

Shraddha Kamdar chats up Ekaterina Nikolaeva, admissions officer, St Petersburg's Paediatric Medical Academy, and finds out why Russia is a popular choice

rendezvous with russia

WHY is medical studies in Russia so popular?

In India, if you don't score well in the exams or entrance tests, you reach a dead end. Russia is popular for its easy admission terms and affordable quality education. Annually, 700 to 800 Indian students join Russian medical universities. Russia is a known destination and not a centre that's come up in recent years.

WHY do Indian students find Russian universities so appealing?

Admission in Russia is on first-come-first-serve basis. There are no conditions of merit. We absorb students till seats are exhausted. No other tests are

applicable. Cost of education falls between Rs 1,50,000 to 2,00,000 per year, inclusive of hostel fees. Post the second year, students may pay in two installments.

WHAT about cost of living and living conditions?

Living expenses vary between Rs 7,000 to 10,000 per month (including food, travel and pocket expenses). Though Indian food is available, it might be expensive for students. Most Indians prefer to cook in the hostel common kitchen.

WHAT about eligibility?

According to the rules of Medical Council of India (MCI), one must pass the HSC

exams with at least 50 per cent with physics, chemistry and biology. The MCI issues an eligibility certificate to study abroad. The first year's fees must be paid in advance.

WHAT about scholarships?

There are few scholarships and those too are stringent. They can be availed of only after the first year.

WHICH courses are popular with Indians?

The standard MBA is most popular. Of the other 40 PG specialisations, orthopaedics, ophthalmology, oncology and general surgery are popular. In dentistry, orthodontistry and oral surgery are

popular.

WHAT about knowledge of Russian? Is it essential?

Though the medium of instruction is English, Russian is part of the MBBS curriculum as, during clinicals, students must interact with locals.

WHAT is the course duration?

The MBBS course is of about seven years including a year of compulsory internship. Course content is similar to that in India but with emphasis on practical training.

WHAT are the post-MBBS options?

Russian medical degrees



have global recognition.

Graduates are eligible to appear for the UK's PLAB exam as well as USMLE in USA. The General Medical Council Of Ireland (Dublin) also grants doctors holding Russian medical degrees temporary registration. In India, the Medical Council of India (MCI) validates Russian medical degrees subject to passing of the 'Screening Test' after completion of the course.

ALSO OF INTEREST

University
College
Northampton
offers
scholarships for
studying in the
UK. Pg 3

