

Discipline "Latin language" for  
the specialty "Dentistry"

# History of the department

Until 1917, the teaching of Latin was not required at the medical faculties of universities in the Russian Empire, since graduates of gymnasiums and young people who had received home education possessed the classical languages to such an extent that they were able to translate ancient authors from adapted editions and recite by heart the works of ancient Greek and Roman poets.

1918

Latin was not taught to medical students during the first years of Soviet rule either, for example, at the medical faculty of the Second Moscow State University. This was a period of intense class struggle, when not all applicants had completed secondary education, and admission to the first year was determined primarily by class-based criteria.



1928

“Not everyone can even correctly pronounce a Latin name,” wrote the newspaper *«За Лениным»* on June 11, 1928.

“It is impossible for students to read a single book on anatomy because of their ignorance of Latin terms. What should be done? How can one study? A petition for the introduction of Latin was submitted to the dean’s office, signed by almost the entire class... If we study German because it is necessary to understand certain medical books, then we must certainly know Latin, because without it we cannot understand any book at all,” the same newspaper wrote on December 15, 1927.

The administration did not respond immediately: the discipline *Latin Language* was introduced into medical universities of the country only in 1934.

1934

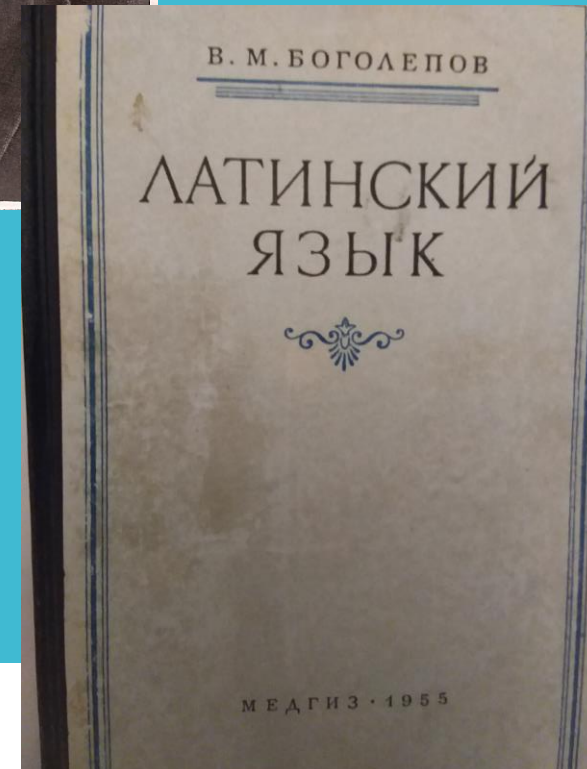
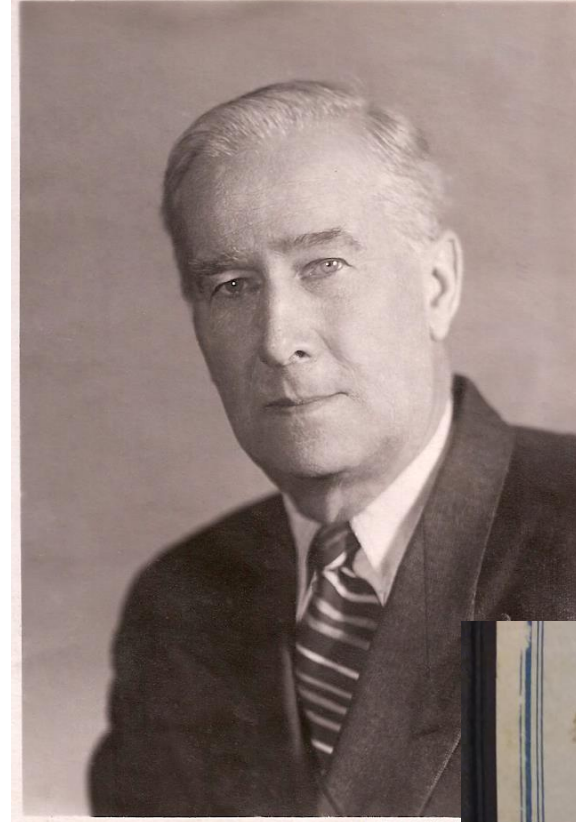
Our department was founded by Elena Ivanovna Ilzen (1888–1953), a scholar of classical languages, Ancient history, and culture. During the First World War, Ilzen, the daughter of a sanitary physician, was awarded the Order of St. George for her service as a nurse (photo from 1915). An extraordinary woman, she successfully undertook the establishment of a new department at the Second Moscow Medical Institute.

