



# Foreign Student Guide

start the journey to your next degree

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# WELCOME TO MAI



## Dear students,

I am proud to welcome you to The Moscow Aviation Institute, National Research University!

You're opening one of the most important chapters of your life: your career starts here. MAI will provide you not only with advanced theoretical knowledge, but also with skills in systematic thinking, research experience, design and project management in high-tech industries. Remember that each hour of study can save months of your future work.

We hope your university years will be memorable. MAI provides a great variety of activities you may join with your fellow students. I encourage you to make the most of your education and student life. To think and act as a future aviation and aerospace professional. As a person, who will build the future itself.

**Mikhail A. Pogosyan**

Rector of Moscow Aviation Institute



# scale new heights

## 12 faculties

in 6 cities

## 22000 students

including 600+ international students

## Unique R&D resources and tech park

- 1.5m USD in R&D each year
- 140+ research facilities
- 5 student design bureaus
- Mission control center
- Airdrome
- Experimental plant
- Business-development center

## Since 1930

Providing education and research among all the life cycle stages of aviation and aerospace technology

## 1800 teachers

incl. 400+ professors

## Alumni an honour

### 50+ research

and members of the Russian Academy of Sciences

### 250 heads of design

and CEO in aerospace organizations

### 150+ state workers

ambassadors and business representatives

### 17 rectors

of higher educational institutions

## 70 bachelor

or specialist programs, incl. 5 international

## 25 master

programs, including 4 international

### 22 astronauts

### 150+ honored pilots

and heroes of USSR and Russia



# INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

MAI has a truly miscellaneous community. We welcome international students from all around the world. There are more than 2,000 international students from over 50 countries among our graduates. We are enhancing academic mobility of our students, teaching and research staff, encouraging them to work worldwide.

International Office aims at helping international students, guiding them throughout the whole educational process from the moment they apply until their graduation.

## We're here for you to help with:

- Documents and issues related to your study and visit to Russia
- Accommodation
- Joining sports clubs and other activities
- Arrangement of additional Russian language classes

Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions!

