

Intermediate Tibetan Language Summer Intensive

June 10 to August 6, 2020

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 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, drill classes and one-on-one conversation training with native speakers.

In order to pass the course, in addition to satisfactory grades, students must maintain an attendance rate of 80% throughout the course. 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.

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. 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, and breakfast and dinner with Tibetan families, 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 breakfast and dinner on their own.

Admission Criteria

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.

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

Colloquial Tibetan Master Class

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 and in drill classes. 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.

Review and Drilling

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

Assistant Language Instructors

Through working in small groups 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.

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 *Tibetan Textbook bod skad slob deb* Vols 3 & 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 *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.

This handbook is available for purchase at the CBS office.