



Санкт-Петербургский
государственный
университет

Test of Russian as a Foreign Language (TORFL) B1 Level

Russian Language Testing Specialist
Oleg G. Krinitsky

spbu.ru

10 April 2020

Saint Petersburg State University

The oldest university of Russia

Founded in 1724

One of the countries leading universities

More than 30000 students and 12000 academic staff

Almost 70 years of teaching Russian as a foreign language





Language Testing Centre



Founded 22 August 1997

Russian language testing in Greece, Germany, Turkey, Serbia, S. Korea, China, Czech Republic, Norway, Great Britain, Italy, Poland, Argentina, Brazil, Iceland etc.

80 testing centres abroad

Partner of Association of
Language Testers of Europe



Internationally recognized certificate



TORFL Certificate

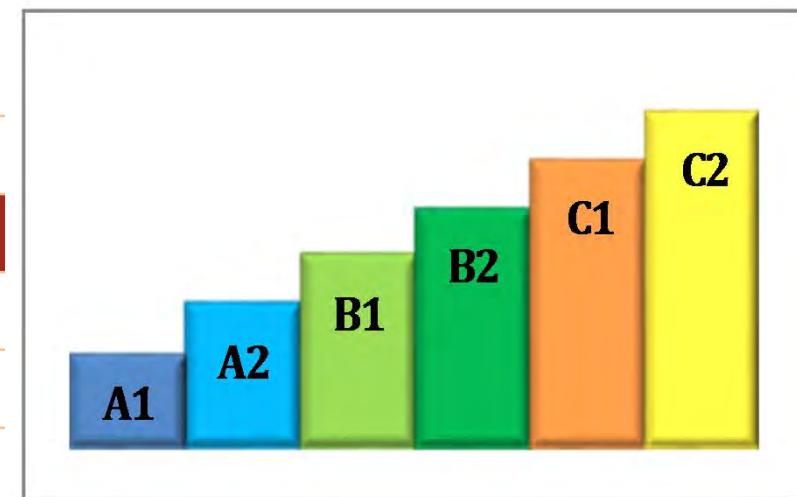




Test of Russian as a Foreign Language (TORFL)

6 levels:

A1	Elementary
A2	Basic
B1	The First Level (TORFL-I)
B2	The Second Level (TORFL-II)
C1	The Third Level (TORFL-III)
C2	The Forth Level (TORFL-IV)



Corresponding with The Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR)





B1 Level Brief Description

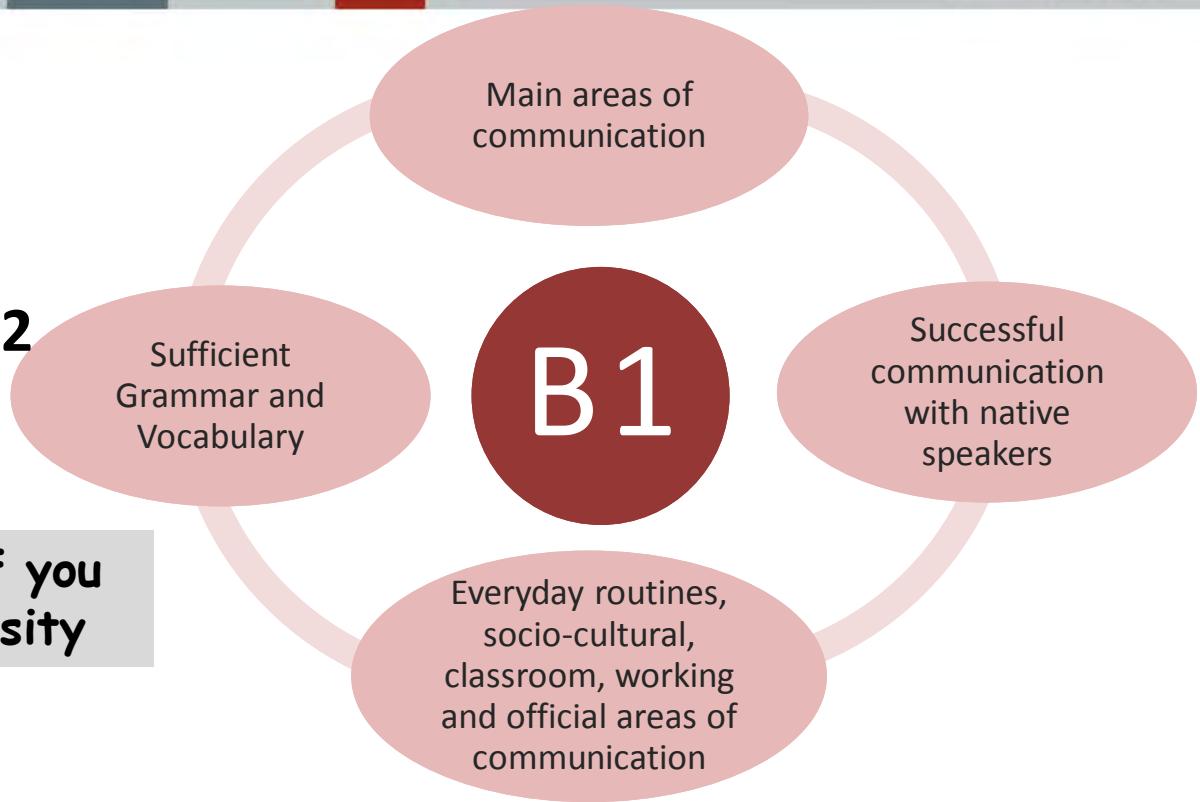
«Threshold Level»

