

Discipline "Latin
language" for the
specialty "Pharmacy"

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 «*Знаменитым*» 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.

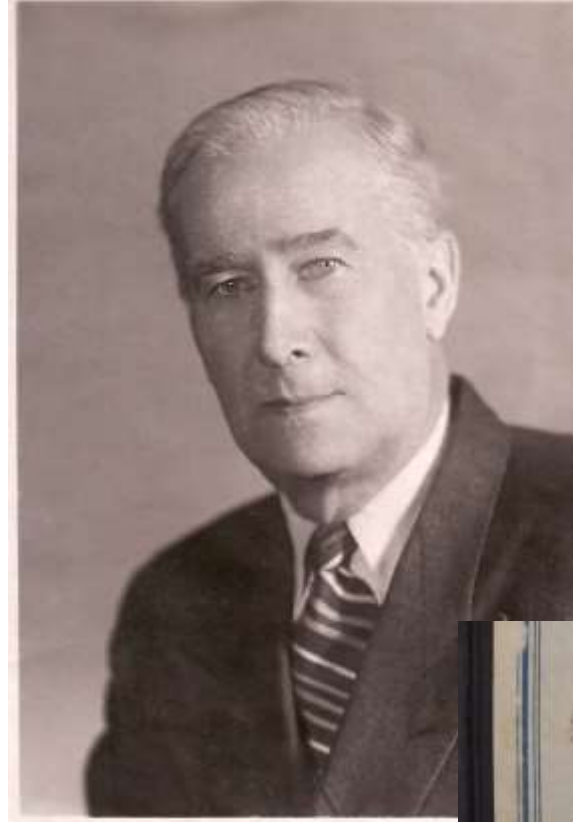
The administration did not respond immediately: the discipline *Latin Language* was introduced into medical universities of the country only in 1934.

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

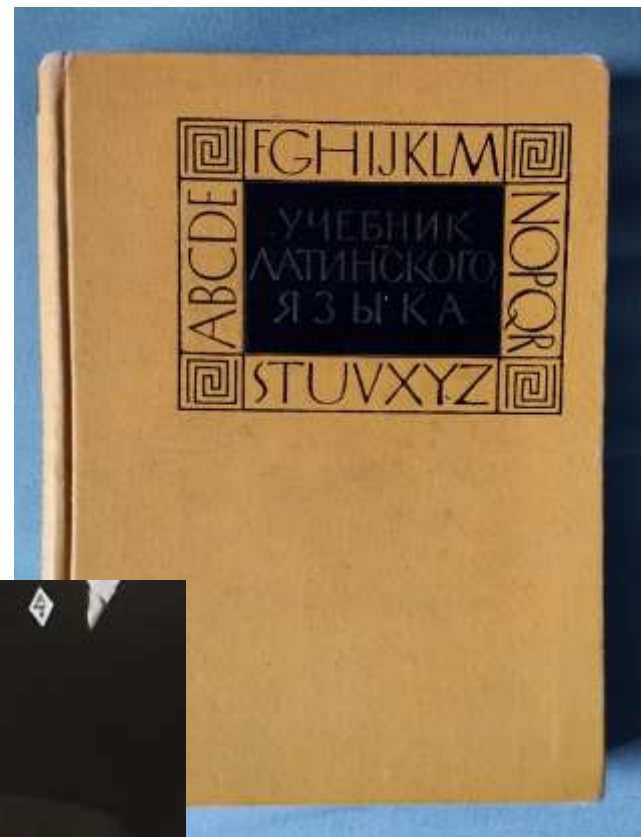
The Latin textbook for medical students by V. M. Bogolepov was first published in 1950. Several generations of students studied the fundamentals of terminology with its help.



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



The Relationship of the course “Latin Language” to the Pharmacy curriculum

Language of Professional Terminology and Nomenclature

Latin serves as the universal language of medicine and pharmacy worldwide. This ensures clarity and precision. The names of medicines, their active substances, and dosage forms are expressed in Latin.

