

# REES M.A.



The Master of Arts Degree Program in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies offers training to graduate students preparing for academic and professional careers with a focus on the region of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The enhancement of language ability to the level of professional competence and the acquisition of on-site experience and analytical skills appropriate for an area expert are goals of the M.A. program. Students may focus their programs on one or more countries of the region, but are expected to achieve a wide range of area knowledge as well as disciplinary and professional skills. This program is offered through the University of Michigan **Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies** and administered by the **International Institute**. **The annual application deadline is December 15.**

## Frequently Asked Questions about the REES M.A. Program

### – REES M.A. Requirements



REES M.A. Worksheet

REES M.A./M.P.P. Worksheet

The normal program of study for the REES M.A. takes two years and includes the following requirements:

- **Minimum Credit Requirement.** Students must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours: 15 of these must be in REES-approved courses at the 500-level and above, and 9 more credits must be in REES-approved courses at the 400-level and above.
- **Introductory Proseminar.** REES 600, Introduction to Graduate Study in REES. First-year M.A. students must take REES 600, a course on academic reading and writing in different disciplines. *(1 credit)*
- **Core Colloquium.** REES 601, REES Graduate Core Colloquium. Required every semester for all REES M.A. students, usually for one credit each term. For dual-degree students, only required during first year (both fall and winter). This ongoing course will draw on and discuss area-related issues, including programs (Noon Lectures and Center events); Center “gateway” and other course lectures; visiting speakers; with occasional separate meetings on development and current state of REES. All students are expected to attend CREES Noon Lectures.
- **Course Distribution.** For examples of REES-approved classes, see **CREES courses**.
  - *Geographic Distribution.* At least one 3-credit course in two of the CREES regions (Russia, Eastern Europe, Central Eurasia). With permission, students may fulfill this requirement with a graduate independent study/directed reading course to accompany a Center “gateway.” *(9 credits)*
  - *Disciplinary Distribution.* At least one 3-credit course in each core field (arts/culture, history, social science). *(9 credits)*

**Note:** courses may count for both geographic and disciplinary distributions. Students may “place out” of either disciplinary or geographic distribution requirements if their previous training includes a substantial concentration in

the relevant area or discipline (e.g., a student who focused intensively on Russia, and now at UM wants to focus on Eastern Europe or Central Eurasia; or a history major who now wishes to focus on literature). Students may not “place out” with a single course from a previous undergraduate institution; prior “substantial concentrations” require grades of B or better in at least three clearly relevant university-level courses.

- **Language Proficiency.** All students in a REES M.A. or dual-degree program must either attain a level of proficiency in one REE-area language one year beyond that required for the REES B.A. (i.e., fourth-year Russian or Polish with a grade of B- or better; third-year for other languages) or achieve the level required for a B.A. plus an additional year in a second REE language. All M.A. students will complete CREES-approved language tests upon matriculation and at graduation.
- **Language Training.** M.A. students who are not enrolled in a dual-degree program are expected to enroll in a 3- (or more) credit language class (for a grade) every semester. Dual-degree students are strongly encouraged to do so. In case of necessity, students may substitute an intensive summer course for one semester. Students may satisfy this requirement by taking advanced language classes (e.g. 5th-year Russian or Russian 499). For native speakers and those already possessing advanced-to-superior proficiency in one area language, this requirement also enables the acquisition of a second language, usually from the REE area (Russian, East European, or Central Eurasian), to be pursued for the duration of the program. In cases with compelling intellectual or professional rationales, and with permission of the director, this training may involve other languages (e.g., Persian, Turkish, German, Greek). *Effective Fall 2013: A maximum of eight credits of upper-level language training can be applied to the 30-credit minimum.*
- **Research Seminar.** Participation in a REES-approved upper-level graduate seminar. (3 credits)
- **Master’s Project.** A thesis or final project/practicum integrating area expertise with disciplinary or professional work must be submitted and approved by two **CREES faculty associates**. This project should be tailored to a student’s own interests and academic or career goals.
  - **REES M.A. Thesis Guidelines**
  - **REES M.A. Thesis Approval Form**
  - **Past REES M.A. Thesis/Graduate Certificate Essay Directory**

## – Advising



M.A. students should meet with the CREES Advisor at least three times throughout the course of their degree: once at orientation, again near the end of their first year to discuss plans for the thesis and for guidance in selecting a thesis advisor, and early in their final semester to conduct a degree audit. Additional appointments can be scheduled as necessary.