≈ 2300 words

≈ 160-180 hours from A2



**Necessary if you
go to university**



CEFR Self-Assessment Scale



What can I do at B1 Level?

Understanding	<i>Listening</i>	I can understand the main points of clear standard speech on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. I can understand the main point of many radio or TV programmes on current affairs or topics of personal or professional interest when the delivery is relatively slow and clear.
	<i>Reading</i>	I can understand texts that consist mainly of high frequency everyday or job-related language. I can understand the description of events, feelings and wishes in personal letters.
Speaking	<i>Dialogue</i>	I can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. I can enter unprepared into conversation on topics that are familiar, of personal interest or pertinent to everyday life (e.g. family, hobbies, work, travel and current events).
	<i>Monologue</i>	I can connect phrases in a simple way in order to describe experiences and events, my dreams, hopes and ambitions. I can briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans. I can narrate a story or relate the plot of a book or film and describe my reactions.
Writing	<i>Writing</i>	I can write simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. I can write personal letters describing experiences and impressions.

Speaking skills assessment



A student at B1 level:

A student at B1 level:	
Range	Has enough language to get by, with sufficient vocabulary to express him/herself with some hesitation and circumlocutions on topics such as family, hobbies and interests, work, travel, and current events.
Accuracy	Uses reasonably accurately a repertoire of frequently used "routines" and patterns associated with more predictable situations.
Fluency	Can keep going comprehensibly, even though pausing for grammatical and lexical planning and repair is very evident, especially in longer stretches of free production.
Interaction	Can initiate, maintain and close simple face-to-face conversation on topics that are familiar or of personal interest. Can repeat back part of what someone has said to confirm mutual understanding.
Coherence	Can link a series of shorter, discrete simple elements into a connected, linear sequence of points.

Test Format



5 Subtests

- “ Grammar and Vocabulary
- “ Reading
- “ Listening
- “ Speaking
- “ Writing

Pass Score:

≥66% for each subtest

(or ≥60% with one of them)

**Possible to retake one
or two subtests.**



«Grammar and Vocabulary» Subtest



60 minutes, 4 sections, 165 tasks:

- “ Vocabulary
- “ Noun, adjective and pronoun cases
- “ Verbs of motion with prefixes
- “ Verb system (verb aspect, participle constructions)
- “ Syntax (simple and complex sentences)



«Grammar and Vocabulary» Subtest

1st Block, tasks 1 - 25: *vocabulary*

Бабушка не пьёт очень ... чай.	(А) сильный (Б) крепкий (В) твёрдый
--------------------------------	---

