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**ENTRANCE EXAMINATION CONTENT**  
**FOR THE MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM**  
**CODE 45.04.02 Language and communication / Язык и**  
**коммуникация**

Moscow 2025

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## 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

### The Aim of the Entrance Examination

The aim of the entrance examination is to evaluate the candidate's level of preparation, background knowledge and motivation to perform successfully on Master's Degree Program in Linguistics (code 45.04.02). Successful candidates should meet the requirements for minimum B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages and demonstrate communication skills of a competent user level and above.

### Entrance Examination Format and Timing

The entrance examination both for Russian and international applicants consists of two parts: portfolio (30%) and oral interview (70%).

The portfolio includes a motivational letter and CV.

The interview is conducted in English and includes two questions on intercultural communication. The time allocated for preparation is 10 minutes. Candidates can make notes while preparing for the interview. The interview lasts up to 25 minutes depending on candidate's answer.

The interviewee is expected to be able to:

- demonstrate general awareness of intercultural communication issues;
- present arguments and support ideas with examples;
- elaborate on their prior experience and background presented in both motivational letter and CV.

The overall results are assessed according to a 100-point scale. The final result is the sum total of points gained for the interview and portfolio.

Portfolio Submission Guidelines:

- Both CV and motivation letter should be contained in one file (Word/Pdf);
- No prerequisite templates are provided;
- Candidates are to submit all required portfolio materials (motivational letter and CV) to **english@mis.ru** no later than **two days prior to the examination date** (by 18.00 GMT+3);
- Subject line: ***FULL Name\_Linguistics\_Application.***
- Candidates who failed to submit the portfolio materials within the stipulated deadlines **are not qualified** for the oral part of the examination.

### Assessment Criteria

#### Portfolio

- Language accuracy
- Relevance of presented information
- Communicative achievement

Each criterion is assessed against a 10-band scale.

#### Interview

- Language accuracy
- Communication skills
- Knowledge of theory of language and communication
- Coherence and cohesion

- Critical thinking

Language accuracy, communication skills, knowledge of theory of language and communication, critical thinking are assessed against a 15-band scale. Coherence and cohesion is assessed against a 10-band scale.

The structure of the motivational letter (500 words maximum):

- Biography
- Motivation (write a statement why you want to join the Program and how your enrollment will benefit your professional development)
- Career plans.

The CV must include all degrees and achievements earned in a reverse chronological order (starting with the most recent ones).

The interview questions are dedicated to general topics on intercultural communication.

The second task in the interview is presented as a case or situation on intercultural communication which the candidate should analyze, work out a solution for and present the argumentation. T

## **2. EXAMINATION CONTENT. TOPICS**

### **Terminology**

Defining Culture: Culture as a learned, shared, and symbolic system of values, beliefs, and norms that affects behavior.

Defining Communication: Models of communication and how culture influences every step (encoding, decoding, channel, context).

The Relationship: Understanding culture as the "lens" through which we perceive and communicate with the world.

Key Concepts: In-group/Out-group, Ethnocentrism vs. Cultural Relativism, Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination.

### **Cultural Value Dimensions (Theoretical Frameworks)**

Analysis of major cultural value systems that shape communication styles:

Hofstede's Dimensions: Individualism vs. Collectivism, Power Distance, Uncertainty Avoidance, Masculinity vs. Femininity, Long-Term vs. Short-Term Orientation, Indulgence vs. Restraint.

Hall's Context Theory: High-Context vs. Low-Context Communication.

Hall's Time Orientation: Monochronic vs. Polychronic Time.

Face-Negotiation Theory: How different cultures manage conflict and maintain "face."

Worldviews: Being vs. Doing, Human-Nature orientation.

### **Verbal Communication Processes**

Language and Culture: The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis (linguistic relativity).

Pragmatics: How is used in social contexts (e.g., greetings, apologies, requests, refusals).

Discourse Patterns: Linear vs. circular reasoning, direct vs. indirect communication styles.

Translation and Interpretation Challenges: Idioms, humor, and concepts with no direct equivalent.

### **IV. Nonverbal Communication Processes**

The Role of Nonverbals: Often more powerful than verbal messages.

#### **Types of Nonverbal Codes:**

Kinesics: Body language, gestures, facial expressions, eye contact.

Proxemics: Use of personal space and distance.

Haptics: Touch and physical contact.

Paralanguage: Tone, pitch, volume, rate of speech, silence.

Chronemics: Use and perception of time.

Olfactics: Perception and use of smell.

Appearance and Artifacts: Clothing, adornments, physical environment.

### **Identities and Intercultural Interactions**

Social and Cultural Identities: How identity (national, ethnic, gender, religious, organizational) is formed and communicated.

Identity Negotiation: How identities are avowed (how you see yourself) and ascribed (how others see you).

Cultural Shock and Adaptation: The U-Curve and W-Curve models of adjustment.

Intercultural Competence Development: Stages (from denial to integration) and components (knowledge, motivation, skills).

### **Contexts and Applications**

Intercultural Communication in Specific Settings:

Business: Negotiation, leadership styles, teamwork in multicultural workplaces.

Education: Diverse classrooms, international student exchanges, teaching styles.

Healthcare: Doctor-patient communication across cultures, beliefs about health and illness.

Technology & Media: Global social media, virtual teams, and the digital divide.

Intercultural Conflict: Sources of conflict, culture-based conflict styles (e.g., direct/indirect, emotional/restrained).

Ethics in Intercultural Encounters: The challenge of finding shared ethical ground.

### **Critical Approaches and Current Issues**

Power, Privilege, and Positionality: How historical and political power dynamics affect communication.

Cultural Hybridity and Globalization: The blending of cultures and its impact on identity and communication.

Intercultural Relationships and Families: Challenges and rewards of friendships, romantic partnerships, and multi-ethnic families.

Social Justice and Advocacy: The role of communication in challenging stereotypes and promoting equity.

### 3. RECOMMENDED READING

1. DeVito, Joseph A. (2015). Human Communication. The Basic Course. – 13<sup>th</sup> Edition. Pearson Education Limited.
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3. Huntington, P. Samuel (1996). The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order // Link:  
<https://msuweb.montclair.edu/~lebelp/1993SamuelPHuntingtonTheClashOfCivilizationsAndTheRemakingofWorldOrder.pdf>
4. Journal of Intercultural Communication. URL: <http://www.immi.se/intercultural/>
5. Kern, Richard. (2015). Language, Literacy and Technology.- Cambridge University Press.
6. Morin, Edgar. From the Concept of System to the Paradigm of Complexity// Link:  
<https://manoftheword.files.wordpress.com/2013/07/morin-paradigm-of-complexity.pdf>
7. Wolfson, J. (2013). The Great Debate: A Handbook for Policy Debate and Public Forum Debate. Naperville: LightningBolt Press.