**Schedule an advising appointment**

## – Admissions

The M.A. program admits students once per year for the fall term. Individuals **apply online** through the **Rackham School of Graduate Studies**. Online applications will go directly to Rackham and CREES. The online application opens in early September and the deadline is **December 15**. If you are applying for a dual degree program, you must also complete an application for the other program. Please note in both applications that you are applying for a dual degree program.

A UMID number will be issued to you by email once you complete the first five pages of the online application and advance to page 6. Having your UMID number to include on all your application materials ensures accurate and timely processing, **so we encourage you to complete pages 1-5 early in the process.**

### **The Rackham online application requires the following:**

- Statement of Purpose: A concise, well-written statement about your academic and research background, your career goals, and how Michigan's REES program will help you meet your career and educational objectives.
- Personal Statement: A concise, well-written statement about how your personal background and life experiences, including social, cultural, familial, educational, or other opportunities or challenges, motivated your decision to pursue a graduate degree at the University of Michigan. This is not an Academic Statement of Purpose, but a discussion of the personal journey that has led to your decision to seek a graduate degree in REES.
- Recommendations: Three letters of recommendation are required. These should be from academic sources if possible. Applicants may request and track recommendations using the Rackham online application. For tips on how to manage your recommendations online, **see this Rackham web page**.
- Academic writing sample in English. Maximum 20 pages.

### **Transcripts/Academic Records**

- All applicants are required to send to Rackham a complete set of official academic records/transcripts from undergraduate and postgraduate institutions from which you have or will receive a degree.
- E-transcripts are preferred but paper transcripts are also acceptable. More information on transcripts sent to Rackham can **be found here**; graduates of non-U.S. institutions should also see **additional instructions here**.
- In addition, CREES encourages the submission of transcripts from other postsecondary institutions at which you have completed relevant language and area studies courses, such as study abroad programs, junior colleges, and summer sessions. Transcripts may be submitted electronically at **ii-gradadvsing@umich.edu** or mailed to:

International Institute Graduate Academic Services  
ATTN: CREES Transcripts  
Suite 300, Weiser Hall  
500 Church Street  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1042

### **Test Scores**

- Applicants must send GRE scores to Rackham, institutional code 1839. Dual-degree applicants may use GMAT or LSAT scores in place of the GRE.
- Applicants whose native language is not English must demonstrate English proficiency or meet the criteria for an exemption. More information can be found at [rackham.umich.edu/admissions/tests](http://rackham.umich.edu/admissions/tests).

For more information, contact [ii-gradadvising@umich.edu](mailto:ii-gradadvising@umich.edu).

## – Financial Aid



Applicants to the MA program who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents are encouraged to apply for **Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS)** Fellowships and for need-based financial aid through the **Office of Financial Aid**. For information about additional funding opportunities, see the CREES **Graduate Student Funding** page and **Rackham funding information**.

For more information, **schedule an advising appointment** or email [ii-gradadvising@umich.edu](mailto:ii-gradadvising@umich.edu).

For more information, contact [ii-gradadvising@umich.edu](mailto:ii-gradadvising@umich.edu).

**The annual application deadline is December 15.**

WHY MICHIGAN?



4. Foreign Language Training.

Course: \_\_\_\_\_ Term: \_\_\_\_\_ Credits: \_\_\_\_\_

Course: \_\_\_\_\_ Term: \_\_\_\_\_ Credits: \_\_\_\_\_

Course: \_\_\_\_\_ Term: \_\_\_\_\_ Credits: \_\_\_\_\_

Course: \_\_\_\_\_ Term: \_\_\_\_\_ Credits: \_\_\_\_\_

Course: \_\_\_\_\_ Term: \_\_\_\_\_ Credits: \_\_\_\_\_

Course: \_\_\_\_\_ Term: \_\_\_\_\_ Credits: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Master's Thesis or Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Primary Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

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### REES Academic Advisor Meetings and Degree Approval

Advisor must initial after students have required progress meetings and sign when all degree requirements are satisfied.

