Buddhist Studies Summer Intensive

Orientation sessions start from June 10, and classes run from June 15 to August 7, 2020 (eight weeks)

The Centre for Buddhist Studies (CBS) at Rangjung Yeshe Institute is pleased to offer a summer of intensive Buddhist Studies training. The program provides the opportunity for study with both monastic and academic scholars.

Instructors at the program are Tibetan Khenpos, Lopons, and international faculty from the Centre for Buddhist Studies.

The Academic Program

This summer intensive is offered for students with no Buddhist Studies background, while also being of interest to students with some experience in Buddhist Studies. Two of the courses are taught by Tibetan Khenpos, Lopons, or Lamas and translated into English. Students study in the traditional Tibetan way, receiving in-depth explanations of the texts being studied, word-by-word commentaries from the Tibetan teachers, and instruction in meditation techniques. The third course is taught by a professor and approaches the topic of Buddhist Studies from a broader perspective that includes consideration of other Buddhist traditions and examines the historical context in which Buddhist philosophical issues and debates have arisen.

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 TSTD 120 Buddhist Studies Summer Program I (6 credits total). This course covers two full semesters of material and therefore earns six credits. Students spend around three 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.

Admission Criteria

All for-credit applications are subject to approval by the Centre for Buddhist Studies. For more information, please refer to the Eligibility Requirements and Admissions Process for the summer program.

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 dropdown menu, where you will find general information and an application form for the course.

Course Description:

Buddhist Philosophy and Textual Studies

This component of the course introduces students to the Tibetan Buddhist tradition through an in-depth study of a classic Tibetan Buddhist text, *A Brilliant Sun: The Stages of Meditation on the Bodhicaryāvatāra*. The course gives students the opportunity to study this text as it is traditionally presented in a Tibetan Buddhist style of teaching. It introduces central aspects of the Great Vehicle (Mahāyāna), Buddhist view, meditation, and conduct.

Emphasis is placed on students becoming familiar with some of the central concepts and terminology of Buddhist philosophy and practice. Study will take place in the context of a living
practice tradition so that subject matter will be explored in relation to practical expressions of Buddhist spiritual life.

**Meditation Course**
This course provides a practical introduction to Buddhist meditation. Through a theoretical as well as an experiential approach, a Tibetan Lama will lead daily meditation sessions, providing basic instruction in śamatha (calm abiding) and vipaśyāna (clear seeing) meditation.

**Introduction to Buddhism**
The course will lead students through some of the primary texts and doctrines of Indian Buddhism, the foundation for most of Tibetan Buddhism. The course will balance historical and academic perspectives with philosophical and practical understanding.