

Where Are They Now?
UF Russian Studies Alumni Profile

Alumna: *Marina Fayer (class of '10)*

Concentration(s) at UF: *(majors) BA in Russian, BS in Family, Youth, & Community Sciences; (minor) Business Administration; MA in International Business-Global Management Certificate*

Current occupation: *Associate at RBC Capital Markets*

Looking back, what aspects of your UF Russian studies proved particularly useful? *A combination of a wonderful department, curriculum, and extracurricular activities. The department was exceptional because it had small intimate class sizes in which students could build relationships and networks to really learn, study, and collaborate with each other. The professors were extremely knowledgeable, passionate about the material, and always available and willing to help their students, even to the extent of putting on extracurricular activities such as the study abroad program, movie viewings, the Russian Festival, one-on-one tutoring, Russian Club, and even hosting events at their homes. The overall experience was a cultural immersion that went above and beyond the classroom.*

With regard to your pursuit of Russian at UF, is there anything you didn't take or get that would have been useful? *N/A—I think the class selections were not only extremely interesting and innovative, but also quite challenging, even for native speakers.*

What did you do after you graduated? *After graduating from undergrad I stayed at UF to complete the Masters in International Business (MAIB) program, which allowed me to expand on my language studies and combine that with my business minor and internship experience in Russia to learn more about working with and in different countries. In the MAIB program I was able to travel to Budapest, Hungary and Buenos Aires, Argentina on class study tours with my fellow classmates. These were unforgettable experiences that gave us insight into global companies and operations abroad. After the program I accepted a job in JPMorgan's Corporate Development Analyst Program, and hope to one day use my Russian studies to work abroad.*

Are you still using your Russian? *Not for work, but conversationally I still do.*

What advice might you have for Russian studies students considering Russian as a major? *I would highly encourage it and recommend taking advantage of all the opportunities UF's Russian Department offers to learn as much as they can about the language, history, and culture.*

What advice might you have for Russian studies students on the verge of graduation? *I would encourage them to continue to practice what they have learned while in the program whether that be continue to watch Russian movies, shows, listen to Russian music, read Russian stories, or whatever they can so they continue to develop the skills they have learned.*

In a sentence or two, reflect on your experiences studying Russian at UF and its impact on you personally and/or professionally. *Studying Russian at UF gave me a home away from home and allowed me to: learn how to read and write in Russian, publish an article in an online journal, build a network of truly wonderful people, travel, study abroad, gain leadership experience, and grow both personally and professionally.*

If their interests or trajectories correspond to yours, would you be willing to help individual students with career, post-graduate, and/or networking questions?
Absolutely!