2nd Block, tasks (26 - 77): *cases and prepositions*

Я раньше никогда не встречал	(А) этот человек (Б) с этим человеком (В) об этом человеке
Виктор рассказывал	(Г) этого человека



«Grammar and Vocabulary» Subtest

1st Block, tasks 1 - 25: *vocabulary*

Бабушка не пьёт очень ... чай.	(A) сильный (Б) крепкий (В) твёрдый
--------------------------------	---

2nd Block, tasks (26 - 77): *cases and prepositions*

Я раньше никогда не встречал	(А) этот человек (Б) с этим человеком (В) об этом человеке
Виктор рассказывал	(Г) этого человека



«Grammar and Vocabulary» Subtest

3rd Block, tasks 78 - 129: verbs (infinitive constructions, verbal aspects, verbs of motion with prefixes)

Я должен ... дочери сувенир из Чехии.	(A) привезти (Б) отвезти (В) перевезти
---------------------------------------	--

4th Block, tasks 130 - 165: simple and complex sentences

Вечером позвонили друзья, ... мы должны встретиться.	(А) которым (Б) с которыми
Вечером позвонили друзья, ... мы купили подарок.	(В) которых (Г) которые



«Grammar and Vocabulary» Subtest

3rd Block, tasks 78 - 129: verbs (infinitive constructions, verbal aspects, verbs of motion with prefixes)

Я должен ... дочери сувенир
из Чехии.

(A) привезти

(Б) отвезти

(В) перевезти

4th Block, tasks 130 - 165: simple and complex sentences

Вечером позвонили друзья,
... мы должны встретиться.

(А) которым

(Б) с которыми

Вечером позвонили друзья,
... мы купили подарок.

(В) которых

(Г) которые



«Reading» Subtest

50 minutes, 3 parts, 20 tasks:

Text 1: **200 - 250** words

Text 2: **150 - 200** words

Text 3: **500 - 550** words

- ” Description
- ” **Narration**
- ” Reporting
- ” Elements of reasoning



Unknown words: 5-7 %.



You can use a
bilingual dictionary.

Tips:

- ” First, read the tasks and search for the key words
- ” Scan the text keeping in mind the key words and do the tasks

The texts are articles about

- ” interesting facts
- ” famous people
- ” historical places



«Reading» Subtest: Practice

«О

,

15

4

,

1,5

,

,

,

,

,

,

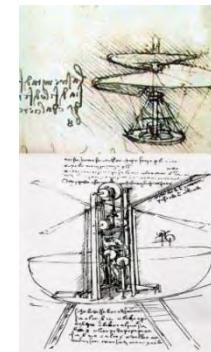
,

,

....»

-) 1,5
-) 4
-) 7

Å.



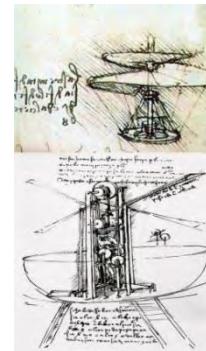
«Reading» Subtest: Practice



«О , 15 , , 4 , , , , , , , 1,5 , , , , , , , »

-) 1,5
-) 4
-) 7

Å.



«Listening» Subtest



35 minutes, 6 parts, 30 tasks:



Monologues: **800-900** words

Dialogues: **10-12** lines

Unknown words . **about 3 %**

All the texts to be heard once

- " Monologues: a letter fragment, biographies, excursions, media programmes, etc. (search for specific information)
- " Dialogues (search for specific information, participants intentions identification)

Tips:

- " You will be given about 3-4 minutes to look through the tasks before listening.
- " Pay your attention to the numbers, people's names, geographical names etc.
- " Take notes on a sheet of paper while listening

«Listening» Subtest



WhatsApp.



1. Антон и Макс встречаются

- А. в 7 часов
- Б. в 6:40
- В. в 3 часа

2. Антон просит Макса купить торт, потому что

- А. он будет занят
- Б. у него нет денег
- В. он не знает, где магазин

«Listening» Subtest



WhatsApp.



1. Антон и Макс встречаются

- A. в 7 часов
- B. в 6:40**
- C. в 3 часа

2. Антон просит Макса купить торт, потому что

- A. он будет занят**
- B. у него нет денег
- C. он не знает, где магазин



How to fill out the matrix?

