

APRIL 5 2020

NEW ENGLAND OLYMPIADA OF SPOKEN RUSSIAN

hosted by Harvard University



Dear students:

We invite you to participate in the New England Regional Olympiada of Spoken Russian 2020, a unique and enjoyable event that gives students the opportunity to demonstrate their Russian language skills in making presentations and reciting poetry as well as familiarity with Russian-speaking civilization. This experience will help you gain confidence in your ability to speak Russian.

It's a chance to be recognized for your efforts in learning a very challenging language and an opportunity to interact with students of Russian from other colleges and universities in New England.

The Olympiada is open to all undergraduate students studying Russian as a foreign language (unfortunately, heritage or native speakers of Russian or other Slavic languages are not eligible to participate at this time).

You will be competing against others in four categories: 1st year, 2nd year, 3rd year and 4th year Russian.

Olympiada is sponsored by participating universities



The Format

1. Speech + questions

Short speech on one of the topics:

1st year students (2-4 mins):

- Я и мой мир
- Самый важный человек в моей жизни
- Город, где я никогда не буду жить

2nd year students (3-5 mins)

- В гостях хорошо, а дома лучше
- Мой любимый праздник
- Как трудно быть студентом!

3rd-4th year students (5-7 min)

- Легко ли быть молодым?
- Кто много видел, тот много знает
- Герой нашего времени

The speech will be evaluated based on its content, originality/creativity, the delivery, as well as grammatical and lexical accuracy.

Participants are allowed to use notes written on one side of a 3X5 index card during their speech. The judges will ask three questions at the end of the speech based on its content.

2. Poem Recitation (optional)

We encourage students to recite a poem by heart in Russian of their choice although this part of the Olympiada is optional.

3. Russian culture contest (optional)

Olympiada participants can take part in a written test of Russian culture and history (in English)

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It was great to meet students from other schools in New England who were also interested in learning Russian, and share our experiences about language study and applying our knowledge of Russian in various ways across different disciplines.

Caroline Dunbar, Smith College
Olympiada participant in 2019

When and Where

April 5, 2020

9:30 Students arrive, breakfast

10:00 Opening

10:15 Competition begins

12:30 Lunch

1:30 Trivia

14:10 Award ceremony and closing

Location:

CGIS South Building,
Harvard University,
1730 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, MA

Registration

Your Russian professor will register you for the Olympiada online. Participation is limited to three students per level per college.

Website

Visit our website for more information:
projects.iq.harvard.edu/russianolympiada

