

Beginning Sanskrit 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 Sanskrit 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 community of Boudhanath. Also, several times throughout the program, the Centre for Buddhist Studies will arrange guided tours of major cultural sites in the Valley. Instructors for the program are international faculty and local Sanskrit teachers from the Centre for Buddhist Studies.

The Academic Program

This summer intensive is offered for beginning students with no prior study of Sanskrit. The course is designed to facilitate the rapid acquisition of basic Sanskrit vocabulary and grammar. This course will introduce the basics of Sanskrit grammar using both indigenous and Western pedagogical methods and terminology. Its aim will be to cover theory and offer practice sufficient to enable the students to work with original Sanskrit texts on their own.

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. Students who complete the course receive academic credit at the Centre for Buddhist Studies for Sanskrit I and 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 Service 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 Description

The course consists of two classes, as shown here:

Sanskrit Grammar Classes

These theory classes comprise the major portion of the course, and are taught by an English-speaking professor who will introduce and explain the grammar using Western and Sanskrit terminology according to Western pedagogical methods. The students' progress will be assessed on an ongoing basis through daily homework assignments and frequent quizzes.

Traditional Sanskrit Classes

These classes will include reading and pronouncing Devanāgarī texts, reciting and chanting Sanskrit prose and poetry, and learning spoken Sanskrit. This class will be given by a local scholar from a Brahmin caste who has learned Sanskrit both as part of his own tradition and as part of his academic studies.

Course Materials

All course materials are available in the CBS office.