ТЕСТ ПО РУССКОМУ ЯЗЫКУ КАК ИНОСТРАННОМУ ЯЗЫКУ
БАЗОВЫЙ УРОВЕНЬ

ЧТЕНИЕ

Рабочая матрица

Фамилия, имя *Генри Купер* страна *Австралия* дата *14.06.2020*

1	А	Б	В	
2	А	Б	В	
3	А	Б	В	
4	А	Б	В	
5	А	Б	В	
6	А	Б	В	
7	А	Б	В	
8	А	Б	В	
9	А	Б	В	
10	А	Б	В	

1. Анна обожает изучать русский язык!

- А) Она с трудом изучает русский язык.
- Б) Она не любит изучать русский язык.
- В) Ей очень нравится изучать русский язык.

Choose the answer and circle it :

(A)	Б	В	Г	
-----	---	---	---	--

If you changed your mind, you can correct your choice:

Х	Б	(В)	Г	В
---	---	-----	---	---



«Writing» Subtest

60 minutes, 2 tasks:



You can use a
bilingual dictionary.

Task 1

- “ 1 text to read
- “ text reproduction based on 4-5 questions

Text type:

- “ famous peoples biography
- “ interesting places and facts
- “ article based on a sociological survey

The text length: 600-700 words

Unknown words: about 5 %

- “ Reporting the main content topics of the text, expressing your point of view
- “ Monologue (**20 phrases or more**)

Task 2

An informal letter based on a plan suggested.

Length: 20 phrases

Tips:

- “ Don't write a draft, save your time.
- “ If you need to correct a mistake, just cross it out.



«Writing» Subtest. Task 1 (example)

 ,

 , 20 , : «

 ,

 , , , »

 ,

 , , ,

 ,

 ,

 ,

 ,

1.

2.

?

?

3.

4.

?

?

«Writing» Subtest. Task 2 (example)



20

"

?

"

?

"

?

"

?

"

?

"

?



«Speaking» Subtest

25 minutes, 4 parts, 12 tasks:



For the tasks
3 and 4.

- " You answers the questions/remarks (5 phrases)
- " You start a dialogue (5 phrases)
- " You report the text and answer 2 question after the text
- " You produce a monologue (20 or more phrases)

Задание 1. Примите участие в диалоге. Ответьте собеседнику.

- Скажите, пожалуйста, как лучше добраться до аэропорта?

Задание 2. Познакомьтесь с описанием ситуации. Начните диалог.

Вы хотите купить новый ноутбук и пришли в магазин. Поговорите с продавцом.

Задание 4. Составьте монолог по вопросам.

Представьте, что вы открыли ресторан. Расскажите о нём своим друзьям.

Где находится ресторан? Какие блюда там готовят? Какой там интерьер? Есть ли там музыка?
Какие в ресторане цены? И т.д.

«Speaking» Subtest. Task 3 Text retelling strategies



Task 3 is a text to retell. You will be offered a story.

The objectives are:

- “ read the story
- “ summarize the information
- “ tell the **plot** of the story
- “ answer 2 or 3 questions



Tips:

- “ read the story and highlight the most important information
- “ ask yourself, what details you do need
- “ use paragraphs to make a plan of the text
- “ don't try to remember all the text
- “ write important ideas and words on a sheet of paper and use it while retelling the story.

«Speaking» Subtest. Task 3 Text retelling strategies



What information do we need to tell about the heroine of «The Little Red Riding Hood»?

1. She wears a red riding-hood.
2. She is blond and has white shoes.
3. She has some food in her basket.
4. She has a pie and a jar of cream in her basket.
5. She went to visit her granny.
6. She was walking through the wood, picking flowers and singing a song.
7. She came up to the Grannies house and knocked on the door.
8. She knocked on the old wooden door slightly 3 times.