However, the course of academic life under her leadership remained unknown, as in the same year, 1934, Elena Ivanovna was repressed, and her name was erased from history for many decades.

In 1935, the department was headed by the distinguished Russian educator Vladimir Mikhailovich Bogolepov (1881–1958), a descendant of a renowned family that gave the Fatherland writers, scholars, and teachers. For instance, he was the nephew of N. P. Bogolepov (1846–1901), Professor of Roman Law, Rector of the Imperial Moscow University, and Minister of Education. From 1935 onward, V. M. Bogolepov began developing a methodology for teaching Latin to future physicians.

1950

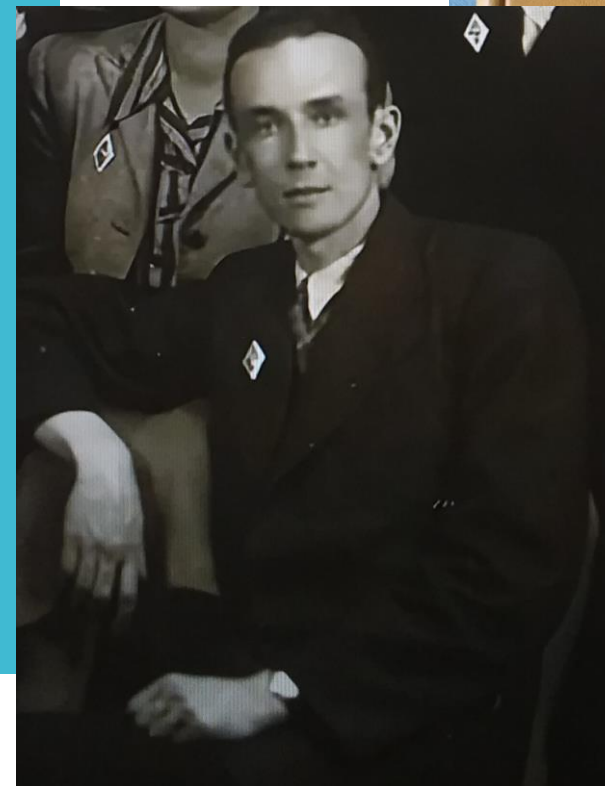
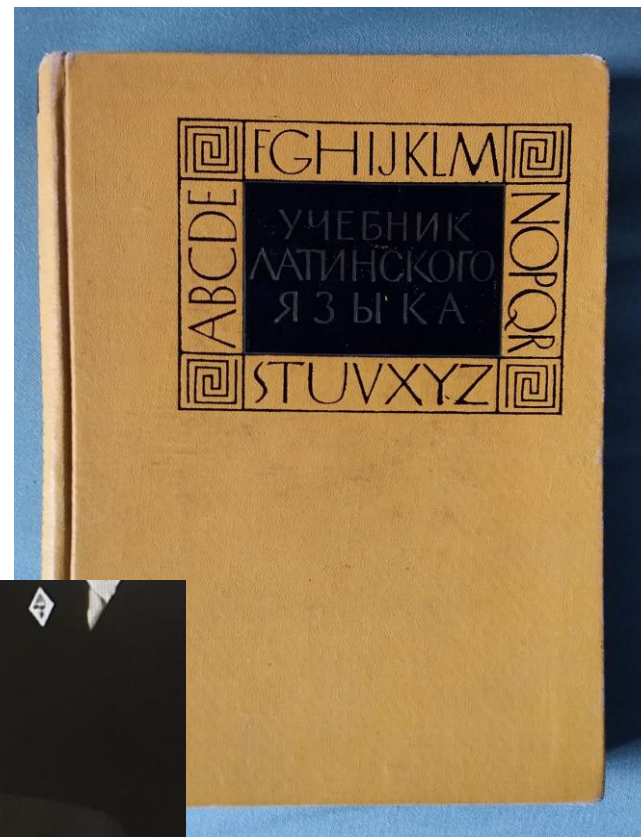
The Latin textbook for medical students by V. M. Bogolepov was first published in 1950. Several generations of students studied the fundamentals of terminology with its help.



Since 1955, the department was headed by the prominent Russian scholar Yuri Frantsevich Schultz (1923–2005), a philologist, art historian, and translator of ancient and medieval authors such as Celsus, Galen, Avicenna, Arnold of Villanova, and many others.