Orientation \_\_\_\_\_ End of First Year \_\_\_\_\_ Final Semester \_\_\_\_\_

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#### Completed Requirements:

- At least **15 credit hours** must be in **REES-related courses 500-level and above.**
- At least **9 credit hours** must be in **REES-related courses 400-level and above.**
- REES-approved seminar.**
- Language Proficiency. Fourth-year Russian or Polish, third-year for other languages, with a grade of B- or better. Alternately, third- or second-year plus an additional year in a second REE language.
- Language Training. At least four terms completed.
- Geographic Distribution. At least one 3-credit course in two regions (Russia, Eastern Europe, Central Eurasia).
- Disciplinary Distribution. At least one 3-credit course in each core field (arts/culture, history, social science).
- REEES 600. At least 1 credit.
- REEES 601. At least four terms.
- Thesis submitted with the approval of two readers.
- At least **30 credit hours** total.

Requirements complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# REES/Public Policy Dual Degree Requirements Worksheet

Student \_\_\_\_\_ unique \_\_\_\_\_

UMID \_\_\_\_\_ Date Degree Requirements Completed \_\_\_\_\_

**1) REES Core Program: 21 credits.**

a) REES 600, Introduction to Graduate Study in REES.

Term: \_\_\_\_\_ Credits: \_\_\_\_\_ Term: \_\_\_\_\_ Credits: \_\_\_\_\_

b) REES 601, REES Graduate Core Colloquium (minimum two terms).

Term: \_\_\_\_\_ Credits: \_\_\_\_\_ Term: \_\_\_\_\_ Credits: \_\_\_\_\_

c) Courses (including geographic and disciplinary distributions).

Dept & Number	Course Title	Term	Geographic Distribution	Disciplinary Distribution	Credit Hours
			Rus EE CE	A/C His SS	
			Rus EE CE	A/C His SS	
			Rus EE CE	A/C His SS	
			Rus EE CE	A/C His SS	
			Rus EE CE	A/C His SS	
			Rus EE CE	A/C His SS	
			Rus EE CE	A/C His SS	
			Rus EE CE	A/C His SS	
			Rus EE CE	A/C His SS	
			Rus EE CE	A/C His SS	

d) Master's Thesis or Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

e) Foreign Language Proficiency. Indicate your language(s) of the area (circle all that apply), how proficiency was fulfilled (course numbers or language test), and date.

Armenian, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Czech, Polish, Russian, Ukrainian, Uzbek, Yiddish, Other

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### REES Academic Advisor Meetings and Degree Approval

Advisor must initial after students have required progress meetings and sign when all degree requirements are satisfied.

Orientation \_\_\_\_\_ End of First Year \_\_\_\_\_ Final Semester \_\_\_\_\_

#### REES Completed Requirements:

- At least **15 credit hours** must be in **REES-related courses 500-level and above.**
- REES-approved seminar.**
- Language Proficiency. Fourth-year Russian or Polish, third-year for other languages, with a grade of B- or better. Alternately, third- or second-year plus an additional year in a second REE language.
- Geographic Distribution. At least one 3-credit course in two regions (Russia, Eastern Europe, Central Eurasia).
- Disciplinary Distribution. At least one 3-credit course in each core field (arts/culture, history, social science).
- REEES 600. At least 1 credit.
- REEES 601. At least two terms.
- Thesis submitted with the approval of two readers.
- At least **21 credit hours** total.

Requirements complete \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2) Public Policy Core Program: 33 credits.

Required core: 23 credits      Public Policy electives: 10 credits

\*To be approved by Public Policy Advisor

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## **GUIDELINES FOR REES MASTER'S THESIS (revised 12/2011)**

The REES Master's Thesis should be between 40 and 60 typed, double-spaced pages, with footnotes. Previously graded work can be used for the thesis, but it must be substantially amplified, incorporating additional original research. The student must either use primary sources or a theoretical framework to organize the material in an original way. Students are expected to make revisions recommended by their readers and complete the revision process before a thesis is approved.

### ***Format***

It is recommended that the essay should be prepared in accordance with the styles described in the University of Chicago Press, *A Manual of Style*; Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*; or William R. Parker, *MLA Style Sheet*. Please discuss specific formatting issues and preferences with your thesis advisor.

