



## REPORT FORM FOR NETWORK ACTIVITIES

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**Confidential**

### 1. Lead Applicant

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### Present appointment and employing institution

SSEES (LECTURER IN RUSSIAN)
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### Role in activity

WORKSHOP LEADER
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### 2. Activity details

#### Type and title of activity

RUSSIAN ARCHIVE TRAINING SCHEME: METHODOLOGY WORKSHOP
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#### Location

MOSCOW, RUSSIA
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#### Date

31/3/10	8/4/10
From:	To:

#### Brief Description of activities carried out (please include or attach a confirmed list of participants)

<p>The award funded an 8-day visit to Moscow for 11 PhD students from a range of CEELBAS and UK institutions, during which were arranged tours of Moscow's two main libraries and all of the major state and Communist Party archives (RGASPI, GARF, RGALI). Individual student requests for visits to several other, more specialised archives and institutions relevant to their research (Russian GARF, Glinka Museum, Memorial society) were also granted, with individual staff members leading tours. Some time was also allotted to orientation of participants, several of whom were first-time visitors, in Moscow more generally (<i>please see attached workshop program and list of participants</i>).</p> <p>The mainstay of the program was the program of tours of major archives. Participants received copious information about the archive holdings and catalogues from senior archivists, who led tours lasting several hours. Students were also trained in the practicalities of gaining access to libraries and archives (everything from finding the archive and library locations, to form-filling and applications for reader's tickets), and were given hands-on training by experienced staff leaders in how to use finding aids to locate and order materials relevant to their research projects.</p> <p>All students were able by the end of the trip to research independently in archives and libraries, and the majority spent the final days of the trip working directly with primary sources that they themselves had ordered (the time required to order these documents is built into the program), which constituted excellent preparation for the longer research trips that all are planning to undertake next academic year.</p>
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### 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.

The signal achievement of this workshop is the fact that by the end of the week-long trip, students with no previous experience of Russian archives (and, for several, no previous experience of Russia at all) were able to navigate independently around Moscow and to conduct research in the archives and libraries independently. Given the bureaucratic complexity of the archives, this represents remarkable progress within a very short time, and student feedback attests to just how important it was for them to have received expert support and guidance in this, their first encounter with the archives (*please see attached sheet of extracts from this year's feedback*).

No less importantly, in gaining hands-on experience of working in the archives, students also learned what preparations they needed to undertake (e.g. language training; work with published catalogues prior to departure for Russia; research into published primary sources) before returning to Russia next academic year. Thus the workshop achieved its aim of maximising researchers' efficient use of the limited time that they have to complete archival fieldwork (especially now that the visa regulations have further restricted the maximum time that foreign citizens can spend in Russia).

Another key objective of the scheme is to generate a sense of community between doctoral researchers who are typically scattered around UK institutions. This year's cohort expressed gratitude for the chance to meet and make friends with researchers at a similar stage of doctoral study (and also to make the acquaintance of members of past cohorts currently researching in Moscow, at a reception organised during the trip). If past cohorts' experience is repeated, the bonds formed between this year's participants will continue to be of great intellectual and practical help when students return to Russia for their longer research trips next academic year. The November 2010 RATS workshop in Oxford (see box 7) should in the meantime help to cement these bonds further.

The workshop has thus fulfilled the CEELBAS aims of furthering interdisciplinary research, fostering methodological expertise, and building links across network partners.

### 4. Outcomes

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

This workshop, which was previously funded (at a considerably higher level) by AHRC seed funding, now represents truly outstanding value for money, giving a substantial proportion of the UK's Russian history researchers a week of intensive and indispensable training, on a notably small budget (approx. £6500 from CEELBAS, CRCEES and BASEES). Given that Moscow is one of the world's most expensive cities, and that accommodation and archive tour costs are mounting at a fast rate, RATS takes considerable pride in being able to provide this valuable training at minimal cost to funding bodies and at a manageable cost to students themselves.

Having amassed several years of workshop-planning experience prior to this year's trip, we are also confident that, by staying for 8 nights in reasonably priced accommodation, we have found a way to keep costs to a minimum and to make the training program sufficiently intensive while also allowing students some 'free' time to conduct their own independent research (not only does the latter contribute to the fulfilment of their overall research objectives, it also gives students an essential measure of confidence that, when they return to Russia alone, they can cope with the archives independently).

I would add that every effort was made by organisers to keep costs to an absolute minimum. The cheapest airfares were researched and purchased, from British Airways on this occasion (leading to considerable stress when BA announced strikes around the time of the trip's departure), and the choice of accommodation was made with an eye to value for money as much as for safety and convenience. In addition to making the program as intensive as possible (to keep accommodation costs down), I personally did the lion's share of administrative work myself to prevent administrator costs from being too high. Staff members also decided to forego per diems, bearing their subsistence costs themselves. All of this attests to our deep commitment to keep this indispensable workshop running beyond the end of our AHRC seed funding.