Adequacy of communicative task solution

Your spoken or written presentation must comply with the intention required

Compliance with the topic required

No diversions off the topic are allowed when presenting spoken or written product

Compliance with specified volume of presentation

«

?» (20 or more phrases)

Productive skills assessment parameters (2/3)



Completeness of information presentation

All content points given in the task must be presented in your spoken or written product

Accuracy (when presenting text information both in writing and speaking subtests)

You must be very accurate with specific information important in the text

Literal copying off of the text

It is allowed to copy no more than 3 phrases





Productive skills assessment criteria (3/3)

-
- Communicatively significant error**
 - Communicatively insignificant error**
 - Cohesion and Coherence**

1.

,

,

?

2.

,

.

3.

,

.

4.

,

,

.

5.

,

,

.



You can get extra points for:

- comprehensive use of speech etiquette**

: - ! ? - ?
.: - / // / ?
/ //

- Independent language use**

:
.
:
,

- Intelligible individual sounds, word stress and intonation**
- Extent**



□ Grammar and Vocabulary

- Go over a task and correctly allocate the given time

□ Reading

- First read questions or phrases, find and underline key words
- Scan the text and identify the topic of the text, find key words and their synonyms; then answer the questions

□ Listening

- First read answer options, then listen to the text
- Mark supposedly correct answers in the draft, write or underline words heard, then circle the option in the matrix

Recommendations for productive skill tasks performance



Writing

- Write about all content topics required in the task
- Do not write a complete draft
- Mind the style of your written product

Speaking

- Avoid %Yes+, +No+, +I donq know+answers
- Answer the questions with one or two phrases
- No need to tell the truth . use your imagination
- Do not forget about the style
- Plan your monologue according to the given plan, highlight the main information blocks in the text

Do not look for every word in the dictionary





On the day of the Test

What to bring with you?

- Passport or other ID (with a photo)
- Receipt of payment for examination
- 2 ball pens of blue colour
- Bilingual dictionary (paper!)

What is forbidden during the test?

- All electronic devices
- Take away examination papers from the classroom
- Test materials copying and talking to other candidates

When can you use a dictionary?

- During “Reading” and “Writing” subtest.



How to prepare for the test?

How to arrange training for the test?

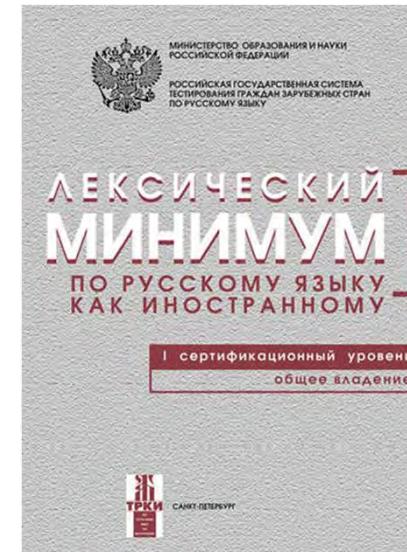
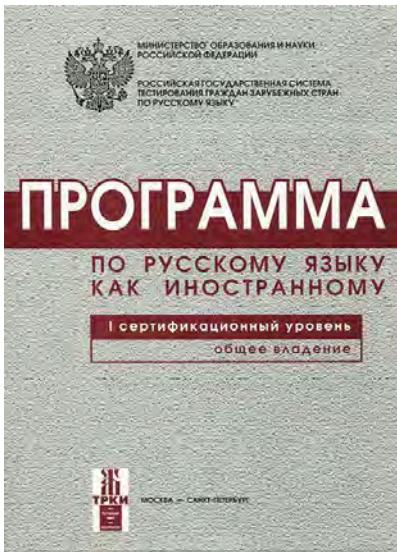
- «Grammar and Vocabulary», «Reading» and «Listening» - self-study using relevant test materials and course books
- «Writing» and «Speaking» - preparation with a teacher

What does a student have to know before testing?