### ***Procedure***

1. The student selects a graduate (700-level) seminar course, independent study, or equivalent through an appropriate department, program, or professional school. Students may elect REEES 799 or REEES 801. The course must be supervised by a thesis advisor/principal reader who is a CREES Faculty Associate. Exceptions to this rule may be granted if the student is writing on a topic for which there is no CREES Faculty Associate; such exceptions must be discussed beforehand with the CREES Graduate Student Advisor and noted in the student's file.

The advisor/principal reader will be responsible for supervising the student's progress and for suggesting revisions. In consultation with the advisor/principal reader, the student must invite a second reader, also a CREES Faculty Associate, to evaluate the thesis and recommend revisions. For students enrolled in joint or dual degree programs, the second reader need not be a CREES Faculty Associate, but should represent the professional school (in the case of a joint degree student) or the second department (in the case of a dual degree student).

2. The student will submit a "Master's Degree Thesis Acceptance Form," available from the CREES Academic Services Coordinator, to each reader. Both readers need to return this form to CREES as final acceptance of the completed thesis. It is the student's responsibility to verify that the acceptance forms have been received by the final day of exams at the end of the term in which the student expects to graduate.

3. The advisor/principal reader will submit a grade online for the student's work. Whether or not the student is permitted to receive a pass/fail or grade for the thesis is dependent upon the preference of the advisor/principal reader and department/school policy. Discuss this in advance with your advisor.

4. The student must contact the CREES Academic Services Coordinator at least one month before completion of the thesis regarding completion date, graduation date, names of readers, and research topic. The Academic Services Coordinator will monitor the evaluation process.

5. The student must submit a final version of the thesis to the CREES Academic Services Coordinator by the end of the term in which graduation is expected.

*NOTE: Students planning to write their theses and graduate in the spring/summer terms should make special arrangements well in advance to ensure availability of faculty readers.*

**Good Luck!**



## Master's Degree Essay Approval Form

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Master's essay title: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

This is to certify that I have read and approved the Master's Degree essay of the above-named student, and that it meets the requirements for the receipt of the Master's Degree in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Reader

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secondary Reader

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Date

*Please return this signed and dated form to:*  
CREES Graduate Student Services  
University of Michigan  
Weiser Hall, 500 Church Street, Suite 300  
[ii-gradadvising@umich.edu](mailto:ii-gradadvising@umich.edu)  
734-763-4528

# M.A. FAQs



Click below for more information about the REES M.A. program.

## – General Information

### Q. How many students are associated with CREES?

A. There are currently about 20 students pursuing REES M.A. or Graduate Certificate degrees and between 150 to 200 graduate students in other fields (history, political science, anthropology, etc.) who focus on the region. All of these students, plus related faculty, make up our CREES community. Normally, between two and ten students start the REES M.A. or Graduate Certificate program each fall semester.

### Q. What is the average length of the Master's program?

A. Students normally complete the M.A. in two years (four terms), or sometimes three terms depending on how many credits they take. Many of our students are dual degree students (with professional programs such as public policy or law and Ph.D. programs such as Slavic, history, or education) and therefore do not finish in the traditional two years. These add between one and ten (for Ph.D. programs) terms to the overall time to completion.

### Q. Is language study required during the program?

A. Language study is required. All students in a REES M.A. or dual-degree program must either attain a level of proficiency in one REE-area language one year beyond that required for the REES B.A. (i.e., fourth-year Russian or Polish with a grade of B- or better; third-year for other languages) or achieve the level required for a B.A. plus an additional year in a second REE language.

M.A. students who are not enrolled in a dual-degree program are expected to enroll in a 3- (or more) credit language class (for a grade) every semester. Dual-degree students are strongly encouraged to do so. In case of necessity, students may substitute an intensive summer course for one semester of language study. Students may satisfy this requirement by taking advanced language classes (e.g., fifth-year Russian or Russian 499). For native speakers and those already possessing advanced-to-superior proficiency in one area language, this requirement also enables the acquisition of a second language, usually from the REE area, to be pursued for the duration of the program. In cases with compelling intellectual or professional rationales, and with permission of the director, this training may involve other languages (e.g., Persian, Turkish, German, or Greek).

### Q. Does CREES offer a Ph.D.?

A. No. However, REES M.A. students in the past have successfully applied to Ph.D. programs at the University of Michigan through other departments. For information on Ph.D. programs, contact the specific department of interest, such as anthropology, education, history, political science, Slavic, sociology, etc. For applications and further information on all these programs, visit the **Rackham School of Graduate Studies website**.

