

Beginning Nepali 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 Nepali language training for international students. The program provides a full immersion into Nepali language and culture. An integral part of the program is student accommodation with Nepali families where the training of the formal classes is reinforced and Internalized.

Weekends are generally left for students to explore the Kathmandu Valley and mingle with the local Nepali community of Boudhanath. However, several times throughout the program, the Centre for Buddhist Studies will arrange guided tours of major cultural sites of the Valley. Instructors in the program are native Nepali speakers and international faculty from CBS.

The Academic Program

This summer intensive is offered for beginning students of Nepali, with no prior formal Nepali study. The program focuses on the basic grammar and structure of spoken Nepali, and on gradually developing the students' vocabulary so they can quickly begin to speak and understand simple sentences. During the course of the summer, more complex grammatical structures and a variety of situational vocabulary will be introduced. The course also teaches the Nepali alphabet (Devanāgarī), and students will begin to read and write simple Nepali sentences. The course includes Nepali grammar classes, drill classes, and classes of conversation training with native speakers.

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 the 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 basic spoken Nepali. Students who complete the course receive academic credit at the Centre for Buddhist Studies for Nepali I and Nepali 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.

Home-stay and Meals

CBS arranges home-stays for students with Nepali host families in the Boudhanath area. This provides students with the opportunity for a full exposure language situation as well as the chance to get to know people in the local community, and to become familiar with Nepalese culture. All families have been carefully selected by the Centre for Buddhist Studies. Families provide breakfast and dinner to the students. Lunchtime conversations at the restaurant provide an additional opportunity to practice Nepali.

Please note that CBS cannot guarantee accommodation with a host family and host-family assignments will be made on a first-come, first-served basis.

Additional Features and Services

- Orientation program with introduction to Nepal
- All classes 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 full facilities of CBS campus including wireless internet access at selected campus locations, assistance from our full-time Student Services Coordinator, and onsite library facilities.
- Good links to local trekking, rafting and sight-seeing companies

Price

Price includes tuition, accommodation, breakfast and dinner with Nepalese families, and tours. Students may choose to opt out of the home stay program, and thereby pay a reduced course fee. These students must also arrange for lodging, breakfast and dinner on their own.

Admission Criteria

This program has a maximum intake of 20 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 Description

Nepali Grammar Classes

These classes introduce students to basic sentence structures and a breadth of Nepali situational vocabulary. The instructor will teach grammar and vocabulary that will be internalized through practice in the conversation classes with assistant language instructors and in drill classes. Students will be required to memorize vocabulary and sentence structures, as well as doing written homework assignments, and will be quizzed regularly on the material covered in class. This class is taught by a Nepalese instructor. Students will learn basic structures, basic day-to-day vocabulary and verb conjugations in several tenses, including, for example, the use of bhayo, parcha, lagcha, huncha, -era, -epacchi, dakeri, and so on. Students will also learn how to use the various post-positions such as le, lai, ma, sanga, and so on. Students will learn the Devanāgarī alphabet and will begin simple reading and writing.

Assistant Language Instructors

Through working one-on-one with Nepali assistant language instructors, students make practical use of the Nepali language. The specific vocabulary and grammatical structures introduced in the Nepali Grammar Class will be emphasized in these conversations so that students gain more familiarity and practice with what they learn in that class, as well as becoming more comfortable speaking with a variety of Nepali speakers.

Course Materials

Course materials include Ramaailo Nepali by Pavitra Paudyal and Andy Krakower, and various handouts. All materials are available for purchase at the office.