learn Russian enough to read them in original, but it is something that I will manage to do just in the future.

Sophya Yuzhakova, UGI-443501

# Keep calm & watch movies

Every day Google responds to thousands of requests “how to learn English”. One of the most popular ways is through movies and TV series. But is everything so simple? We figured it out together with English teacher from the Department of Linguistics Ekaterina Shushmarchenko and our students

## How to choose

Usually we search for movies and TV shows, focusing on our level of English, but after five minutes of watching we understand that something went wrong.

What’s the problem? First, few people can independently determine the correct level.

Second, it is unlikely that the compilers of such lists will make them properly.

Third, the choice of a movie is a very individual process, especially when it comes to learning English.

## How to watch

Set a specific goal. For example, to improve phonetics, vocabulary or learn the slang. Turn on the subtitles the first time (in English!). But don’t forget to disable them and take it by ear.

Don’t forget about timing, when you choose the series: it is easier to start with a series where the episodes are no longer than an hour. Familiar movies and TV series is a perfect start!

Pay attention to the accents. British accent is different from American, Canadian and, especially, from the Australian. Find your own ;)

## What to watch

**Disney:** “Like in any classic cartoon there quite simple grammar and the actors speak clearly”.

**Glee:** “Watched at 1st course. It is fun and musical, there are a lot of phrases and words, which are not taught in class”.

**Extra:** “This series is specially designed for training, we it looked at the school. Also I watched it in the Spanish version, when began to learn the language. It is good for beginners to start perceiving the language by ear”

**Doctor Who, Murder on the beach, a Casual vacancy, Sherlock:** “I watched to listen to the accent”

**Friends, the Walking dead, Vikings, Lemony, Snicket: 33 accident:** “It helps to understand jokes, not to wait for the translation”

**Harry Potter:** “It is difficult to tear themselves from the history of the boy who survived both for a child and an adult, in these movies almost all the actors are British with a great speech”

## Path to success

**We say “say!” to productivity.** There are a few tips that will make your process of learning English with films and TV series more effective

Get a notebook to record new words and idioms

Create an interesting design: you can dedicate one page to each movie/ TV series, pasting there your favorite shots and recording new words and interesting quotes

Plan your watching in advance, make a schedule, get used to these “lessons”

Catch the rhythm: someone is watching a movie without interruption, others stop every second, third revise several times — choose the most comfortable

Watch training videos about films and TV series, it will help you understand what to focus on

Write you way ;)

## We say “thanks for advice!” to

Ekaterina Shushmarkchenko,  
Daria Isakov,  
Nadezhda Borchenko,  
Anna Mironova,  
Elizaveta Solovyov,  
Andrei Dolgikh,  
Dmitry Ushakov

**THERE IS NO UNIVERSAL METHOD OF VIEWING OF A FILM. FOR AUDITORY LEARNERS PERCEIVING A SOUND TRACK IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE IS ENOUGH, VISUAL LEARNERS WATCH FILMS WITH SUBTITLES AND REMEMBER THE PICTURE AND WORD FORM**

*Congratulate winners of the Debut  
of the Ural Institute of Humanities' freshmen – “Dream  
path” – direction “Workforce management”!*

*UG1-173405*

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*UG1-173408*



Photo by Polina Pogrebitskaya

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