### Q. What careers have past CREES students pursued?

A. Most REES M.A. recipients and those with dual degrees with professional programs are interested in government service (e.g., State Department, Foreign Service, military) or non-governmental organizations both domestically and abroad. The latter include non-profit environmental or human

rights organizations and think-tanks. Others find positions in private businesses, including consulting firms, banks, and law firms. Others pursue careers in teaching at all levels, and many graduates continue on to obtain a Ph.D. in various fields. Over 70% of CREES graduates have found employment in a related field or pursued further graduate studies. For information about what some of our alumni are up to, visit our **Alumni News** page.

### **Q. What is the Weiser Center?**

A. The **Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia (WCEE)** is an umbrella organization comprised of the **Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (CREES)**; **Center for European Studies (CES)**; and **Copernicus Program in Polish Studies (CPPS)**. WCEE works in association with the **Islamic Studies Program (ISP)** and the **Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies (WCED)** at the **U-M International Institute**. It is dedicated to enhancing interdisciplinary knowledge about and public engagement with the institutions, cultures, and histories of Europe and Eurasia. Named in honor of Ronald and Eileen Weiser and inspired by their time in Slovakia during Ambassador Weiser's service as U.S. Ambassador from 2001-04, WCEE began operations in 2008.

## **– Applications/Admissions**

### **Q. How do I apply to the REES M.A. program?**

A. Prospective students may **apply online** through the Rackham School of Graduate Studies. Online applications with the statement of purpose will go directly to Rackham and CREES. GRE scores are sent to Rackham, code 1839.

All applicants are required to **mail one set of official academic records/transcripts** from degree-granting institutions to the Rackham Graduate School. **Official documents must be provided by the institution awarding the degree.** Academic records certified by notary publics are not official.

Rackham Graduate School  
 Attn: Transcripts/U-M ID# (if known) or Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)  
 915 E. Washington St.  
 Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1070  
 USA

Transcripts indicating relevant coursework from institutions where a degree was not issued (e.g., summer language program) should be sent directly to CREES.

CREES Admissions  
 University of Michigan  
 1080 S. University Ave., Suite 3668  
 Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1106  
 USA

Your completed online application and supporting documents (including academic records/transcripts, test scores, and letters of recommendation, etc.) should be submitted early enough to arrive two to three weeks prior to the deadline. **All application materials must be received by both CREES and Rackham by December 15.** Note: All credentials submitted for admission consideration become the property of the University of Michigan and will not be returned in original or copy form.

### **Q. When are applications available and what is the application deadline?**

A. Rackham Graduate School applications normally are available in August. The CREES application deadline is December 15 for enrollment the following fall.

**Q. On what basis are applicants accepted to the program?**

A. The Admissions Committee relies on the entire application to assess each prospective student: the statement of purpose, transcript(s), letters of recommendation, and GRE scores. The committee does not focus on one criterion to the exclusion of others, nor do we have minimum requirements for any criterion, though successful applicants typically have an undergraduate GPA of at least 3.25, and a verbal score of at least 160 and quantitative score of at least 150 on the GRE revised General Test. In addition, applicants should have strong motivation to study the region and already have a substantial background or experience—educational or otherwise—in the region prior to entering our program.

**Q. What kind of educational background do successful applicants have?**

A. You need not have majored in Slavic or REES or anything similar. Past students majored in history or political science and a wide variety of subjects, but entered with a broad knowledge of the region or of selected countries stemming from coursework and/or experience abroad.

**Q. Language study is obviously important to study of the region. What background should I have before entering the REES M.A. program?**

A. Students entering the REES M.A. program generally have some previous knowledge of a language of the region (e.g., through formal coursework, tutoring, volunteering in the region). Although there is no minimum entrance requirement, attainment of area language proficiency needed for post-graduation careers is a key program objective.

**Q. I am interested in applying for the REES M.A. program, but am not currently proficient in a language of the region. What can I do to make my application strong enough that I am considered for admission?**

A. Students with little or no knowledge of an area language are encouraged to enroll in language courses during the academic year or summer prior to matriculation, and should note these plans in their admission applications. We maintain some information about **summer language programs** in the U.S., though this is not exhaustive.

