

Open International Olympiad Exam Guidelines
for foreign school students in 2024/25 academic year in ‘Academic Singing (in Russian)’
at St Petersburg University

Applicants should submit their admission documents in digital format via their Personal Account indicating the file type correspondent to the respective document. A motivation letter should be in ***.doc(x)** format.

Applicants should provide their official documents and credentials in legible copies in Russian or translated into Russian (translations into Russian have to be notarised by either a Russian notary or the Russian Federation embassy/consulate in the foreign country or the embassy/consulate of the foreign country in Federation unless otherwise specified in the international treaties of the Russian Federation).

No No.	Documents / documented facts to be evaluated	Evaluation criteria	Score of points
1.	Motivation letter <i>Should be uploaded to the applicant's Personal Account with the indication of the file type 'Motivation letter'</i>	The criteria are specified in section 'Motivation Letter'	0 -10
Maximum score for the section			10
2.	Practical creative admissions test	The criteria are specified in Section 2 'Practical Creative Admissions Test'	0 -60
Maximum score for the section			60
3.	Language reference certificate for Olympiad working language		
	Test in Russian conducted in the form of an interview	Criteria are specified in section 3 'The Olympiad working language reference level'	0 -30
Maximum score for the section			30
TOTAL			100

Section 1. MOTIVATION LETTER

The motivation letter is an obligatory constituent element of the Olympiad.

Requirements to the motivation letter content and design

1. The motivation letter must be written independently in the Olympiad working language.

2. It must be at least 2 pages long and must not exceed 4 pages, the font must be straight Times New Roman with the size 12 and one and a half line spacing.
3. The motivation letter should contain reasons for the applicant's interest in the subject of the Olympiad, as well as the justification of the ability to master the subject of the Olympiad. Participants must:
 - point out the area of their interests and its relation to the subject of the Olympiad; provide reasons for studying the subject of the Olympiad;
 - describe their academic, creative, and professional experience that the applicant has obtained in the field of the Olympiad subject;
 - provide individual achievements in the chosen area of knowledge: creative projects, participation in contests, festivals, work-shops, publications, etc.
 - describe their theoretical and practical skills that they expect to develop in the future, as well as describe their planned further professional/academic development or the field of application of the acquired skills and knowledge.

**Evaluation criteria
(0- 10 points)**

1. Confirmed level of proficiency in the Olympiad working language – from 0 to 2 points;
2. Meeting the requirements to the formatting and content – from 0 to 2 points;
3. Presence of academic and profession-associated experience in the field of the Olympiad subject – from 0 to 2 points;
4. Interest (explanation of goals) in mastering the field of the Olympiad subject – from 0 to 2 points;
5. Prospects of implementing developed skills and acquired knowledge in their future professional career– from 0 to 2 points.

Section 2. PRACTICAL CREATIVE ADMISSIONS TEST

To enter the creative test, applicants should provide links to videos (videos can be uploaded to any video hosting). The videos must be open for access.

Contents of the videos:

1. Solo playing

The applicant will be requested to perform two or three arias from operas by different composers (including one by a Russian composer) as well as two or three vocal pieces of different genres and styles: romance, folk song, etc. During their vocal performance applicants must demonstrate the presence of a definitely qualified type of voice, a stable singing sound, clear intonation, musically expressive, rhythmically accurate performance of the pieces of music.

2. Basics of the Artistry.

The applicants will be requested to recite (or read from a printed text) a fable or a poem.

**Assessment criteria (0 -
60 points)**

For the evaluation, the following criteria are considered:

- performed pieces have been selected using fine artistic taste considering the applicant's individual characteristics;
- there are no organic speech flaws, the voice is healthy and the articulation is distinct;
- the main rules of intonation-melodic orthoepic standards are met;
- the pieces are performed emotionally, expressively, rhythmically pure;
- the applicant has demonstrated the understanding of the sense of the performed pieces, of their content, genre and style;
- the presence of temper, charm, sense of humour has been demonstrated.

**Solo playing
(Maximum score of points - 50)**

It is possible to score 50 points if the applicant has demonstrated:

- the presence of the definitely qualified type of voice;
- the presence of a stable signing sound;
- clear intonation,
- mastery of musical time, accuracy and expressiveness of rhythm, understanding of the laws of agogy;
- the maturity of musical thinking, the understanding of the style, the content and the form of the performed piece of music.