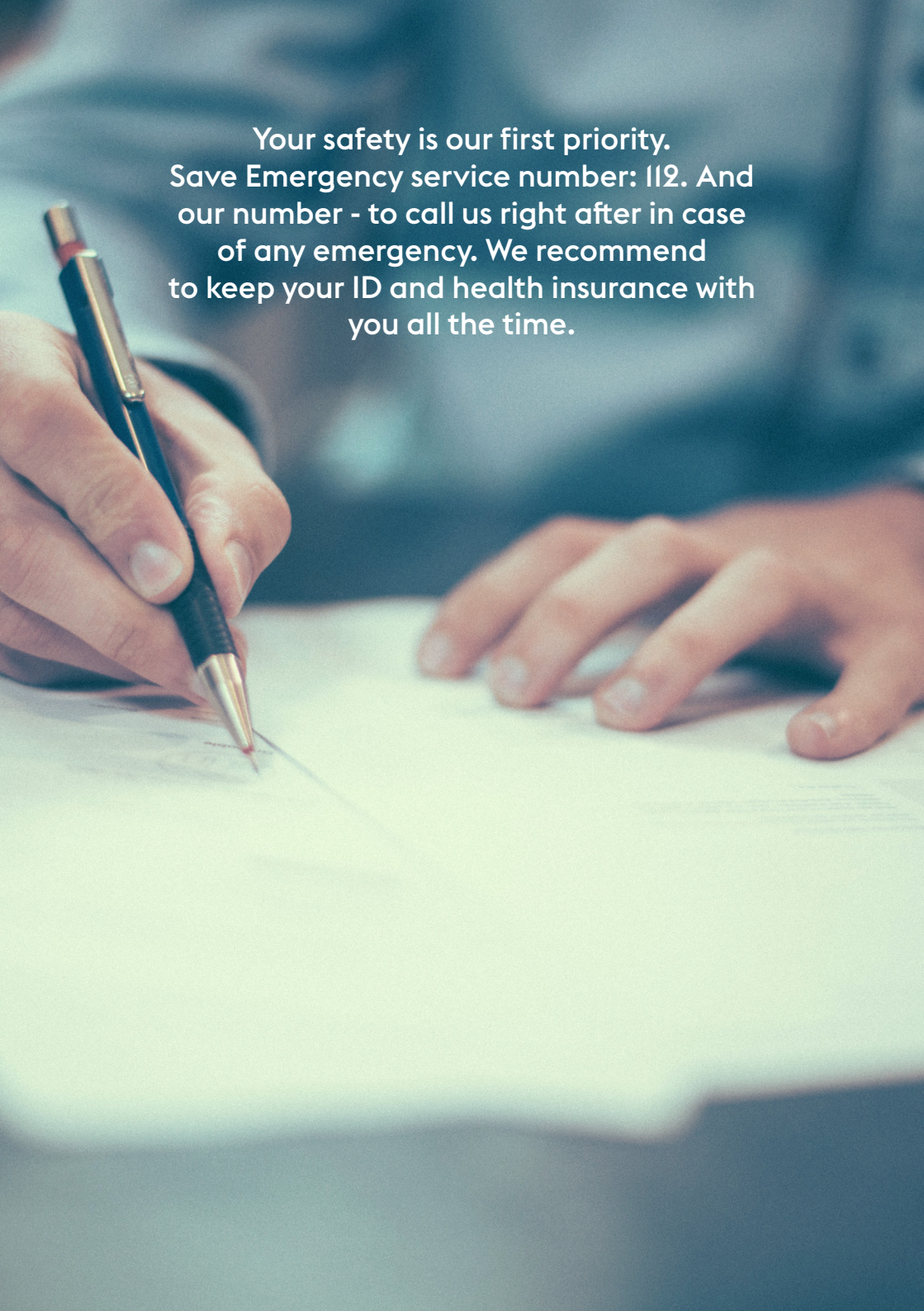
### Contacts

 +7 499 158-00-27 (Eng)

 Mon - Fri 10 am - 5 pm

 int@mai.ru

 GAK (Main Administrative bld.) room 313



Your safety is our first priority.  
Save Emergency service number: 112. And  
our number - to call us right after in case  
of any emergency. We recommend  
to keep your ID and health insurance with  
you all the time.



## ON ARRIVAL CHECKLIST

### □ First visit to International office

**With you:** ID (passport), migration card, visa (if you have it), 4 photos 3x4 cm

**Where:** main campus, GAK, room 324

There you sign your Educational Agreement and undergo procedures to get:

- registration as a foreign visitor
- student ID & student pass (will be provided within a month)
- tuition fee invoice

### □ Accommodation (if provided)

International office representative guides accompany you to the offices in the main campus where you get:

- dormitory pass
- accommodation fee invoice

### □ Tuition fee invoice

**Where:** International office (GAK, room 324)

In 1-2 weeks after you sign Educational Agreement you receive your copy signed by MAI authorities and tuition fee invoice.

### □ Payment

**With you:** tuition and accommodation fee invoices

**Where:** GAK, room IO9 (cash only)

Please, perform payments within 10 days after you get the invoices and keep paid invoices until the end of the pre-paid period.

### □ Student social card

**With you:** student ID

**Where:** GAK, room 305 / 313A (International office representative can help you with the application)

Social card provides significant discount on public transport. You pay for a month and get an unlimited number of rides then. For subway: "charge" it right there at a cash desk. For on-ground public transport: ask us for locations. Also some pharmacies, grocery and other stores may provide small discounts for social card holders (sometimes student ID works as well).

### □ Schedule

Is provided by the International office. Autumn semester starts on September 1 and spring semester in early February. Dates of Pre-university training program may vary. National holidays: Dec 31 - Jan 7, Feb 23, Mar 8, May 1, May 9, Jun 12 and Nov 4 (exact dates may vary).





# MAI LIFE

Home assignments are done? Then it's the time to impress us with your talents and to make new friends! Enrich our community with your culture, express yourself and make the most of your university years.

## SPORTS

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**50 sport clubs**  
and 8 on-campus sport facilities

**More than 60**  
Olympic, World and European champions

More than 60 Olympic, World and European champions started their careers at MAI sport clubs. Available sports:

- Aerobics
- Aikido
- Arm wrestling
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Boxing
- Capoeira
- Chess
- Climbing
- Dancesport
- Duel shooting
- Fencing
- Fitness
- Football
- Golf
- Greco-Roman wrestling
- Gymnastics
- Hockey
- Indoor soccer
- Judo
- Karate
- Melee
- Mountain bike
- Powerlifting
- Okinawa-karate
- Orienteering
- Rowing
- Rugby
- Sailing
- Scuba diving
- Shooting
- Ski race
- Skiing
- Snowboarding
- Sport tourism
- Swimming
- Table Tennis
- Taekwondo
- Tennis
- Thai Boxing
- Volleyball
- Wrestling
- Weightlifting
- Yoga





Learn more at  
[en.mai.ru/education/life/](http://en.mai.ru/education/life/)

## ARTS

### International Student Cultural Center

Join us in music, dance, photography, cooking or crafts. Or encourage us to join you in whatever you like to do. ICC has its own radio and a recording studio. Every year ICC participates in different festivals, events, meetups and roundtables, exhibitions, and more. Let's prove that fun is cross-cultural!

