



REPORT FORM FOR NETWORK ACTIVITIES

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Confidential

1. Lead Applicant

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Title (Dr, Professor, etc)	Dr		
Male	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Female	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Present appointment and employing institution

Lecturer in Russian, University of Birmingham

Role in activity

Principle Coordinator

2. Activity details

Type and title of activity

Type of Activity: Language Project, Title, Updating and Revision of Birmingham Postgraduate Russian Reading Course for Beginners : CN08BH-3

Location

University of Birmingham

Date

From: Jan 2009	To: Jan 2010
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Brief Description of activities carried out (please include or attach a confirmed list of participants)

Revise contents of Birmingham Graduate Russian 1 Course (CP1 – CREES postgraduate 1) for updated frequency count of words (1997) to reflect changes in culture and society since last revision (1980s).

1. Renew all texts in course book to reflect
 - a) changes in frequency count of words
 - b) Increasing diversity in graduate research in Russian Studies
 - c) Move away from exclusively Social Science perspective in PG research at Bham
2. Add more elements of modelling language and corresponding student exercises for grammar content

3. Achievement of stated aims and objectives

Please summarise how the stated aims and objectives of the activities proposed have been achieved and how these have helped to further the aims and objectives of CEELBAS.

Birmingham's PG Beginners Russian Course is acknowledged as the only comprehensive course of its kind in the UK. It is used in a number of institutions in the UK. As such the updating to reflect the evolving needs of the Area-studies community of students and teachers represents an important achievement in benchmarking – a 'standard work' has been renewed and is available for use or reference by all CEELBAS partners.

The course has evolved from a Economics Reading course in the 1960s into a general course for Social Science PGs giving a thorough grounding in the fundamentals of Russian grammar from the perspective of passive reading knowledge, and a broad base in Social Science lexis based on a Soviet-era frequency count. It can be used as a self-study course, or as an intensive class-based course. Particular attention is also given to summary skills in English – a crucial research skill that students need to develop.

Though the course texts were updated in the early 90s, there was a preponderance of texts about Soviet politics of the 1980s, the Stalin era, and the revolution of 1917. In order to appeal to a wider range of PG students it was necessary to update these texts. In addition, in order to increase the appeal and utility of the course for CEELBAS institutions it was necessary to include a variety of other types of texts reflecting the diverse research interests of today's Area-Studies Pgs. General texts likely to have greater relevance for students of a variety of Social Science approaches have been included.

In addition, the original compilers of this course put together a revised frequency count based on Russian newspapers in the late 1990s but at the time not utilized for the Course. This count has been incorporated in the core vocab of the Course and texts, along with suitable vocabulary pertaining to other areas less well represented in the press.

The Project Coordinator and a Project Officer have worked together to rewrite all vocabulary and texts in the Course according to the aims above. Because this is a beginner's course, extant texts cannot be incorporated or even adapted. One of the major strengths of the original course was the graded nature of the texts which all were meticulously crafted from a frequency count. This aspect has been maintained and enhanced by the inclusion of a large number of extra translation exercises relating to the topics of texts, and a variety of modelling language presented alongside grammar input.

4. Outcomes

Please indicate the outcomes and 'value for money' of activities carried out.

This Project has created a revised and renewed Beginners Russian Intensive Course for PGs for use within CEELBAS institutions.

The course has been extensively road-tested by PG student users and provides a model of best practice for further courses in fulfilling CEELBAS's aim of furthering the provision of Russian language training for postgraduate students.

CREES's expertise in developing Russian courses and materials for PGs is second to none in the UK. The project is unique and innovative in that it provides the only comprehensive and up-to-date course for PG students preparing for a text-based research in Russian

Value-for-money of the project can be demonstrated by the comprehensive nature of the materials created and their accessibility to other CEELBAS institutions.

5. Breakdown of total costs for workshops (please attach evidence of expenditure)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Key speakers (Travel, accommodation and subsistence)	
Postgraduate participation	
Room/equipment hire	
Administration costs	
Printing and publicity (including conference packs)	
Other (please specify	
Total expenditure	
Total contribution invoiced to CEELBAS	

6. Breakdown of total costs for projects (please attach evidence of expenditure)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Staff costs	£1079
Equipment/technical costs	
Administration costs	
Other (please specify	
Total expenditure	£1079
Total contribution invoiced to CEELBAS	£1079

7. Dissemination and further research

Please give details of dissemination of the outcomes of the workshop/project and any further research planned.

All project materials will be available online for use by CEELBAS institutions, either in a dedicated web-space or the CEELBAS site itself. The course is available from Birmingham to CEELBAS partners at cost as a bound folder, a 'publication' standard presentation of the course is planned in the future.

8. Signature and date

Applicant's signature

Jeremy Morris
Date: 05/02/2010

Institutional authorisation (if required)

Position:
Date:

Institutional CEELBAS Network Primary Contact

Tricia Carr
Date:

This form must be accompanied by an invoice from the applicant's institution, supported by receipts or other evidence of the expenditure incurred.

Please send the completed form to: CEELBAS Administrator, SSEES, UCL, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT and by email to: ceelbas-network@ssees.ucl.ac.uk.