If there are one or two minor comments concerning any of the given criteria, the number of the points shall be decreased by 1 (up to 48 or two up to 49 points respectively).

40 points can be scored if:

- there have been almost no mistakes in the intonation or they have been of random nature;
- articulation, dynamics, phrasing have corresponded to the style, content and form of the piece;
- The pieces have been performed following composer's instructions in terms of tempo with original nuance;
- the metrorhythmic structure of the pieces have been adequately reproduced;

If there are any minor comments concerning any of the criteria, the number of the points shall be decreased by 5 points for each comment.

30 points can be scored if:

- mistakes in the performed reproduction have been regular;
- the metrorhythmic structure of the pieces has been violated during the reproduction;
- the performance tempo has not been corresponded to the composer's piece;
- there has been no healthy sound; inaccuracies in nuances have been allowed.

If there are any minor comments concerning any of the criteria, the number of the points shall be decreased by 5 points for each comment.

Points below the minimum number sufficient for passing this stage of the creative competition are given if:

- the applicant has demonstrated that they lack proficiency in playing the musical instrument (multiple mistakes in the text, unrhythmic performance, etc.).

Basics of the Artistry **(Maximum score of points - 10)**

10 points can be scored if:

- performed pieces have been selected using fine artistic taste considering the applicant's individual characteristics;
- there are no organic speech flaws, the voice is healthy and the articulation is distinct;
- the main rules of intonation-melodic orthoepic standards are met;
- the pieces are performed emotionally, expressively, rhythmically pure;
- the applicant has demonstrated the understanding of the sense of the performed pieces, of their content, genre and style;
- the presence of temper, charm, sense of humour has been demonstrated.

If there are one or two minor comments concerning any of the given criteria, the number of the points shall be decreased by 1 (up to 9 or two up to 8 points respectively).

7 points can be scored if:

- there have been almost no mistakes in the performed piece or they have been of random nature;
- articulation, dynamics, phrasing have corresponded to the style, content and form of the piece;
- the metrorhythmic structure of the pieces have been adequately reproduced;

If there are any minor comments concerning any of the criteria, the number of the points shall be decreased by 1 point for each comment.

3 points can be scored if:

- mistakes in the performed reproduction have been regular;
- the metrorhythmic structure of the pieces has been violated during the reproduction;

there inaccuracies have been allowed in articulation and intonation.

If there are any minor comments concerning any of the criteria, the number of the points shall be decreased by 1 point for each comment.

0 points scored shall mean that the applicant lacks training for mastering artistry at the professional level.

Section 3. THE OLYMPIAD WORKING LANGUAGE REFERENCE LEVEL

Russian (interview)

Section 1. The content of the communicative-speech competence. Intentions Situations and topics of communication

In the course of the interview in Russian, the applicant must demonstrate their Russian language proficiency allowing for meeting the most common (basic) communication demands in communication with the natives in the limited scope of predictable situations. The communication takes place within every-day, socio-cultural, and educational domains. At the same time, the set of the linguistic means providing for communication in the given domains can have limits determined by the applicant's communicative demands.

While addressing certain communication tasks, the applicant must be verbally able to realise the following intentions:

- to start communication, to meet other people, to introduce themselves or other people, to greet and part, to address people, to thank, to apologise, to respond to thanks and apologies, to congratulate, to ask to repeat, to ask again, to interject, to express a wish;
- to ask questions and inform about a fact or event, a person, object, about presence or absence of a person or an object; about the quantity of objects, their quality and their belonging; about an action, places, cause and purpose of an action or w=event;
- to express intentions, desires, requests, wishes, advice, proposals, invitation, consent or dissent, refusal; to give or deny permission, to promise, to express uncertainty;
- To express their attitude: to provide opinion on a person, object, fact or event.

The applicant must be able to navigate within and realise the most common (basic) communication intentions in the following communicative situations:

- at the office (at dean's, director's office, etc.)
- In the shop, kiosk, at the cash-desk.
- At the post-office.
- in the bank, in the exchange office.

- In the restaurant, buffet, café, canteen.
- In the library.
- At the lessons.
- In the city streets, on transport.
- At the theatre, museum, on excursions.
- In the polyclinics, at doctor's, in the drug store.
- When speaking on the phone.