### Student Media Center

Try your hand in journalism, photojournalism, sound and video production. Media Center arranges meetings with media professionals, photography and videography workshops.

## SCI AND OTHER

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### Lambda IT club

Club offers free programming workshops, often conducted by the guests from industry leading companies such as Microsoft, Google, IC, Rambler, Mail.Ru Group, etc. All students are invited regardless their level.

### Aerospace Science Week

Main event in Russian Aerospace Science. In addition to speakers presentations ASW includes two notable events — International conference “Aerospace” and all-Russian competition of scientific and technical projects and projects “Youth and the future of aerospace”. Representatives of the leading Russian and foreign enterprises and research institutes, scientists, employees and students of the best universities take part in these events every year.

[aeroweek.ru](http://aeroweek.ru)

### Volunteer center

Volunteers participate not only in university activities but also in collaboration with local charity funds.

There are “event volunteering” (organizational assistance in running cultural and sports events) and “social volunteering” (aid for the people in difficult circumstances) as well.

Other events you can find on [en.mai.ru/education/life/](http://en.mai.ru/education/life/)

# LANGUAGE

## Russian language

National language of the Russian Federation

## More than 30

languages with official status

## English and German

the most popular foreign languages

## More than 100

spoken languages

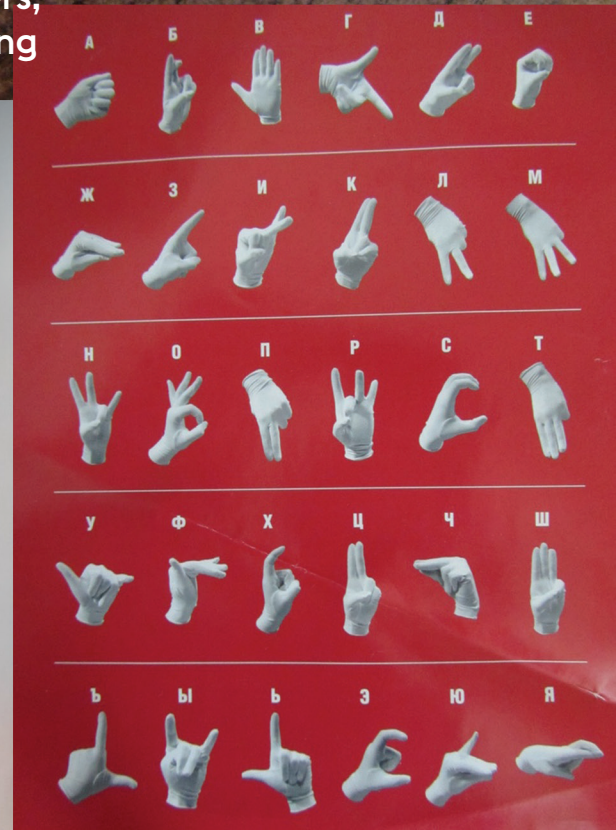
Russian language is not easy to learn, but it is beautiful, expressive and remarkably rich. As with any language verbal environment helps a lot.

Department of Russian language provides Russian language courses for international students as well as for Russian students.

It is possible to enroll in Russian language course even if your program is in English. Please, contact International Office, because options may vary.



## Russian alphabet: letters, Braille and fingerspelling







### MAIN CAMPUS

- Campus building
- Upper walkway
- Dormitory
- Cafe
- Sport facility
- KPP (gatehouse)
- Parking
- Aviatsionnyy institut station
- From metro Sokol:  
Buses 412, 456, M1  
Trolleybuses 70,82
- Konstantina Tsareva station
- From m. Voykovskaya:  
Trams 23, 30, 31
- From m. Schukinskaya:  
Trams 30, 31





# AROUND

Moscow is one of the world's largest cities. And behaves like they all do:

- It never sleeps. There are night bus routes, overnight stores and pharmacies.
- It's huge. Traffic and rush hours are hard. Wise route planning can reduce your travel time significantly.
- Many people speak English, but no one know every inch of the city. In a word: navigation apps and good old paper maps win.