In 1962, the department produced a new Latin textbook for medical students under the general editorship of Yu. F. Schultz. The textbook was improved and republished many times until 1995, and it continues to be referenced today.

In 1970, Yu. F. Schultz's *Handbook of Latin* was published for the first time, intended for students of the country's first biomedical faculty.







In the 1970s–1980s, the department actively engaged in translating into Russian and providing scholarly commentaries on medical works of ancient and medieval authors. Examples include Arnold of Villanova's treatise *On the Prolongation of Youth and the Delay of Old Age* (14th century), Marbod of Rennes' poem *Lapidary* (12th century), among others.

# Main areas of the department's activity

## 1. Educational and methodological work

- Teaching Latin to students of various specializations
- Development of curricula and teaching materials

## 2. Research activities

- Study of medical and biological terminology
- Examination of Latin texts
- Participation in conferences; Preparation of scholarly articles

## 3. Cultural and educational outreach

- Organization of conferences and seminars
- Participation in linguistic olympiads

## Main areas of the department's activity

### 1. Student Research Club

Study of terminology and terminography  
Supervisor – PhD (Philology), Senior Lecturer O. A. Novichkova

### 2. Advanced Latin

In-depth study of Latin grammar  
Supervisor – PhD (Philology), Associate Professor E. A. Glebova

### 3. Book Club

*Asclepius Visiting Homer*  
Reading and commentary on Latin sources  
Supervisor – Senior Lecturer F. Yu. Kolesnikov





# Connection of the discipline “Latin Language” with the educational program “Dentistry”

## **Language of Professional Terminology and Nomenclature**

Latin serves as the universal language of medicine and pharmacy. The International Anatomical Terminology (*Terminologia Anatomica 2*) is a collection of Latin and Latinized terms, mandatory for use worldwide.

## **Diagnostics and Formulation of Diagnoses**

Latin terms form the basis for standardized formulations of clinical and pathological diagnoses. This ensures clarity, brevity, and unambiguity when transmitting information between specialists.

## **Prescription — the Heart of Pharmaceutical Practice**

A doctor writes a prescription in Latin, and the pharmacist must read it correctly, understand it, and fulfill it precisely.

## **International Communication and Scientific Activity**

Latin, alongside English, is a language of international medical communication. Participation in congresses, reading international literature, and sharing experiences require an understanding of universal Latin terminology.

## **Historical and Cultural Foundation**

Many modern medical and pharmaceutical concepts originate from the works of ancient authors (Galen, Hippocrates) and medieval scholars who wrote in Latin.

# Course content

**The entire course is divided into 3 main sections:**

- *Anatomic-Histological Terminology*
- *Clinical Terminology*
- *Pharmaceutical Terminology*

Semester 1.  
The section “*Anatomic-Histological Terminology*” includes the following units:

- **Topic 1.** The Latin alphabet and pronunciation.
- **Topic 2.** Accentuation
- **Topic 3.** Noun and its grammatical categories. The structure of anatomical terms. Dictionary entries for nouns. First declension nouns
- **Topic 4.** Second declension nouns
- **Topic 5.** Adjective and its grammatical categories. First and second declension adjectives. Agreement of adjectives
- **Topic 6.** Third declension adjectives. Adjectives in the comparative degree.
- **Topic 7.** Fourth and fifth declension nouns.
- **Topic 8.** Third declension. Nouns of masculine gender. Names of muscles denoting their function.
- **Topic 9.** Third declension. Nouns of feminine gender.
- **Topic 10.** Third declension. Nouns of neuter gender.
- **Topic 11.** Revision: Topic 1-10
- **Topic 12.** Nominative plural of nouns and adjectives
- **Topic 13.** Genitive plural of nouns and adjectives.
- **Topic 14.** Revision: Topic 1-13

Semester 2.  
The section “*Clinical Terminology*” includes the following units:

- **Topic 15.** Clinical terminology. Types of clinical terms. Multi-word clinical terms
- **Topic 16.** The structure of compound clinical terms. Greek combining forms I
- **Topic 17.** Greek combining forms II
- **Topic 18.** Greek combining forms III
- **Topic 19.** Greek combining forms IV
- **Topic 20.** Greek combining forms V
- **Topic 21.** Greek combining forms VI
- **Topic 22.** Revision: Greek combining forms I-VI

Semester 2.  
The section  
“*Pharmaceutical  
Terminology*” includes  
the following units:

**Topic 23.** Drug nomenclature. Drug dosage forms. Medicinal plants. Parts of plants. Prescription. Standard prescription phrases. Genitive case in prescriptions

**Topic 24.** Prescription. Accusative and Ablative cases in prescriptions. Abbreviations in prescriptions

**Topic 25.** Prescription. Chemical nomenclature. Chemical elements, oxides, hydroxides, peroxides, acids. Salts.



**Types of classes**  
the Latin language  
course provides for  
three types of classes:

**Laboratory–Practical Session** – practical classes are conducted in the form of discussing linguistic material and mastering it through exercises, dictations, and prescription writing.