**Q. How many applications does CREES receive and how many get accepted?**

A. CREES receives between 25 and 75 applications each year; we do not have a quota or percentage of applications that we accept, but review each student based on his or her own merit. This means that the acceptance rate varies each year depending on the quality of the applications.

**Q. What are the dual degrees offered by CREES? How do I apply for one?**

A. CREES offers dual degrees with the **Ford School of Public Policy** (M.A./M.P.P.), the **Law School** (M.A./J.D.), and the **Ross Business School** (M.A./M.B.A.). The main advantage of the dual programs is that they decrease the number of credits needed to obtain both degrees. Applications must be made separately to both programs, and admissions decisions are made by separate committees. See the **REES Dual Degrees** webpage for more information.

**Q. What should my writing sample look like?**

A. Please submit one sample of academic writing in English (at least eight pages in length but not more than 20 pages) that forecasts your capacity to (1) construct critical arguments and present them in a comprehensive manner; (2) clearly articulate your thesis; (3) support your claims by the effective use of

evidence and coherent analysis of the material in question; (4) present your material in an organized, clear, and creative way; (5) offer logically derived conclusion(s); and (6) correctly document primary and secondary sources.

**Q. From whom should I request letters of recommendation?**

A. You should request letters from those best able to assess your ability to succeed in graduate school. Traditionally these are faculty members from your undergraduate institution, but they can easily be employers or military supervisors if you have been out of school for a while or are in the military.

**Q. When will I be notified of decisions regarding my admission?**

A. Typically, applicants are notified by mid-March.

## – Coursework

**Q. How is advising handled? Do I need to find an advisor on my own?**

A. The CREES Director acts as Academic Advisor for all REES students to assist with course selection, degree requirements, and related matters. The CREES Student Services Associate also provides guidance on application questions, funding matters, and degree requirements. M.A. students should meet with the Academic Advisor at least three times throughout the course of their degree: once at orientation, again near the end of their first year to discuss plans for the thesis and for guidance in selecting a thesis advisor, and early in their final semester to conduct a degree audit. Additional appointments can be scheduled as necessary. **Schedule an advising appointment**

In addition, M.A. students must have two thesis readers. The primary reader, or thesis advisor, must be a CREES faculty member, and is generally someone whose research is closely related to the individual student's own field. The secondary reader should also be a CREES faculty member (or, in the case of dual degree students, faculty from the other school or unit). Students are responsible for selecting their thesis advisors, and should do so no later than the beginning of their second year.

**Q. What are the requirements for completing the M.A. program?**

A. Students must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours: 15 of these must be in REES-approved courses at the 500-level and above, and 9 more credits must be in REES-approved courses at the 400-level and above. Students must take REES 600, Introduction to Graduate Studies in REES during the first year. REES 601, REES Graduate Core Colloquium, is required in each term of enrollment. Students must meet disciplinary and geographic distribution requirements. Participation in a REES-approved upper-level graduate seminar is mandatory. In addition, a Master's thesis or project is required and must be approved by two CREES faculty members. All students in a REES M.A. or dual-degree program must either attain a level of advanced proficiency in one REE-area language or intermediate proficiency plus an additional year in a second REE language.

*Effective Fall 2013:* A maximum of eight credits of upper-level language training can be applied to the 30-credit minimum.

**Q. What are the geographic and disciplinary distribution requirements?**

A. It is a goal of the program to ensure that all students have broad geographical and interdisciplinary knowledge upon degree completion. In pursuit of this, students are required to take at least one 3-credit course in two of the CREES regions (Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Eurasia) and at least one 3-credit course in each core field (arts/culture, history, social science). Courses may count for both geographic and disciplinary distributions.

**Q. I have already had extensive training in one of the relevant areas or disciplines. Can I place out of a requirement?**

Students may “place out” of either disciplinary or geographic distribution requirements if their previous training includes a substantial concentration in the relevant area or discipline (e.g., a student who focused intensively on Russia, and now at U-M wants to focus on Eastern Europe or Central Eurasia; or a history major who now wishes to focus on literature). Students may not “place out” with a single course from a previous undergraduate institution; prior “substantial concentrations” require grades of B or better in at least three clearly relevant university-level courses.

