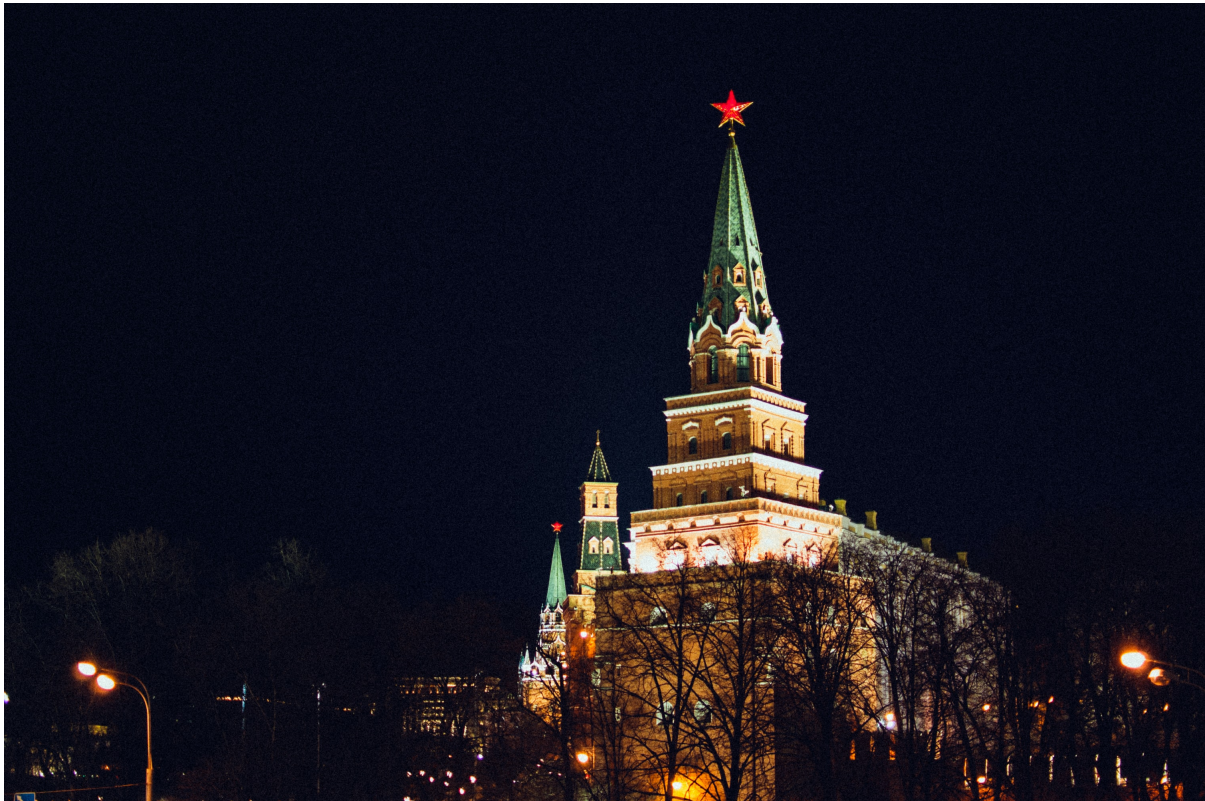




International Affairs Program
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

IAFS Alumni Newsletter - January 2023



"Getting Outside My Comfort Zone"

IAFS Alum on Life Abroad and Leaving Russia after the Ukraine Invasion

We recently interviewed Benjamin Lourie (IAFS & RUSS '16) and are excited to share about his experiences during his time living abroad. Read the full interview [here](#).

Ben talks about "getting outside his comfort zone" during his study abroad in Russia, that one time when he opened a Tex-Mex café in Moscow (he wouldn't repeat that experience), and the challenging decision

to leave Russia after the Ukraine invasion began. He also gives advice about working internationally and talks about the challenges of life abroad.



"A lot of people tried to dissuade me from trying to build an international career, especially one tied with Russia. And while recent foreign events have proven Russia was not the most stable place to build a career, I wouldn't change the choices I made or where I am at today. So know that there will be a lot of people who say it's not possible. There is even a Russian expression "где родился там и пригодился" (roughly translates as "where you are from is where you will be useful", except it rhymes and is catchier in Russian).

Even if most people may not build a career internationally, don't rule yourself out! You never know what people in another country may be missing out on and what you have to offer if you stay home." - Ben Lourie (IAFS & RUSS '16)

[Finish reading Ben's Story](#)

[Connect with Ben on LinkedIn](#)

ICYMI - Right Here, Right Now Global Climate Summit

If you were unable to attend the **Right Here, Right Now Global Climate Summit** in early December, you can still access On Demand videos of the event. Learn more about how to do that on the **Right Here, Right Now website**. You can also read summit highlights on **CU Boulder Today's website**.

Mark Your Calendar - Conference on World Affairs (CWA)

The 2023 **Conference of World Affairs** is scheduled **April 12-14, 2023** and includes a celebration of CWA's 75th anniversary. CWA will have both in-person and virtual panels, speakers, and performances that are free and open to the public.

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Have a story to share?

We welcome stories from alums - please keep us updated! Email iafs@colorado.edu and let us know what you are doing. Check out our **Alumni Spotlight** for other IAFS alumni stories!



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