

Anne PAGE
Campus Aix-en-Provence
BATIMENT RENÉ EGGER
29 Avenue Robert Schuman
Aix-en-Provence
13621

Dear Ms. Page,

I am writing to express my strong interest in applying for the Master's Program in Études Culturelles, parcours Monde Anglophone at Aix-Marseille Université. I believe that my academic background in language education and cultural anthropology, combined with my lifelong passion for English-speaking cultures, makes me a strong candidate for this program.

From a young age, I was fascinated by foreign cultures and languages. Growing up in Siberia with limited access to resources, I sought out every opportunity to engage with English, seeing it as a gateway to a world beyond my hometown. At school, I consistently ranked at the top of my class in English and was often asked to assist my peers, an experience that sparked my passion for teaching and ultimately led me to pursue a degree in Teaching English as a Foreign Language at Novosibirsk State Pedagogical University, from which I graduated with honors in 2022.

During my studies, I was awarded a place in the YEAR Program (Year of Exchange for Russians in America), fully funded by the U.S. Department of State and the American Embassy in Moscow. I was hosted by the University of Minnesota, renowned for its Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature Department, where I took classes in Anthropology of American Culture, Popular Music and Mass Culture, History of the Sixties, and Teaching English as a Second Language and Intercultural Communication.

Among these, Anthropology of American Culture particularly captivated me. The course's postcolonial approach to American history and literature, engaging with scholars such as Jason De León, Julie Cruikshank, and Audra Simpson, deepened my understanding of the intersections between literature, anthropology, cultural studies, and postcolonial theory—areas I am eager to explore further in your program.

In 2022, after receiving a full scholarship for the Cultural Anthropology Master's program at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow, I was forced to abandon my studies and leave Russia due to political repression, mass mobilization, and state-sanctioned homophobia. I sought asylum in France in 2023 and have been enrolled in the DU-LCF program at Aix-Marseille Université since September 2024, where I am currently completing my C1-level French studies this semester. This experience has not only deepened my linguistic proficiency but has also strengthened my connection to the university and reinforced my desire to continue my academic journey here.

In an effort to process my refugee experience, I turned to the works of exiled Russian poets and writers, particularly Joseph Brodsky and Vladimir Nabokov, who wrote in both Russian and English. As a student in Études Culturelles : Monde Anglophone, I hope to explore the imprint of the Russian refugee experience on English-language works by Russian authors and examine the complex relationship between their original texts and self-translations.

I am particularly drawn to the Études Culturelles : Monde Anglophone program, as it brings together all the fields that captivate me—literature, aesthetics, history, linguistics, translation, and more. Being accepted into this program and earning a degree would not only support my integration as a refugee in France but also allow me to complete my education in a field that deeply fascinates me—an opportunity I was unable to pursue in Russia.

I am confident that the Études Culturelles : Monde Anglophone program at Aix-Marseille Université will provide me with the academic environment and resources to explore these themes in greater depth and to contribute to the ongoing discourse in cultural studies. I am eager to bring my unique perspective as a student with a background in cultural anthropology, English language education, and lived experience as a refugee.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to and learn from your distinguished faculty and fellow students.

Sincerely,

Dmitrii Savinov