**Colloquium** – midterm assessment is conducted as a combined (written and oral) examination.

**Final Credit (Pass/Fail)** – the final assessment is conducted as an oral examination.

# How to prepare for classes

The main source of information for the course *Latin Language* is the textbook:

- The latin language and the basics of medical terminology. Anatomical terminology / Abel A. S., Kokareva E. V. / 2021
- The Latin Language and the Basics of Medical Terminology: Clinical Terminology / Abel A. S., Kokareva E. V. / 2024

- Carefully study the theoretical material using notes from the previous class, the textbook, supplementary manuals, and electronic learning resources; review previously covered material.
- Prepare a notebook for note-checking (and, if necessary, add corrections or supplements to the existing notes).
- Complete the written assignment.
- Prepare oral tasks for class performance.
- Learn the studied grammatical and lexical material (lexical minima are available on the department's website).
- Write down possible questions to be addressed to the instructor on the topic studied.
- Memorize aphorisms, proverbs, or professional expressions according to the lesson plan.

To prepare for **laboratory–practical sessions**, the student should:

- Study the course material for the sections covered during the semester.
- Review all lexical minima for the sections studied.
- Ensure completion of all written homework assignments.
- Prepare a notebook for inspection of notes and completed in-class and homework assignments across all sections of the semester.
- Print the template required for the written quiz.

To prepare for  
**colloquia**, the student  
should:

- Review the course material for the sections covered during the semester.
- Prepare a notebook for review of notes.
- Revise all lexical minima required by the curriculum.

To prepare for the **final credit (Pass/Fail)**, the student should:



# FORMS OF ASSESSMENT

**Attendance control** – monitoring student presence in class.

**Combined assessment** – evaluation of covered material, conducted in both oral and written form.

**Oral assessment** – individual oral translation of chemical–pharmaceutical or clinical terms (depending on the section studied).

**Important!** Students found cheating will be immediately dismissed from the class.

**Notebook review** – verification of students' notes on theoretical material covered during the semester, as well as inspection of completed in-class and homework assignments across all sections of the course.

**⚠ Important! Maintaining a notebook of theoretical material for this course is mandatory. Each topic must be dated and signed personally by the student. In the absence of written homework assignments, this requirement will not be considered fulfilled.**

Forms of assessment

# Midterm assessment

1. The form of midterm assessment for the course *Latin Language* is a pass/fail credit.
2. **Important!** The minimum value required to obtain a pass is 60%.



## **Individual Consultations**

---

**Conducted according to the individual  
schedule of each professor.**



## Contacts

For questions regarding the course *Latin Language*, students may contact the lead instructor

**For questions related to the organization of the educational process, you may contact the academic coordinators:**

- Anastasia Sergeevna Abel — Room 3145, email: [abel\\_as@rsmu.ru](mailto:abel_as@rsmu.ru), tel.: +7 (495) 434-22-66
- Polina Borisovna Povetkina (for the courses *Foreign Language* and *Translation of Professional Literature*) — Room 3144, email: [povetkina\\_pb@rsmu.ru](mailto:povetkina_pb@rsmu.ru), tel.: +7 (495) 434-22-66

**For electronic coordination:**

- Svetlana Alekseevna Kryuchkova — Room 3146, email: [kriuchkova\\_sa@rsmu.ru](mailto:kriuchkova_sa@rsmu.ru), tel.: +7 (495) 434-22-66
- Filipp Yuryevich Kolesnikov (for the courses *Foreign Language* and *Translation of Professional Literature*) — Room 3145, email: [kolesnikov\\_fiu@rsmu.ru](mailto:kolesnikov_fiu@rsmu.ru), tel.: +7 (495) 434-22-66

**For other important matters, you may contact the Head of Department:**

- Inna Vladimirovna Dukhanina — Room 3143, email: [dukhanina\\_iv@rsmu.ru](mailto:dukhanina_iv@rsmu.ru), tel.: +7 (495) 434-55-91