

Beginning Tibetan Language Summer Intensive

June 12 to August 9, 2019

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 colloquial Tibetan language training. The program provides a full immersion into Tibetan language and culture. An integral part of the program is student accommodation with Tibetan 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 Tibetan 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 at the program are native Tibetan speakers and international faculty from the Centre for Buddhist Studies.

The Academic Program

This summer intensive is offered for beginning students with no prior study of colloquial Tibetan. The program is designed to facilitate the rapid acquisition of and development of facility with basic colloquial vocabulary and grammar. Beginning with the alphabet, pronunciation, basic words, and sentence structure, the eight-week program will ground students in the workings of the colloquial Tibetan language, providing them with a basic command of spoken Tibetan and the necessary foundation for further language studies. The course includes a grammar class, review class, conversation training with native speakers, and drill classes.

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 Tibetan.

Students who complete the course receive academic credit at the Centre for Buddhist Studies for Colloquial Tibetan I and Colloquial Tibetan II (6 credits total).

These courses cover 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 Tibetan 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 the Tibetan culture. All families have been carefully selected by the Centre for Buddhist Studies. Families provide breakfast and dinner to the students, while lunch will be provided Monday to Friday at the Institute's restaurant. Lunch time conversations at the restaurant offer further opportunities for Tibetan conversation. 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 on-site library facilities.
- Good links to local trekking, rafting and sight-seeing companies

Price

Price includes tuition, accommodation, all meals (breakfast and dinner with Tibetan families, lunch at the Institute's restaurant) and tours. Students may choose to opt out of the Tibetan 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 program, fill in the application form found at the registration page of this website.

Course Description

Introduction to Colloquial Tibetan

Week 1: Tibetan alphabet and letter pronunciation review, word construction and pronunciation, basic colloquial sentence structure, and basic vocabulary.

Week 2-8: The instructors will gradually present the basic grammatical structures and vocabulary of colloquial Tibetan. Emphasis will be placed on the new vocabulary and

sentence structures which then will be practiced and mastered in the review and conversation classes. The 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 jointly taught by a Western instructor and a native Tibetan instructor.

Review and Drilling

This class is intended to review and drill students in the vocabulary and sentence structures that they have learned in the Introduction to Colloquial Tibetan 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. Several days per week, students are drilled in grammatical structures and vocabulary.

Conversation Partners

Students make practical use of the Tibetan language spending the class in dialogue with native speakers, one-on-one. In these conversations the specific vocabulary and grammatical structures introduced in the Introduction to Colloquial Tibetan class will be emphasized so that students gain more familiarity and practice with what they have learned in class, as well as becoming used to speaking with native Tibetan speakers. Please note: An ability to read and write the Tibetan alphabet and read and pronounce syllables correctly will be assumed from the first day of class. Students in the first-year program therefore MUST attend the orientation.

Course Materials

The primary textbook used for the summer intensive program is the *Tibetan Textbook bod skad slob deb* Vols. 1 and 2 by Franziska Oertle. The text is available for purchase at the CBS office.