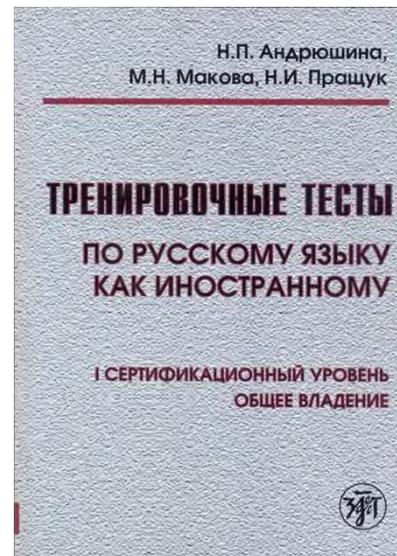
- Their own tactics on how to manage the time
- Instructions for each subtest
- How to complete the working matrixes (see below)

1)	A	Б	В	Г
2)	Х	Б	В	Г

Test of Russian as a Foreign Language Standards



Sample Tests





Course Books

« 2.II »



« »



« »



Grammar Practice

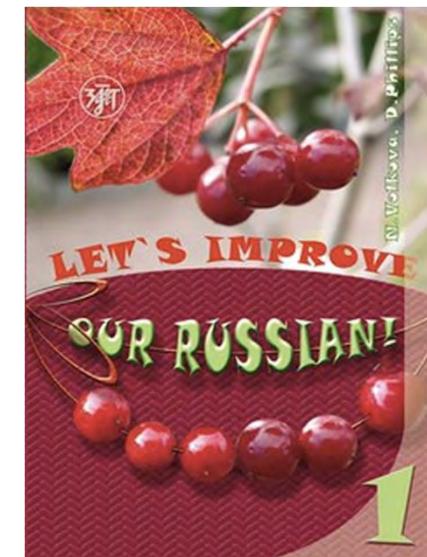
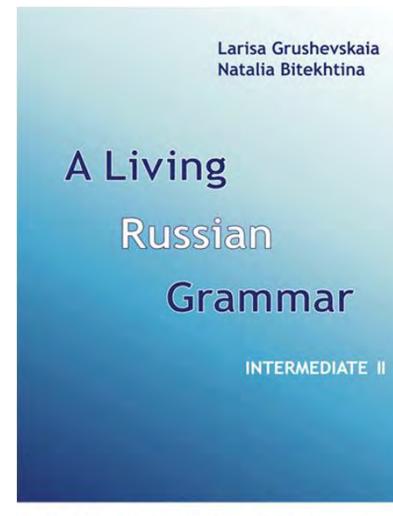


«

»

«A Living Russian Grammar»

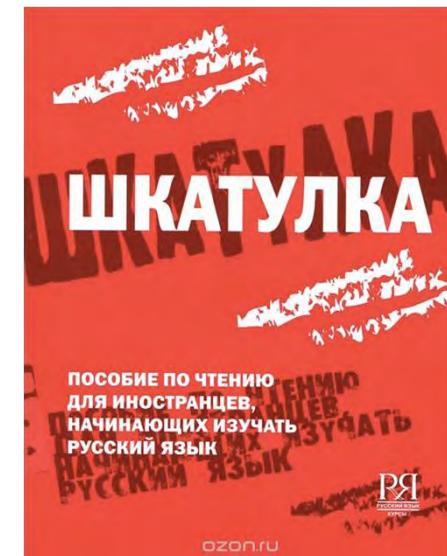
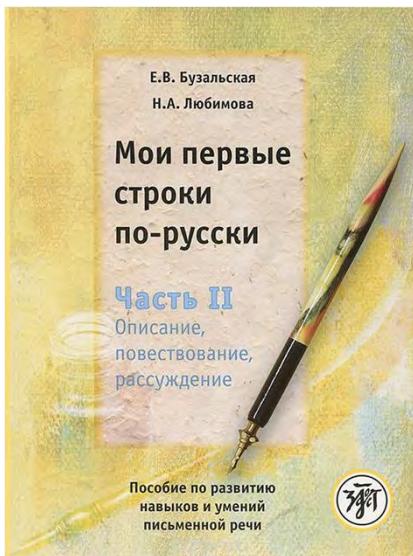
«Let's improve our Russian»



Writing and Reading Practice



« . . . - » « . . . » « . . . »



