



Daniel Scates

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International Relations/Economics/Russian

Currently, I am a Ph.D. student in the department of Political Science here at UC Davis. I have a three-pronged research agenda: Studying Eastern European politics, and especially far-right/ populist parties; studying conflict, especially as it relates to humanitarian and developmental issues; and studying public health issues in politics. Studying Russian has helped me a lot in two of these areas. First off, from the Russian program, I have developed a deep background knowledge on the Russian political system, and the history and politics of the region. I am also able to engage with news reporting in Russian. This is also helping with my work studying war. I am currently working on a project on informal aid networks in Ukraine, and their ties to the Euromaidan movement. One of my future goals to help in my research is learning Ukrainian to help in this work.

I would say that the Russian program, through its language training, historical and political studies, and cultural knowledge makes a great supplement to any degree. I have been able to leverage the knowledge gained to help myself become an area specialist, and engage in academic and journalistic work published outside the typical English-language work. Additionally, my favorite classes at UC Davis were almost all Russian language and literature classes.