The academic year includes 2 semesters (terms):
• Autumn Semester - September 1 to December 31;
• Spring Semester - February 1 to June 30.

(Herzen University) is one of the oldest teacher-training institutions in the country. It was founded on 2(14) May 1797 by Emperor Paul I as St. Petersburg Educational House, and later lay the foundations for other pedagogical institutions in the XIX – early XX centuries.

Today Herzen University employs more than 1700 scholars, 1000 of whom hold Candidate of Science degrees, 300 are Doctors of Science, 6 are academicians and 9 are corresponding members of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Russian Academy of Education, and 23 are Honoured Scientists of the Russian Federation.

The process of internationalisation of education is viewed as one of the strategic directions of development of the Herzen University. The departments of the University co-operate with the universities and scientific centres in Germany, France, Italy, the UK, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Finland, China, Israel, Hungary, the USA, Korea and other countries. Currently there are about 800 international students and trainees studying in programmes of different levels of the University annually.

The University offers foreign students different programmes in the Russian Language, History and Culture accompanied by a number of tours of historic, cultural places in the city, city suburbs and other towns in the region. Since 1972 over 2000 foreign full-time students have graduated. Since 1947 several thousand students from abroad have attended courses of Russian, about 500 people annually nowadays. Over the past 20 years about 200 postgraduate international students have graduated.

The University offers some additional services to international students:

**Arrival/Departure Transportation**
Arriving and/or departing students can request this service to be picked up at the airport or a railway station and transported to the place of accommodation as well as to be dropped off at the departure places upon finishing their study programme.

**Cultural Programme**
The International Office organises different cultural programmes for international students, such as excursions to numerous city museums, visits to theatres and art exhibitions, tours to the magnificent palaces and parks of the city’s surroundings as well as bus or train tours to the oldest Russian cities - Moscow, Pskov, Novgorod, Yaroslavl and other places of cultural heritage.

**University Library**
The University library is one of the biggest and oldest university libraries in Russia. It has a very rich selection of books, some of which were printed several centuries ago. Your student card allows you to use books from the main library and its branches at the other departments.

**Supplementary Courses or Classes in Russian Language or other Subjects**
There is always a possibility for an international student to improve the Russian language skills by taking classes additional to his/her major study curriculum either on an individual or group basis.

**Recreation and Sports**
International students can use athletic facilities, which the University possesses.