The applicant must be able to communicate orally and monologically within the following topics:

- About Myself.
- My Friends.
- My Family.
- I Am Studying Russian.
- My Work Day.
- Leisure Time and Hobbies.
- My Native Town.
- Moscow is the Capital of Russia.
- My Interests.
- My Future Occupation.

In terms of monologue speech, the applicant must be able to:

- Independently produce coherent statements in accordance with the proposed topic and communicatively given setting.
- The length of the applicant's statements on the topic: at least 10 sentences.
- Express their attitude towards facts, events, described in texts, towards characters and their actions.

In terms of dialogue speech, the applicant must be able to:

- Understand the interlocutor's utterances, determine their communicative intentions in the limited number of communicative situations.
- To react to the interlocutor's responses adequately.
- To initiate dialogues, express their communicative intentions in the limited number of situations. The applicant's utterances should meet the norms of the standard Russian, including commonly recognised socially-determined speech etiquette.

The applicant's lexicon must include at least 1500 lexical units allowing for the communication within the given topics.

Section 2 Organisation and Methodology

In the course of the interview, the applicant must demonstrate the sufficient level of the Russian language proficiency, the skills in perceiving and understanding texts of various genres and styles.

The major purpose of the interview is checking the level of formation of the applicant's speech skills and abilities necessary for solving communicative tasks in the process of oral communication.

In monologues, there checked are the following abilities:

- to render the main information from the read text (reproductive speech);
- to construct an own utterance based on the information, obtained from the text, and express their attitude towards the events and characters (reproductive-productive speech);
- to construct an own message on the given topic within the communicative task (productive speech);
- To observe the norms of Russian and certain peculiarities in constructing monologues.

In dialogues, there checked are the following abilities:

to express certain intentions adequately;

- to understand the interlocutor's communicative intentions and respond adequately to their initiative replies;
- to navigate in the given situation, to start dialogues with regard to the situation;
- to proceed in dialogues observing the norms of speech etiquette;
- to observe the norms of the Russian language and dialogue speech peculiarities.

Tasks assigned to the applicants at the interview in Russian within the module 'Speaking' consists of three (3) parts and contains 11 tasks. The material is presented in writing (for preparing) and then orally by the examiner (in the course of the interview). The total test time - 50 minutes (40 minutes for preparing, 10 minutes for answering). The number of unknown words in the dialogue lines is as much as 1,5%.

Part 1 (Tasks 1 - 5). The applicant has to take part in dialogues, listen to the teacher's utterance and provide reaction to it. There checked is the ability to proceed in the dialogue within the dialogue situation (to provide the reaction reply). The applicant has to provide the extensive reply (replies 'yes', 'no' are not extensive ones) The test time is 3 minutes.

Part 2 (tasks 6 - 10). The applicant has to read the situation. Then to start the dialogue. There checked is the ability to be a dialogue initiator in certain speech situations. Provided is the description of the speech situation, as well as the task that stimulate an initiative reply in the dialogue that has to be articulated by the applicant. The test time is 5 minutes.

Part 3 (task 11). The applicant has to develop a story on one of the given topics. There checked is the ability to produce a monologue in terms of constructing one's message on the given topic within the communicative task (productive speech); The test time is 2 minutes.

Section 3 Mandatory and further reading.

1. Nakhabina, M., et al. State Standard in Russian as a Foreign Language. Basic Level. 2Nd edition, revised and added. Moscow. Zlatoust. 2001. - 32 pages.
2. Andryushina, N., et al. State Educational Standard in Russian as a Foreign Language. Level 1. General Competence. Moscow. Zlatoust. 1999. - 36 pages.
3. Guskova, E. Soft Russian! Study guide for speech practice. 3rd edition, stereotyped. Moscow. Russkii Yazyk. 2023. - 152 pages with illustrations.
4. Antoshkina, O. Russian is My Love. Textbook of Russian for foreigners (basic level). 1St edition. Moscow. The Moscow State University Teaching Centre of Russian. 202. - 226 pages.
5. Beliaeva, E., Gorskaia, E., Eremina, L., Lutskaia, N. Listen. Ask. Answer. Speech guide. Dialogues. For foreign students. 7th edition, stereotypes. Moscow. Russkii Yazyk. 2018. - 160 pages.
6. Levshina, N. Life and Work of Russian Composers. Study guide. Moscow. Flinta. Nauka. 2006. - 168 pages (Russian as a foreign language).
7. Poliakova, Yu., Ermakova, E. Grammar in the Pictures by Russian Artists. Reading and speech guide. Moscow. Mir.ru Zlatiust. 2022. - 76 pages.
8. Golovko, O. History of Russian Fine Art in Personalities. Book for reading with exercises. Saint-Petersburg. Zlatoust. 2023. - 128 pages. (Russian Culture and Fine Art).
9. Aladyshkina, L., Zhuravleva, E. Russian for Artists. Study guide in speciality language for foreign students. Saint-Petersburg. Herzen University Publishing. 2022. - 133 pages with illustrations.
10. Aksenova, A. History of Arts: What's Important. Styles, Trends and Currents. Moscow. Eksmo. 2024. - 208 pages with illustrations. (Level 1. New level of proficiency).