# TRANSPORT

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## Public transport

Transport network is advanced - you can get anywhere in Moscow and region using public transport. General information: [weheart.moscow/publictransport](http://weheart.moscow/publictransport)

Moscow Metro is one of the world's most reliable subway systems and a monument of architecture at the same time. Well, and a bomb shelter. So, if you need to know for sure your travel time, or it's too cold to wait for a bus, or aliens are coming into attack, or you just bored - take the train.

## Before your student card is ready

For both metro, bus, trolley bus, tram and suburban trains you can buy a Troika card at a cash desk in the Metro. Or "upload" it to your phone in a local phone carrier office (phones with NFC only). [troika.mos.ru/en](http://troika.mos.ru/en)

MC PayPass may be used directly at some station entrances.

## Rentals

Learn about city bikes and parkings: [mos.ru/en/services/advisor/cat/transport](http://mos.ru/en/services/advisor/cat/transport)

Besides worldwide (e.g. Sixt) and local car rentals, car sharing is now spinning up in Moscow. But still there are no websites in English. Pickup locations map (Russian): [cars-sharing.ru](http://cars-sharing.ru)



**Tip: there're no zones in Moscow. You're paying for your ride when getting in. Keep your tickets with you.**



## PHONE CARRIERS

Sooner or later you'll decide to get a local SIM card, and there are 4 main carriers:

- MTS [en.mts.ru](http://en.mts.ru)
- Beeline [moskva.beeline.ru/en-us/welcome/general-information](http://moskva.beeline.ru/en-us/welcome/general-information)
- Megafon [english.moscow.megafon.ru](http://english.moscow.megafon.ru)
- Tele2 [en.tele2.ru](http://en.tele2.ru)

Google translated Russian versions of these websites may make more sense.

We'd recommend to pick plans focused on mobile data. Skype is cheaper, and Hangouts (Facebook, FaceTime, etc) are free to call wherever, while plans focused on international calls usually lack other benefits.

## MONEY

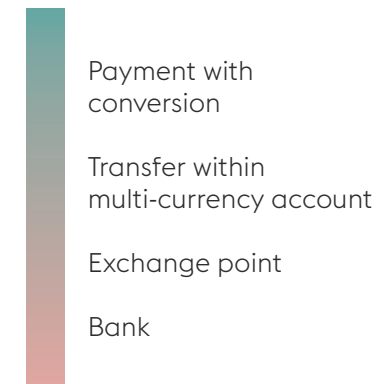
Cash is always accepted. Visa, MC and AE are mostly accepted, Discovery - more rarely. You may exchange USD and EUR in almost any bank (and bank offices are everywhere), for other currencies it's better to check bank websites.

Non-residents may open accounts in Russian banks. Notice:

- Tinkoff (good online services) [tinkoff.ru/eng/](http://tinkoff.ru/eng/)
- Alfa (good in-office services)
- Raiffeisen (good in-office services)
- Sberbank (largest number of offices / ATM)

### Conversion rate

check the bank website to be sure



Payment with conversion

Transfer within multi-currency account

Exchange point

Bank



## Navigation

Navigation services from Yandex are more precise in Russia than other. Full list: [yandex.ru](http://yandex.ru) (Russian).

- Yandex.Maps: Google Maps analogue
- Yandex.Metro: subway map and route planner
- Yandex.Trains (Russian): suburban trains schedule
- Yandex.Taxi: Uber analogue
- Yandex.Transport: real time on-ground public transport tracker. Doesn't see all of it, but a lot.

The only way to pay for street parking in Moscow is by using apps (there are no machines). This state app proceeds payments, shows eligible locations, prices, timer.

## MAI

App is in Russian now, but you can get it for campus map anyway.

## Social

Facebook is barely more popular in CIS than local CIS social network VK (Vkontakte). Same team also created an astonishing messenger Telegram. [vk.com](http://vk.com)

## Language

- reDict - English-Russian dictionary
- Lingvo - multilingual dictionary from ABBY (online: [lingvolive.com](http://lingvolive.com))
- Notice online user-generated dictionary: [multitrans.ru](http://multitrans.ru)



## Popular apps

Worldwide-known services such as Google Maps, Uber or Waze are working in Moscow as well.



Moscow City  
m. Mezhdunarodnaya

# MOSCOW

Full Moscow city guide would take a few books, and you can find a lot of them in stores. Almost any type of activity you may imagine is available. The hardest thing is to choose.

No guidebook is missing Red Square, Tretyakov gallery or Bolshoy Theater. So let us introduce some sights and events which may not holding first position in their kind, but are still interesting.