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

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<p><b>Key speakers (Travel, accommodation and subsistence)</b>  <b>Costs of 3 staff leaders</b></p>	
<p><b>Total staff costs</b></p>	<b>£2969.43</b>
<p><b>Postgraduate participation</b>  <b>Costs for 11 postgraduate students (see attached list of names):</b>  Eight flights London-Moscow £2260.00  One flight Edinburgh-London -Moscow £338.10  Two flights Glasgow-London-Moscow £676.20  Six twin (shared) rooms for 8 nights at the Izmailovo-Vega hotel £3024.00  11 visas procured through Scotts £1336.97</p> <p><b>Total postgraduate costs</b>  MINUS 10 x subsidised student fees (@ £400 each) and 1 x non-subsidised student fee ( £700). Total student fees paid: £4700</p>	<p><b>£7635.27</b>  <b>MINUS £4700</b>  <b>= £2935.27</b></p>
<p><b>Room/equipment hire</b>  Tour of RGASPI archive (6000 roubles)  Tour of GARF archive (4000 roubles)</p> <p>Total archive tour fees: 10000 roubles</p>	<b>£224.04</b>
<p><b>Administration costs</b></p> <p>Administrative work</p>	<b>£347.42</b>
<p><b>Printing and publicity (including conference packs)</b></p> <p>n/a</p>	
<p><b>Other (please specify)</b></p> <p>n/a</p>	
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>£6476.16</b>
<b>Total contribution invoiced to CEELBAS</b>	<b>£3076.16</b>

### 7. Dissemination and further research

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

Last year's RATS participants have applied for a grant from the student-led AHRC program, 'Beyond Text', to fund a workshop in Oxford in November 2010, at which both this year's and last year's cohorts, as well as experienced academic staff from across the CEELBAS network, will share methodological expertise and tips from their experience of using archives and other primary sources for Russian history research.

There is now a very active facebook group, in which several years' cohorts are participating, and which proved a very useful source of advice and discussion both before and after this year's workshop.

Over the coming months, I also plan to update and improve our existing online guide to the archives.

I am also drafting a grant application for funding to allow the Moscow and UK workshops and online guide to be linked to a broader digitisation project making Russian archive documents available on a website.

### 8. Signature and date

Applicant's signature

Date: 14/5/10

Institutional authorisation (if required)

Position:
Date:

Institutional CEELBAS Network Primary Contact

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](mailto:ceelbas-network@ssees.ucl.ac.uk).



## **List of staff and student participants of RATS 2010**

### **Staff:**

DR POLLY JONES, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

DR ALEX TITOV, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

DR ELIZABETH WHITE, UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

### **Students**

CEELBAS:

MALCOLM SPENCER, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

BORAM SHIN, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

MORAG MCIVOR, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CRCEES:

MARY BAILES, GLASGOW UNIVERSITY

AMMON CHESKIN, GLASGOW UNIVERSITY

EMILIE MURPHY, UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

ARIANE GALY, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

JULIUS REYNOLDS, UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS

OTHER UK UNIVERSITIES:

JEREMY PILCH, UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

HELEN POOLE, UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

HEATHER CAMPBELL, QUEEN MARY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

## **Detailed workshop program**

### Weds 31st March

20:00: Arrive Domodedovo airport on flight BA 874  
Transfer to Izmailovo-Vega hotel

### Thursday 1st April

Visit to Lenin Library and visit to State Public History Library

### Friday 2nd April

Guided tour of GARF (State Archive of the Russian Federation).

Evening: Drinks at the 'Foreign Historians Congress'.

### Saturday 3rd April

Work in Lenin library or public history library

### Sunday 4th April

Day at leisure

### Monday 5th April

10am: Guided tour of RGALI (State Archive of Literature and Art).

### Tuesday 6th April

10am: Guided tour of RGASPI (State Archive of Social and Political History; former Communist Party archive).

p.m. Side-trip to GARF RSFSR (RSFSR branch of the State Archive)  
OR Side-trip to Memorial Society library and archive

Evening: Drinks with alumni of the scheme currently researching in Moscow

### Wednesday 7th April

Return to one of the archives visited and work on the catalogues (RGASPI, GARF and RGALI are all open today); or individual visits to archives of more specialised interest.

### Thursday 8th April

13:00 (approx): Minibus transfer to Domodedovo airport  
17:15: Depart flight BA873

**As part of the thorough feedback gathered on all aspects of the trip, students were asked to sum up the RATS workshop in one sentence. Here are the group's descriptions of the trip:**

“An invaluable first introduction to the archives. This has long been an aspiration of mine and the RATS program ensured I was able to get the most out of the trip and maximise the time available. It will continue to benefit my future research I'm sure.”

“I now know exactly which archives I need for my research and how to request the documents in them. Knowing all of this before I even start my extended research trip will mean that I don't waste loads of time and effort when I am out in Russia getting to know how the system works.”

“The Russian Archive Training Scheme has been an invaluable experience for me; without it I would have no idea even how to start my archival research in Russia.”

“This was a fantastic trip and a great introduction to both Moscow, its archives and the individual catalogues, ordering and delivery processes. I would recommend RATS to any students planning to carry out archive research in Moscow, especially to those with a limited command of the Russian language as the help and advice given by the professors was invaluable.”

“A valuable opportunity not to be missed. Enormous fun and thoroughly beneficial for research objectives, especially if archive work is completely alien to you.”

“The RATS trip was an excellent opportunity to benefit from the guidance of experienced researchers. I found it an invaluable introduction to the Moscow archives and libraries and a great help in planning future research.”

“My RATS trip has been invaluable in giving me the confidence and the practical tools to be able to conduct my future PhD research more effectively.”

“Going on RATS was one of the best decisions I could have made for my PhD: it allowed me to fully understand the resources that are available in Moscow for my research and to become part of a network of great people with similar academic interests.”

“A very complete visit to the major archives, useful for research completion and generating ideas”

“RATS 2010 has enabled me to get to grips with my research; instead of futilely trying to imagine how I was going to conduct archival research, I now have a clear idea of how to proceed, what materials are available, where they are available, and what I need to do now to prepare for my fieldwork.”

“I wish they had something like the RATS in other departments as well”