**Q. What is the average course load for a CREES student?**

A. Most REES M.A. students take 12 credits per term (the equivalent of four graduate-level courses).

**Q. With flexibility in determining my own course selection, how will I know what classes I should take?**

A. Each term, CREES puts together a list of “REES-approved” and “REES-related” courses to help students find courses that can be used to fulfill the requirements of the REES degrees. The list is not exhaustive and students may use other courses to fulfill the requirements provided that the course has some REES content and/or the student plans to work primarily on the region under the auspices of the course. Students must obtain permission from the Academic Advisor for “REES-related” courses and any not appearing on the list produced by CREES to be counted toward their REES degree. No such permission is needed for “REES-approved” classes.

## – Funding

**Q. What is a FLAS Fellowship and how do I get one?**

A. Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships provide tuition and a stipend to students pursuing graduate training in designated foreign languages in combination with area studies or international aspects of professional studies. FLAS Fellowships are administered by U-M Area Studies Centers and Programs and are awarded competitively through fellowship competitions. The U.S. Department of Education (US/ED) funds and manages these awards under the provisions of Title VI of the Higher Education Act. The amount of funding and number of awards granted is contingent upon annual US/ED program approval, federal regulations, as well as continued congressional funding, all of which may change from year to year. There are two kinds of FLAS fellowships: one for academic year and one for summer intensive language study. Visit the [University of Michigan FLAS webpage](#) for more information and application instructions.

**Q. Does the M.A. program offer teaching opportunities?**

A. CREES has Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) positions for two survey courses on Russia and East/Central Europe. Priority is given to applicants who have an academic background on Russia/FSU or East/Central Europe and knowledge of a language of the region, and who intend to pursue an academic career (including teaching) focused on the region. Strong preference is given to graduate students who have prior experience as a GSI. Contact [ii-gradadvising@umich.edu](mailto:ii-gradadvising@umich.edu) for application information. For information about other GSI positions, please contact individual departments. The **Slavic Department** sometimes has positions open for Russian language GSIs.

**Q. What opportunities does CREES offer for funding research related to my degree?**

A. Visit the [CREES Funding page](#) for information about support for summer research, conference participation, and other funding opportunities.

**Q. Where else should I look for funding?**

A. See the **CREES Graduate Student Resources page** for links to U-M units and external organizations which offer fellowships and other funding opportunities. Some of these would be applicable to academic work at U-M, and others would fund research abroad, both long- and short-term.



# CREES FAO Program



CREES is proud to offer the M.A. program to Foreign Area Officers (FAOs).

## Why choose the University of Michigan?

- U-M is a low cost institution, **providing in-state tuition** for all active duty military students.
- U-M is recognized as a “Military Friendly University” by *Military Advanced Education Magazine*.
- Home to the **Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies**, which promotes scholarship to better understand the conditions and policies fostering transformations from authoritarian rule to democracy.
- FAO students complete the **CREES M.A. requirements** in 12 or 18 months.

## Sample 12-month schedule

Term	Course/Title	Credits
Fall	REEES 600 - Introduction to Graduate Study in REEES	1.0
	REEES 601 - REEES Graduate Core Curriculum	1.0
	REEES electives - Selected in coordination with Advisor to meet distribution requirements	6.0
	Language course - Determined by current language level	4.0
Winter	REEES 601 - REEES Graduate Core Curriculum	1.0
	REEES electives - Selected in coordination with Advisor to meet distribution requirements	10.0
	Language course - Determined by current language level	4.0
Summer	REEES 799 - Master's Thesis in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies	3.0
		<b>30.0</b>

## Winter Term (January) Admissions

FAO students seeking a January start date will need to complete the application for the fall term preceding enrollment. Please **contact the Academic Services** office for more information

## WHY MICHIGAN?

# REES Dual Degrees



For many years, CREES has collaborated with professional schools at the University of Michigan to enhance the training of graduate students seeking to combine strong interests in regional studies with professional expertise. Dual degree programs at the graduate level have been developed for students planning careers in business, law, and public policy, with specialization in Russian, East European, and Eurasian studies. Students may also combine the **REES M.A. degree** with graduate degrees in other units.

Interested applicants to REES dual degree programs should contact both programs to which they will apply, and must gain separate and independent admission to both programs. Applicants will need to submit applications, fees, and other required materials to each program separately. When filling out application forms, applicants should be sure to check the dual degree boxes on both forms. Applicants may apply for admission simultaneously to both programs, or start in one program and apply to their second program during their first year.

