

Excerpts from student reports

"It was novel and useful to get out of the lecture hall and actually experience the places and history being studied in quite such a literal way. The trip itself was exhilarating and fascinating: including visiting imperial sites from the time of the Tsars, palaces, fortresses, power stations and all alongside the natural beauty of travelling around the Baltic Sea on multiple boats, visiting three islands in three different countries within a week. I hope to collaborate further with the European University of St. Petersburg and other institutions in the Baltic region working with the invaluable network of interesting and interested individuals who took part in the summer school". Kirsty Kay

"All in all the summer school program was very extensive, and as such it was relatively demanding. However, the experience was an extremely positive one and it left me with a good impression of the cultural issues of the area as well as a good understanding of the landscapes and the nature of the area as well. On top of everything else, the summer school was full of great people. The other participants as well as the professors were the ones who, in the end, made the summer school an unforgettable experience". Reeta Kangas

"By seeing much of the emblematic Russian heritage surrounding the Gulf of Finland we could visit those places which were familiar to many of us from our secondary school or university studies already. But to see and learn about these gems live gave an enormous surplus to all of us. The sailors of Kronstadt (1917) or the battle of Narva (1700) may be well known to many people from history textbooks, but to physically reside in these venues while learning about their historical significance and future perspectives from local experts is a unique chance to have". Kövecses László

"This school gave me a chance to conduct both individual and collective investigation and to receive new research skills needed for fieldwork and doing research on the object. Besides, spending time with other students and teachers enabled me to communicate with people coming from different places and studying other disciplines. In general, I consider this summer school as absolutely successful project which gave me a lot to learn and analyze as well as provided me with new emotions. This was the event which should be held again". Elena Kochetkova

"The summer school program provided a comprehensive understanding on Russian history, culture as well as political state of play in the Baltic region. The interdisciplinary and multi-faceted nature of program projected and realized by European University of Saint Petersburg has been a great inspiration for its ability to transmit history both from Russian European perspectives. Therefore, it has been an invaluable gain for each participant in their academic and professional lives". Seyhan – Sylvia SARICA

"What I found most interesting about the Summer School was not the program but the people I met during it. The participants were from many different countries and had very different backgrounds and I learned very much by just having casual conversations. There were also many more serious discussions that provided me with new information and food for thoughts – many of which I will probably be thinking about for a long time. These encounters made the Summer School a truly memorable experience, even more so since we shared such a variety of experiences, from getting up at 6 AM to observe Crohnstadt from the ferry deck in rain and sleet (worth it!), to celebrating a birthday with sparkling wine onboard a sightseeing boat in St. Petersburg – and spending so much time on a bus that it started to feel like home". Elina Maaniitty