

Intermediate Sanskrit 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 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. The instructors for the program are international faculty from the Centre for Buddhist Studies.

The Academic Program

This intensive Sanskrit course is offered for intermediate-level students with two semesters of prior study of Sanskrit. The course assumes a thorough grounding in the basics of Sanskrit grammar, including experience with reading Buddhist Sanskrit literature. This intensive course is designed to increase students' reading proficiency in Sanskrit. Students will prepare translations of assigned Sanskrit texts for discussion during class time. When necessary, grammar will be refreshed and reinforced. 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 Services Coordinator, and on-site library facilities.
- Good links to local trekking, rafting and sight-seeing companies

Price

Price includes tuition, lunch at the Institute's restaurant on school days, 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.

Course Description

The choice of texts will include a variety of Sanskrit genres (epic, drama, philosophy, inspirational tale, etc.) Readings will in part also depend upon the interests of the students, and students are encouraged to suggest particular texts they would like to read.

Through meticulous attention to the grammar, genre and diction of the Sanskrit text, students will be taught to justify their translations in class. Class discussions will include a consideration of the historical, linguistic, cultural and religious contexts of the texts being read. Throughout the course, students will use a variety of resources, print and online, to aid their translation of Sanskrit texts, as well as develop familiarity with online resources for the translation of Sanskrit.

Course Materials

Required Texts

- A Sanskrit-English Dictionary - Monier-Williams' Sanskrit-English Dictionary is recommended, but students may choose to use another dictionary, such as A. A. MacDonell's A Practical Sanskrit Dictionary, or V. S. Apte's The Practical Sanskrit-English Dictionary.
- The dictionaries of Apte and MacDonell are available online at the University of Chicago's Digital Dictionaries of South Asia website: <http://dsal.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/> while Monier-Williams' dictionary is available online at: <http://www.sanskrit-lexicon.uni/koeln.de/monier/>
- A Sanskrit Grammar - Initially, students may rely on Goldman's as their main grammar (or whichever Sanskrit primer was used in their introductory course, if not Goldman's.) As the course progresses, students should acquire a more comprehensive reference work such as W. D. Whitney's Sanskrit Grammar and W. D. Whitney's The Roots, Verb - Forms, and Primary Derivatives of the Sanskrit Language.