Prescription Writing – the Core of Pharmaceutical Practice

A physician issues a prescription in Latin, and the pharmacist must read, understand, and execute it precisely.

Knowledge of Latin prevents errors in the preparation and dispensing of medicines, which is directly linked to patient safety.

International Unity and Standardization

Latin is an international standard in pharmacy. Latin terms ensure mutual understanding among physicians, pharmacists, and researchers from different countries.

In pharmacognosy, the binomial nomenclature of Linnaeus in Latin is used to designate plants.

Historical and Cultural Foundation

Many modern medical and pharmaceutical concepts trace their origins to the works of ancient (e.g., Galen, Hippocrates) and medieval scholars who wrote in Latin.



Course content

The entire course is divided into four main sections:

- Basics of pharmaceutical terminology
- The Prescription
- Chemical Terminology
- Clinical terminology

Semester 1.
The section “*Basics of Pharmaceutical Terminology*” includes the following units:

- **Unit 1.** Introduction to the Latin language and pharmaceutical terminology. Latin alphabet and pronunciation
- **Unit 2.** Accentuation
- **Unit 3.** The noun and its grammatical categories. Declension system in Latin. Dictionary entries. Greek nouns and indeclinable nouns.
- **Unit 4.** Syntactic construction of a pharmaceutical term. Noun phrase with genitive attribute
- **Unit 5.** The adjective and its grammatical categories. Dictionary entries of adjectives of the 1st–2nd and 3rd declensions. Agreement of the adjective with its noun. Comparison of adjectives
- **Unit 6.** Accusative and Ablative Cases. Prepositions. Adverbs. Conjunctions. Standard prescription phrases
- **Unit 7.** The verb: categories conjugations. Numerals
- **Unit 8.** Revision of module "Basics of pharmaceutical terminology"

Semester 1.
The section “*The Prescription*” includes the following units:

- **Unit 9.** The prescription: general formatting rules, the prescriptive line, abbreviated and extended prescriptions, ingredients, ingredients of a compound medication, quantity designation in a prescription, cases (grammatical), standard formulations
- **Unit 10.** Additional Labels and Abbreviations. Sample prescriptions: solid, liquid, soft, and gaseous dosage forms
- **Unit 11.** Herbal medicinal products. Plant names: taxonomy. Pharmacognosy
- **Unit 12.** Terminology of pharmacy and pharmacology. Pharmacological action, drug interactions, dosage regimens; characterization of drug effects by duration and intensity; administration routes; nomenclature types of medicinal products
- **Unit 13.** Revision of module "The prescription"

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

Unit 14. Trivial and rational names in chemical terminology.
Chemical elements

Unit 15. Word Formation: prefixes and suffixes

Unit 16. Chemical compounds: oxides, peroxides, hydroxides.
Prescriptions with names of oxides, peroxides, and hydroxides

Unit 17. Acids. Prescriptions with acid names

Unit 18. Salts: cations, oxygenated and non-oxygenated, acid and basic salts. Prescriptions with salt names

Unit 19. Radicals, alcohols, ethers. Prescriptions with names of radicals, alcohols, and ethers

Unit 20. Revision of module "Chemical terminology"

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

Unit 21. Clinical terminology. Types of clinical terms. Concept of combining forms

Unit 22. Word formation in clinical terminology: prefixes, suffixes, combining vowels

Unit 23. Combining forms – anatomical names

Unit 24. Combining forms – Names of processes, conditions, secretions, and fluids

Unit 25. Combining forms – signs, symptoms, and diagnostic methods

Unit 26. Revision of module "Clinical terminology"

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:
*Latin Language and Pharmaceutical Terminology:
Textbook for Higher Professional Education* / Petrova G.
Vs. / 2022

- 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, 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, tel.: +7 (495) 434-22-66

For electronic coordination:

- Svetlana Alekseevna Kryuchkova — Room 3146, email: 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, 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, tel.: +7 (495) 434-55-91