Program: ACTR Russian Language and Area Studies Program (RLASP), Summer

Ryan’s Majors: Chemical Engineering; Russian

Academic Life: The program was laid back enough, where I still learned a lot, but I had enough time to go and explore the city and to get a lot of real-world language experience. I enjoyed all of my teachers and I made a lot of Russian friends, along with new American friends.

Housing: I lived in a host family. I had a host mom and dad, along with two host brothers who were my age. I recommend a host family because every day you get language practice, along with learning about family life in a foreign culture. Additionally, you get to try all kinds of interesting, new, foreign foods!

First Impressions: I was so very excited to be in Russia. St. Petersburg was exactly how I expected to be.

Most Memorable Moments: The first time stepping onto Red Square in Moscow was one of my most memorable moments.

Home Away From Home: St. Petersburg became like a second home for me. My host family, and new Russian and American friends, all became very close with me. Even after just eight weeks, saying goodbye was extremely challenging.

“If you’re considering the RLASP program, definitely do it! This has been the greatest summer of my life so far!”

Ryan, left, at Red Square and in front of St Basil’s Cathedral in Moscow.