# SPACE-RELATED

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## Memorial Museum of Cosmonautics

m. V.D.N.Ha.

[kosmo-museum.ru](http://kosmo-museum.ru)

Explore the history of flight, astronomy, space exploration and technology, space in the arts.

Cosmonauts Alley will lead you to the museum, Monument to the Conquerors of Space, and statue of one of the space science pioneers Konstantin Tsiolkovsky.

## Moscow Planetarium

m. Barrikadnaya

[planetarium-moscow.ru/en](http://planetarium-moscow.ru/en)

One of the world biggest planetariums. 4D-movie theater, “Lunarium” interactive museum, meteorite collections, two observatories with Zeiss telescopes (D300mm and D400mm - biggest in Moscow) and Big Star Hall allowing to see more than 9000 celestial bodies in motion.

## Star City (Zvyozdny Gorodok)

About 25 km NE from Moscow

<http://www.zvezdnygorodok.ru> (Russian)

<http://www.gctc.su>

No relations with DC comics (sorry, fans). But real and functioning Gagarin Research and Test Cosmonaut Training Center. Meetings with astronauts and attractions where you can feel one yourself. Machines, gear, that space food in tubes and much more.



Monument  
to the Conquerors of Space,  
statue of K. Tsiolkivsky





## ARTS AND ACTIVITIES

### The Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts

m. Kropotkinskaya  
[arts-museum.ru](http://arts-museum.ru)

Always hosting a variety of temporary exhibitions from museums and private collections from all around the world.

### Chekhov International Theatre Festival

[chekhovfest.ru/en/](http://chekhovfest.ru/en/)

Main performing arts international festival, holds annually. You won't forget it. Ever.

### Gorky Park + Neskuchny sad + Garage

m. Oktyabrskaya  
[garagemca.org/en](http://garagemca.org/en)

Modern park with a cafes, sport grounds, events, an outdoor cinema theater, social dances and icerink in winter. Classical English garden. Museum of Contemporary Art. Same area.

### Warm outdoor pool in winter

m. Park Culturey  
[chayka-sport.ru](http://chayka-sport.ru) (Russian)

All year round outdoor swimming pool. Not only one in Moscow.

### Skiing in summer

Near Moscow  
[Snej.com](http://Snej.com) (Russian)

Just a 24,000 m<sup>2</sup> all year round indoor skiing centre.

### Quests

[moscow.claustrophobia.com/en/](http://moscow.claustrophobia.com/en/)

Largest but not the only one questroom brand.

### Velonotte

<http://www.velonotte.com>

We love bike nights as the rest of the world. Try it in a city with a 30+ km radius!

### Running!

<http://www.parkrun.ru> (Russian)  
<http://moscowmarathon.org/en/>

Actually you don't need an event to run, but there are a lot of them.

### Where to browse

[afisha.ru](http://afisha.ru) (Russian, but worth translation)

The most complete schedule of all the cultural and entertainment events.



# AUTHENTIC STUFF

## Russian food:

- **Teremok**  
Right in MAI (GUK) and in many places around the city. Bliny (pancakes) with everything you can imagine.
- **Tyotya Motya**  
Sokolniki park, Sokolnicheskogo Kruga pr-d, 7.  
Describe themselves as a place with Black sea shore kitchen.
- **Grably**  
[grabli.ru/en](http://grabli.ru/en)  
Tverskaya st. 18kl.

Tip: “Blin” means not just a type of food but something like “damn it” being said with a proper expression.

## Souvenirs and USSR vintage:

- **Vernisazh**  
[kremlin-izmailovo.com/territoriya/vernisazh-v-izmajlovo](http://kremlin-izmailovo.com/territoriya/vernisazh-v-izmajlovo)  
Souvenirs, arts and crafts, marché aux puces near Izmailovsky Kremlin
- **Mark station**  
20 min train-ride from Savelovsky Rail Terminal.  
Weekend-only marché aux puces for locals. Tough and Russian-speaking vintage lovers may find true pearls there.





Let's stay  
in touch

-  [en.mai.ru](http://en.mai.ru)
-  7 499 158-0027
-  [int@mai.ru](mailto:int@mai.ru)
-  [maiglobal](https://www.facebook.com/maiglobal)
-  [mai\\_int](https://twitter.com/mai_int)
-  [newsmai](#)
-  [mai\\_university](https://www.instagram.com/mai_university)
-  [universitymai](https://www.youtube.com/universitymai)



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