



### Arul Prasath Kolandasamy India

Faculty of Radiophysics



Russia is a completely uncharted territory for me. I've never thought of it before, never seen it on pictures, never heard the language or seen the Cyrillic alphabet. That's why when I arrived I was surprised with the way the Cyrillic looked, especially its handwritten form.

The coldest weather I experienced was 38 °C below zero. I had a jacket on but it was too thin. I wanted to buy some outerwear but it was very expensive. Then my Russian friends took me to the local market where I bought a cheap winter jacket. The thing is that even when I wear the jacket I can't stay outside for longer than 45 minutes.

Russians are very good-looking, everyone looks like a top-model! The similarities between Russian and Indian mentality are the reason I feel so comfortable here.





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Hoang Thi Hong Trang Vietnam

Faculty of Philology

Before I came to Tomsk I studied in Moscow and that's why everything was new to me here at first. There was way more snow than in Moscow and it was much colder. There were a lot of Vietnamese students in Moscow and here in Tomsk I was the only one.

Now I prefer Tomsk to Moscow because people in Tomsk are kind. The weather here is very interesting: it's very cold in winter and very hot during summer.

My favorite place in the city is Lagerniy Sad, which is a big grove. You can see the beautiful Tom River from there too.



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### Eva Burbo Lithuania

Faculty of History



Tomsk is a very compact city. What is more, it is a comfortable and pleasant place to live. There is no rush and all is in order. Even if you have many things to do, going outside and breathing some fresh air can help you feel freedom from your worries. There is a clear distinction between work and leisure; it helps you relax and feel that you are living.

I love the riverbank. I had never seen ice drifting, so the sight struck me a lot! The Tom River is not small, and the scale of the ice drift is simply spectacular. Huge blocks of ice moving, birds flying around – just incredible!



### Davide Maria Tesauro Italy

Faculty of Philology



When we were going from the airport to Tomsk by university bus, I saw many trees and a big forest. Then we entered the city and I realized that Tomsk was actually very European with a lot of stores. Not far from the residence hall where I live now I saw wooden houses and noticed that the European part of the city and its Russian part are different.

One of my favorite places is the University Grove. I like walking among trees. I find it very interesting that there's a park that surrounds the university and that there are squirrels running around.

Marshrutka is a very peculiar mode of transport for me. These small buses look nothing like buses in Italy or in any other country in Europe.



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### Jakob Schnetz Germany

Faculty of Journalism



Tomsk didn't seem very exotic to me at first. It's just another city that maybe looks a bit different, and the language is different, but it's still just a city.

But as a photographer I immediately noticed that the light in Tomsk is different. Because of a different sun angle the light is more yellow and dispersed than in Germany. My professor in Hanover jokes that there is a special light hole above Germany, because the light there is one of the most unremarkable on the planet. When I walk down the streets of Tomsk I enjoy its special light a lot.

My favorite place in Tomsk is the riverbank between Lagerniy Sad and the bridge. It's very quiet there and you can experience what they call the vastness of Russia. It was where I took my first picture in Tomsk.



### Ju Chuanya China

Faculty of Philology



I like Tomsk so much because it's a quiet city. I'm getting a quality education, constantly growing personally, interacting with the best professors in the world, and having fun with my friends! I feel at home because the Tomskovites are very friendly.

Over the time I've been studying in Tomsk I found a couple of places that became my favorite places for walks. One of them is the Riverwalk along the Tom. Another one is of course TSU. I'm at the University almost every day but I still find something new and unusual from time to time. And the squirrels on campus are adorable!



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Melih Buyukkoroglu Turkey

Faculty of Foreign Languages

When I first arrived to Tomsk it was raining and the city looked so romantic I couldn't help but feel happy I was finally here. The city mesmerized me. The wind was blowing and trees were moving as if dancing. The next day I went to TSU.

The University Grove and the main building struck me with their grandeur. This is what a real imperial University should look like!

Tomsk is a college town and there are people from countries other than Russia who study and work here. Tomsk is where I heard various languages spoken among people from all over the world. Here I made friends with people from different countries. I have a lot of Chinese friends now, we live very close and often get together to cook.



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### Lucie Nadine Malartre France

Faculty of Foreign Languages



In France we think that it's extremely cold in Russia and it's true, that's why it was pretty difficult for me to be here.

But I was very impressed with the change of seasons. The forest changes its colors. It's very pretty. In France seasons change too, but it's not as pretty as here. Tomsk is very different from French cities. I came from a city in France that is as big as Tomsk, but much older. The architecture is different there; the buildings are older and taller.

My favorite place in Tomsk is the Riverwalk. It's so cool that one can sit and look at the river right in the center of the city.



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Mohamed Buizem Morocco

Faculty of Physics

There is no fall or winter, it's always summer in Morocco. The first time I ever visited Tomsk was in fall and the leaves already turned yellow. It made quite an impression on me. I was also impressed by how many layers of clothes one needs to wear to stay warm. It makes you look really big...

My favorite place in Tomsk is Novosobornaya Square. It's close by the University and my residence hall. You can often see street musicians performing there. I sometimes run into people I know while walking on Novosobornaya Square and we go someplace else together.

People who come to Tomsk to study know for sure what they want to do in the future. Everyone here seems to have a plan, everyone is very ambitious. This is really cool! It creates a certain atmosphere here.



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Hilesha Shaziane Humphreys

Antigua and Barbuda

Faculty of Journalism

I like Tomsk a lot, I like walking on Novosobornaya Square. It's especially pretty during winter when it's covered with snow. It's a miracle! I only saw snow before on TV and on pictures, but in Tomsk was where I saw it for the first time with my own eyes. I think there's nothing else in the world that I like more than snow. I am an islander, a person who has never left the Caribbean — and look at me now! I'm playing with snow just like I used to play with sand. I feel at home here. The only insignificant difference is the temperature and clothes.



Alina Guzovskaya Kazakhstan

**Biological Institute** 

Winter in Siberia is rarely sunny and warm, but it's definitely charming. I love December. I was far away from my family on the eve of 2016 but that night I will remember forever.

After the clock struck midnight my friends and I went to the city's main square. And this was where I met HIM! He was standing alone, looking for his friends. Our eyes met... We ran into each other on campus a couple of times over the next two months. And then he came to my place with a huge bouquet. We are still together.



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