Students in dual degree programs are encouraged to participate in summer internships and to conduct research in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. CREES and partner departments have contacts with institutions in the region and will assist students in locating host organizations and designing projects. Through the CREES Research, Internship, and Fellowship (CRIF) Program, fellowships are awarded competitively each year to support projects in the region (see **Student Funding**).

## – **REES/Business**



The **Stephen M. Ross School of Business** and CREES offer a dual degree program leading to concurrent M.B.A. and M.A. degrees. This program combines professional training in the fundamentals of business administration with intensive interdisciplinary study of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Students completing the program will be prepared to pursue business careers and other opportunities in the region.

This dual degree program may begin with studies in either school; however, because of the sequential nature of core courses in the M.B.A. program, most students will find it advantageous to devote their first year to business courses. The 75-credit hour program is arranged so that all requirements for both degrees may be completed within two and one-half to three years of enrollment, and the degrees are awarded simultaneously. This program is not open to students who have earned either an M.B.A. or M.A. in REES from another institution.

For more information including a sample plan of study, see the **Business School's dual degree page**. The application for admission to the M.B.A. program is available through the **Ross School of Business website**.

For further information on the REES M.A., see **Master's Degree Program**.

\*GMAT scores should be submitted to both programs and will be considered in place of the GRE for REES M.A. admissions.

An additional resource for students in the REES/Business dual degree program is the **William Davidson Institute**, a private institute at the Ross School of Business. The Davidson Institute was established in 1992 with a mandate to assist countries in transition and emerging market economies.

## – REES/Law

Recognizing the growing need for specialists who combine training in law with expertise on the countries of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, the **Law School** and CREES have developed a dual degree program which leads to a Juris Doctor (J.D.) in Law and an M.A. in REES. This program has produced a number of legal specialists with in-depth knowledge of these societies.

The suggested program of study recommends that students spend their first year in law courses, with the second and third years consisting of a mix of course work in both REES and law programs. By coordinating the course requirements of the two programs, the dual degree program can be completed in three and one-half years. Students must satisfy the degree requirements of each school and should consult with advisors in each school for the precise graduation requirements for each degree and for information about course offerings. Further information about the REES/Law dual degree can be found on the **Law School's dual degree webpages**.

Sample REES/Law schedules (PDF): **Fall start** | **Summer start**

The application for admission is available through the **Law School** website.

For further information on the REES M.A., see **Master's Degree Program**.

\*LSAT scores should be submitted to both admissions offices and will be considered in place of the GRE for REES M.A. admissions.

## – REES/Public Policy

The dual master's degree program in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies and Public Policy seeks qualified students for careers in international policy in the countries of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The program incorporates training in the management and analysis programs at the **Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy (SPP)** with CREES's focus on language proficiency, regional expertise, and disciplinary training in the humanities and social sciences. Upon completion of the program, students will join a growing cohort of outstanding and highly trained policy specialists on the region.

The accelerated dual degree program leading to master's degrees in REES and Public Policy is designed to address problems in the social sector brought on by transformation of the region's state socialist systems. The minimum number of credits for the dual master's degree program is 54 credit hours, and a student may complete the requirements for both degrees in four terms. Students must complete REES and Public Policy core requirements as well as a master's project or thesis that integrates knowledge learned from both programs. Students will develop individualized plans of study with the advice of two faculty advisors, one from CREES and one from SPP. Further information about the REES/Public Policy dual degree can be found here and on the **SPP dual degree website**.

### REES M.A./M.P.P. Worksheet

For more information about SPP admissions and degrees, contact [sppadmit@umich.edu](mailto:sppadmit@umich.edu) or call 734.764.0453.

For further information on the REES M.A., see **Master's Degree Program**.

## – Other Dual Degree Options

In addition to the established dual degree programs in business, law, and public policy, qualified students may combine a REES M.A. degree with another U-M graduate or professional degree to create a dual degree program. In recent years, REES students have received dual degrees in REES and anthropology, economics, education, history, library and information science, natural resources and environment, political science, Slavic languages and literatures, and sociology.

Interested students must seek admission from both degree programs and are advised to work closely with advisors from both units to ensure that the requirements for both degrees are met in a timely manner.

For further information on student-initiated dual degree programs, please refer to Rackham Graduate School's **dual degree policies**.