Intermediate Tibetan Language Summer Intensive
Orientation sessions start from June 10, and classes run from June 15 to August 7 (eight weeks)

The Centre for Buddhist Studies at Rangjung Yeshe Institute is pleased to offer a summer of intensive colloquial Tibetan language training. Instructors at the program are native Tibetan speakers and international faculty from the Centre for Buddhist Studies. Classes are held Mondays through Fridays.

The Academic Program
This summer intensive is offered for intermediate students of colloquial Tibetan who have already completed two semesters, or the equivalent, of formal colloquial Tibetan study. The program is designed to build on a basic understanding of colloquial Tibetan grammar and vocabulary and expand the students’ facility with more complex sentence structures and more extensive vocabulary.

Beginning with a review of basic grammatical structures, this course will cover increasingly more complex sentence structures while emphasizing practical language use and application so that students become more and more comfortable and fluent with their spoken Tibetan. While the main emphasis of the course is on practical and colloquial vocabulary, one of the classes will also introduce Buddhist topics and vocabulary. The course includes Colloquial Tibetan grammar classes and one-on-one conversation training with native speakers.

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 be well on his or her way towards a high degree of proficiency in the colloquial Tibetan language.

Students who complete the course receive academic credit at the Centre for Buddhist Studies for Colloquial Tibetan III and Colloquial Tibetan IV (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.

Students must show documentation of successful completion of two semesters of Colloquial Tibetan, or the equivalent thereof. This program has a maximum intake of 20 students and all applications are subject to approval by the Centre for Buddhist Studies.

Price
Price includes tuition fees and electronic copies of study texts.

Application
To apply for the course please click on the RYI website’s Admissions tab and then click on the “Apply to RYI” link. 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

Colloquial Tibetan Master Class and Review
This class introduces students to more complex sentence structures and an increasing breadth of colloquial Tibetan vocabulary. The instructors will teach grammar and vocabulary that will be
internalized through practice in the conversation classes with assistant language instructors. 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. A second hour of grammar class focuses on practical application of grammar structures and increasing students’ vocabulary. We also introduce Buddhist topics and vocabulary in this class. These classes are jointly taught by a Western instructor and a native Tibetan instructor. Instructors will also review the vocabulary and sentence structures that students have learned in the Master class. The instructors will review difficult points of grammar and answer students’ questions. Interactive activities, games and group assignments will provide the students with varied opportunities to speak.

**Assistant Language Instructors**
Through working one-on-one with Tibetan assistant language instructors, students make practical use of the Tibetan language. The specific vocabulary and grammatical structures introduced in the Master 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 native Tibetan speakers.

**Studying Online**
To take part in the course you will need to have access to a PC, Mac or Linux computer that is capable of running Microsoft Teams, which you can download free of charge here: https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/download-app
The Classes will be delivered through a blend of recorded and live sessions, while the Assistant Language Instructor classes will be live sessions.

**Course Materials**
The course material includes a handbook of dialogues, vocabulary, and grammar lessons, in a separate book that relies on the approach to spoken Tibetan taken by the *Colloquial Tibetan Textbook bod skad slob deb*, Vols 3 and 4 by Franziska Oertle, which is available as a reference source. This handbook was designed to meet the specific needs of RYI’s summer students and emphasizes ordinary spoken Tibetan.

The course assumes knowledge of Vols 1 and 2 of the *Colloquial Tibetan Textbook bod skad slob deb* by Franziska Oertle, including familiarity with the overarching concept in Tibetan language of *bdag* and *gzhan* (self and other) regarding which personal and possessive pronouns are explained in connection with verbs, aiming at conveying to the students a systematic and clear approach for appropriate verbal conjugation in the present, past and future tenses.