

Beginning Buddhist Literary Chinese Language Summer Intensive

June 10 - August 6, 2020

(Eight weeks including four days of orientation)

The Centre for Buddhist Studies at Rangjung Yeshe Institute is pleased to offer a summer of intensive Buddhist Literary Chinese language training for international students. Classes will be 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.

The Academic Program

This intensive Buddhist Literary Chinese course is offered for beginning-level students with no prior study of written or spoken Chinese. The program provides a thorough grounding in the basic vocabulary, grammar, and resources necessary to read and understand Chinese Buddhist texts—both in translation from Indic sources, and composed originally in Chinese. This course is taught in English for non-Chinese speakers, and so will require intensive effort at the beginning to learn the introductory set of characters needed to begin reading Buddhist texts. In addition to learning the necessary grammar and vocabulary, the course includes discussions of how to interpret Buddhist Literary Chinese, thus providing students with an important foundation for the reading of Chinese Buddhist texts.

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 Buddhist Literary Chinese 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 is divided into two main sections:

Introduction to the Buddhist Literary Chinese: writing system, vocabulary, and grammar

Students are introduced to the writing system of Buddhist Literary Chinese, in the context of reading short sūtra passages. Students are required to memorize characters and vocabulary and learn basic grammar. Students are assessed via written homework assignments and regular quizzes that test students on the material covered in class.

Daily Practicum

Students work in groups to translate sentences and sections of texts, with instructors available for questions and consultation.