

Beginning Classical Tibetan Language Summer Intensive

June 10 to August 6, 2020

Includes 8 weeks of classes plus 4 days of Orientation

The Centre for Buddhist Studies at Rangjung Yeshe Institute is pleased to offer a summer of intensive Classical Tibetan language training. Classes are held Mondays through Fridays, and although the course is quite intensive, weekends are generally left for students to explore the Kathmandu Valley and mingle with the local Tibetan community of Boudhanath. Also, several times throughout the program, the Centre for Buddhist Studies will arrange guided tours of major cultural sites of the Valley. Instructors at the program are faculty from the Centre for Buddhist Studies.

The Academic Program

This summer intensive is offered for beginning students with no prior study of Classical Tibetan. The program is designed to facilitate the rapid acquisition of basic Classical Tibetan vocabulary and grammar. Beginning with the alphabet, pronunciation, basic words and sentence structure, the eight-week program will ground students in the workings of the Classical Tibetan language, providing them with a basic command of the language and the necessary foundation for further study.

In addition to satisfactory grades, students must maintain an attendance rate of 80% throughout the course in order to pass. The level of intensity of the program is high and students are expected to invest considerable time and effort in order to meet class requirements and academic expectations. That said, any student who successfully completes this course will arrive at a comfortable facility with the Classical Tibetan language. Students who complete the course receive academic credit at the Centre for Buddhist Studies for Classical Tibetan I and Classical Tibetan II (6 credits total).

This course covers two full semesters of material and therefore earns six credits. Students spend four hours each day in class and the expected work time outside of class ranges between two and four hours per day depending on student interest and ability.

Additional Features and Services

- Orientation program with introduction to Nepal
- All classes are held in a traditional monastic setting near the Boudhanath Stupa
- Opportunities to meet and receive teachings from resident Buddhist teachers
- Cultural visits to ancient sites of the Kathmandu Valley
- Efficient medical referral system
- Access to the full facilities of the CBS campus including wireless Internet access at selected campus locations, assistance from our full-time Student Services Coordinator, and on-site library facilities.

- Good links to local trekking, rafting and sight-seeing companies

Price

Price includes tuition, and tours.

Admission Criteria

This program has a maximum intake of 15 students and all applications are subject to approval by the Centre for Buddhist Studies.

Application

To apply for the course please click on the "Apply to RYI" link on the website's Admissions tab. Scroll down to click on the "Apply Now!" button. Then choose the course that you wish to study from the drop down menu where you will find general information and an application form for the course.

Course DescriptionIntroduction to the Grammar of Classical Tibetan

This course leads students into basic classical Tibetan using teaching techniques that are optimized for non-Tibetan speakers. It is taught by a Western teacher and starts with a practical introduction to Tibetan grammar and a successive build-up of vocabulary. While students are learning new topics in the main class, the material already covered is frequently reviewed in separate classes to ensure a solid foundation. At the same time there are daily reading and spelling exercises conducted by a native speaker to train students in correct pronunciation and reading fluency. Regular quizzes and homework help students to monitor their progress. After only four to five weeks, students start reading "real-life" classical Tibetan texts of various genres under the guidance of the teachers. As a supplement to the language classes, a number of lectures provide students with background knowledge for reading Tibetan texts, such as Tibetan history, genres of Tibetan literature, and culture.

Please note: The alphabet and syllable construction will be taught during orientation. A basic ability to read and write the Tibetan alphabet will therefore be assumed from the first day of class. Students in this course therefore **MUST** attend the orientation.

Course Materials: The primary textbook used for the Beginning Classical Tibetan Summer Intensive is the Classical Tibetan Grammar Manual by Benjamin Collet-Cassart. The text will be available at the CBS office.