Section 4 Evaluation criteria

Processing and evaluation of the results of tasks with freely constructed answers are carried out on the basis of expert evaluation of the applicant's speech. In the course of the interview and based on the applicant's performance analysis, examiners fill out the expert opinion control notes.

Checked and evaluated are only those utterances that are adequate to the communicative purpose and formulated in the assignment.

The following are the indicators considered in the course of determining the dialogue speech skills and abilities level:

- understanding the interlocutor's communicative intention
- adequacy of the applicant's speech behaviour in the given communicative situation, dialogue purposefulness;

- observance of the commonly accepted norms of speech etiquette;
- proficiency in linguistic and speech material (lexico-grammatical speech correctness and its phonetic and intonation structure);
- the compliance of the prepared message with the linguistic norm (lexical and grammatical correctness of speech and its phonetic and intonation design).

Indicators considered in assessing the level of the ability to construct utterances based on the read texts:

- the correspondence of the rendered information to the text content;
- speech coherence and consistency;
- completeness of the rendered text (rendering main ideas of each semantic part of the text);
- adequacy in formulating the main idea of the text;
- the compliance of the prepared message with the linguistic norm (lexical and grammatical correctness of speech and its phonetic and intonation design).

In total, the module ‘Speaking’ includes three (3) parts and contains 11 assignments. The total score of all assignments equals to 30 points.

In Part 1, each correctly completed assignment brings 2 points to the applicant. The total score of completed assignments of Part 1 equals to 10 points.

In Part 2, each correctly completed assignment brings 2 points to the applicant. The total score of completed assignments of Part 1 equals to 10 points. Within each assignment, the applicant has to produce at least three (3) sentences in their answer.

In Part 3, the total score of the assignments equals to 10 points. Within assignment, the applicant has to produce at least ten (10) sentences in their answer.

Assessment criteria and points scored:

Tasks 1 -5	A complete extended answer with at least three (3) sentences to each question	from 0 to 10 points
Tasks 6 -10	The start of the dialogue is adequate to each of the given communicative situations	from 0 to 10 points
Task 11.	The response is a coherent and consistent text at least ten (10) sentences long. Minor grammar/lexical drawbacks are allowed.	from 0 to 10 points

The final grade for the module ‘Speaking’:

26-30 points - excellent;

21-25 points - good;

16 - 20 points - satisfactory;

less than 16 points - unsatisfactory.

Section 5 Exemplary tasks

The module ‘Speaking’

The test time - 50 minutes (40 minutes for preparing, 10 minutes for answering). The module consists of three parts and contains 11 assignments.

Part 1.

Tasks 1 -5 Enter a dialogue. Respond to the partner.

1. What’s the purpose of your studying Russian?
2. Are you fond of literature, films, music?
3. How often do you go to the theatre, museums, exhibitions?
4. Do you know where the book store is?
5. Is tomorrow Sunday? What will you be doing?

Part 2.

Tasks 6 -10 Read the description of the situation. Start the dialogue.

6. You are in the book store. You wish to buy a textbook. Ask, which text book is interesting and how much does it cost.
7. You are at the dean’s office. You don’t know when your exam is. Find out the information.
8. You don’t know in which classroom your lesson is. Ask your friend.
9. Your friend intends to have rest at the weekend. Advise him where they could go.
10. You are in a café. You are hungry. Ask the waiter to bring the menu and place the order.

Part 3.

11. Choose a topic and develop a monologue.
 - About Myself.
 - My Friends.
 - My Day.
 - I Am Studying Russian.
 - My Native Country.