Language Testing Centre of Saint Petersburg State University



Website: <http://english.spbu.ru/language-testing-center>

E-mail: test.language@spbu.ru

Tel.: +7 (812) 325-11-24



Центр языкового
тестирования
ТРКИ/TORFL

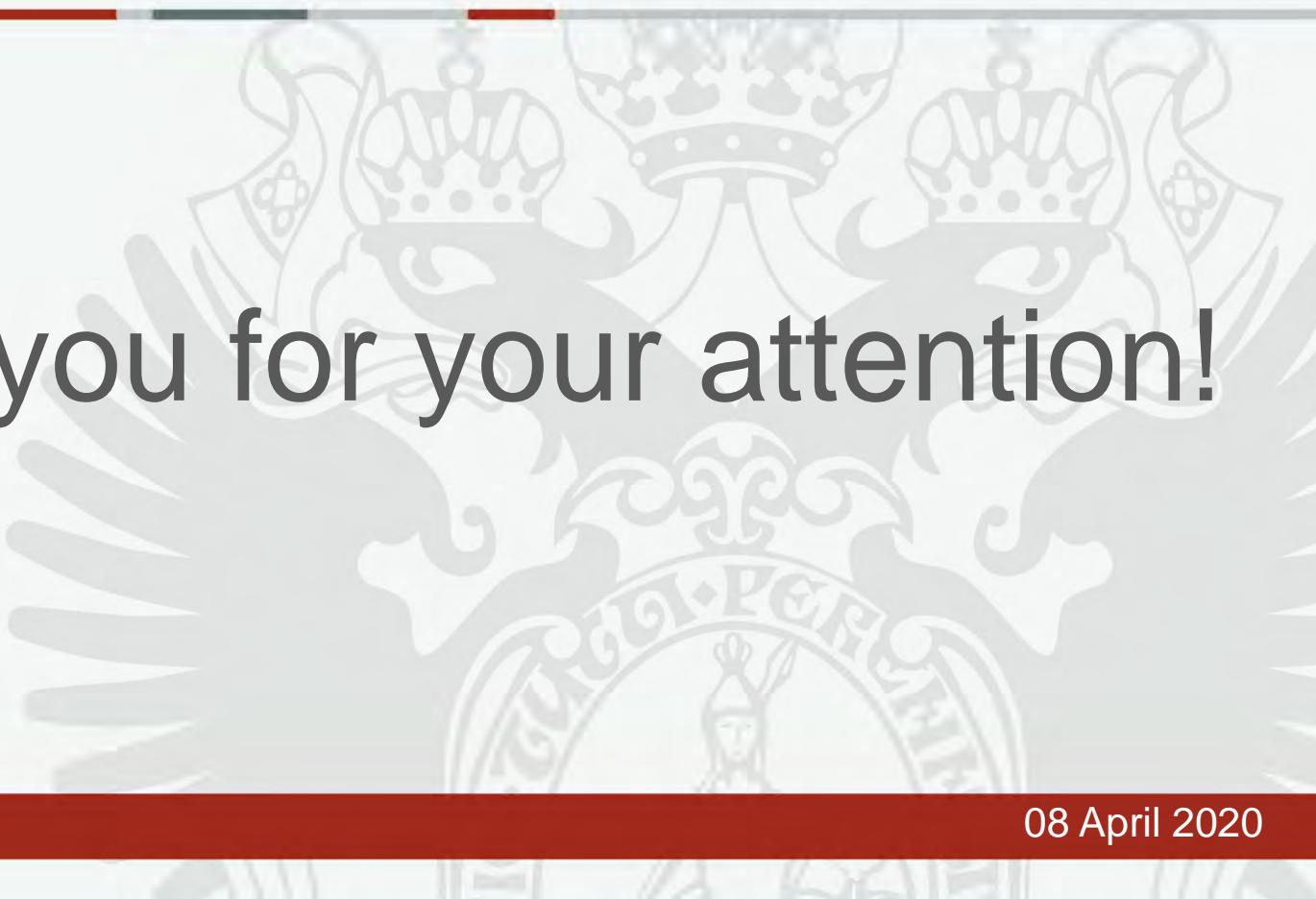


TORFL_SPBU





Санкт-Петербургский
государственный
университет



Thank you for your attention!