

RESPECT IS THE KEY TO SAFETY AND COOPERATION!

Dear students! We are pleased to welcome you as students at Russian universities. To ensure a comfortable learning environment, we invite you to learn more about Russia as a multinational country!

Russia is a multinational and multi-religious country, home to over 190 peoples!

Russia is a federation, consisting of 89 constituent entities (republics, territories, regions, and districts), where each ethnic group has its own government, traditions, and national languages.

However, all are subordinate to the federal center and share a common language of interethnic communication – Russian.

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The main religions are Christianity (Orthodox Christianity), Islam, Buddhism, Judaism, and other traditional faiths.

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Why is it important to respect other cultures and religions?

- Over 190 ethnic groups live in Russia. All are diverse and unique. To prevent conflicts stemming from interethnic differences, it is important to consider the following:
- Respect for one another creates a safe environment, reducing the risk of discrimination and xenophobia.
- Insulting other people's traditions or religions can lead to serious consequences, including expulsion from the country.
- Knowledge of and respect for local traditions and customs helps one adapt more easily to a new environment.

How to show respect?

- Study the culture and traditions of the region where you study.
- Avoid offensive statements about religion, traditions, or customs.
- Try not to create stereotypes about a particular culture: all people are different.



What to do if you encounter discrimination?

If you are insulted, threatened or humiliated because of your nationality, religion or language, or you witness this:

- Stay calm – don't respond with aggression, this can make the situation worse.
- Collect evidence (recordings, photos, videos, screenshots or witness statements).
- Contact the dean's office of your university (the curator or the university administration) for help.

The Russian Federation has strict laws prohibiting incitement to hatred and the humiliation of people based on national, racial, religious, or other grounds.

Legal liability

Inciting hatred is punishable under several articles of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (CC RF) and the Code of Administrative Offenses of the Russian Federation (CAO RF) in Russia:

Article 148 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation «Insulting the feelings of believers».

- **What is prohibited:** publicly insulting people's religious beliefs, damaging religious sites.
- **Punishment:** fine (up to 500,000 rubles), forced labor, imprisonment (up to 3 years).

Article 280 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation «Public calls for extremism».

- **What is prohibited:** justifying terrorism, calling for the violent change of Russia's borders or the overthrow of the government, etc. (at a rally, online (social media, chats), or through the media – such actions may be punishable).
- **Punishment:** fine (up to 300,000 rubles), forced labor, or restriction of liberty (up to 5 years).



Legal liability

Article 282 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation «Incitement to hatred or enmity, humiliation of human dignity».

- **What is prohibited:** Insulting or inciting violence against people based on their nationality, religion, race, or other factors is prohibited (even online (social media, chats) can result in punishment).
- **Punishment:** fine (up to 500,000 rubles), forced labor, imprisonment (up to 5 years).

Article 282.1 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation «Organization of an extremist community».

- **What is prohibited:** creating a group that promotes hatred toward other peoples or religions.
- **Punishment:** up to 10 years in prison.

Article 282.2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation «Participation in an extremist organization».

- **What's Prohibited:** being a member of or supporting a group that incites hatred.
- **Punishment:** up to six years in prison.

Article 20.29 of the Code of Administrative Offenses of the Russian Federation «Distribution of extremist materials».

- **Prohibited:** forwarding, publishing, or storing prohibited materials.
- **Punishment:** fine (up to 3,000 rubles), administrative arrest.

Article 20.3.1 of the Code of Administrative Offenses of the Russian Federation «Propaganda of Nazism, display of prohibited symbols».

- **What is prohibited:** displaying a swastika, Nazi gestures, or slogans.
- **Punishment:** a fine (10,000 to 20,000 rubles) or arrest for up to 15 days.

Inciting and participating in interethnic and interreligious conflicts is severely punished in Russia.

Be polite, and you will be treated with respect!

