

*The Masters in Buddhist Studies is a challenging program, with work to be done in both the traditional style of learning and memorizing the texts taught by the Khenpos, and in the research-oriented western academic style of paper and thesis writing. However, it's a very interesting exercise to train in these two styles simultaneously, and I can say that I learned a lot in the process, and I now know what I love and what I want to continue to pursue in my studies. Rangjung Yeshe is a wonderful place to study language and philosophy. If you have the chance to try it out, I would say: "go for it!"*

*Cynthia Font  
MA Student*



*Join us as we explore issues in  
the fields of Buddhist Studies  
and Translation.*

*A world rich with inquiry and  
insight awaits.*



RANGJUNG YESHE INSTITUTE

Boudhanath  
Kathmandu, Nepal

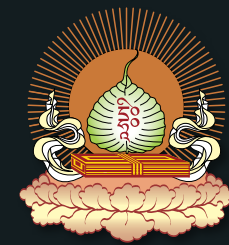


FOR MORE INFORMATION

Tel: 977 - 1 - 491 5975

Email: [admin@ryi.org](mailto:admin@ryi.org)

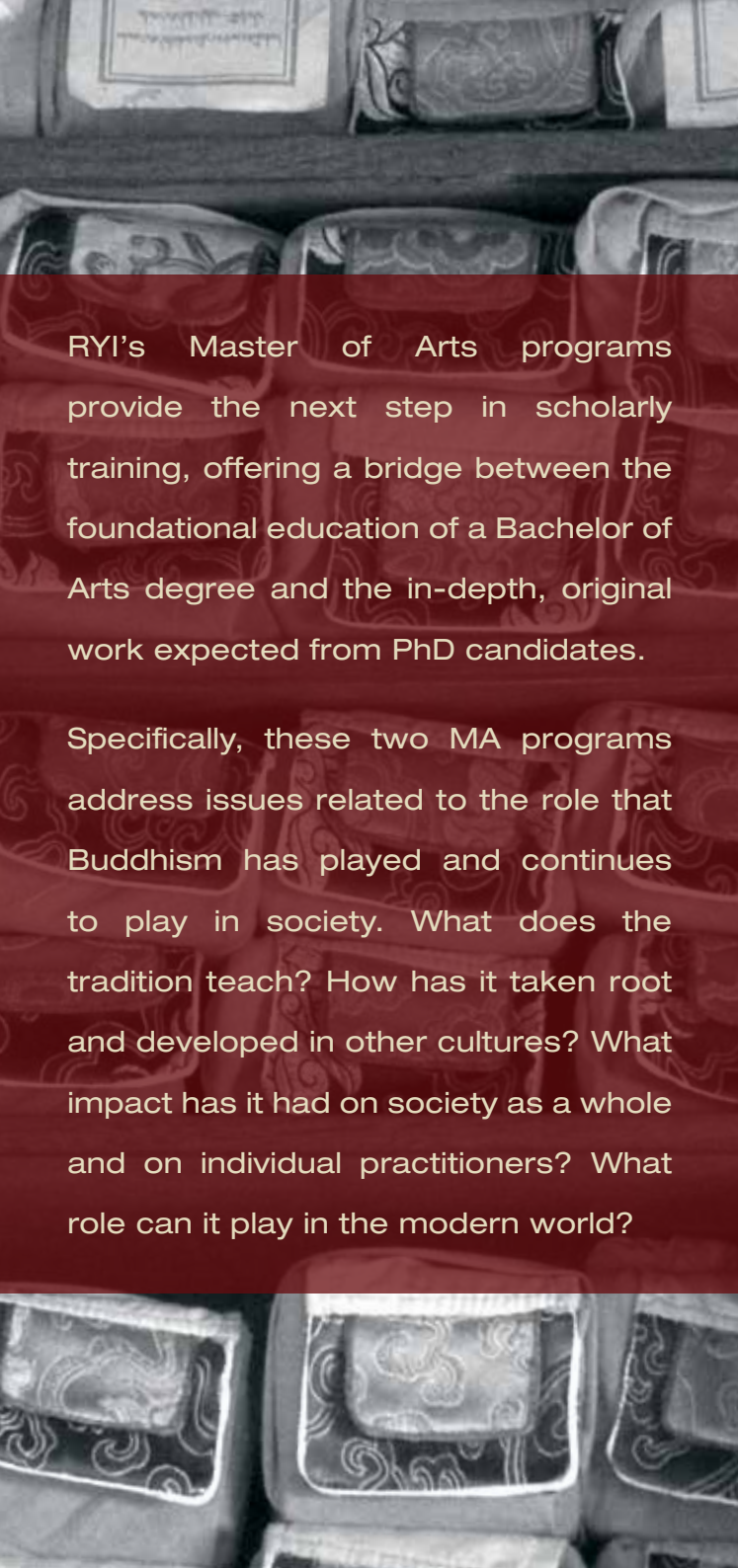
[www.ryi.org](http://www.ryi.org)



RANGJUNG YESHE INSTITUTE

MASTER OF ARTS:  
BUDDHIST  
STUDIES

MASTER OF ARTS:  
TRANSLATION,  
TEXTUAL  
INTERPRETATION,  
& PHILOLOGY



RYI's Master of Arts programs provide the next step in scholarly training, offering a bridge between the foundational education of a Bachelor of Arts degree and the in-depth, original work expected from PhD candidates.

Specifically, these two MA programs address issues related to the role that Buddhism has played and continues to play in society. What does the tradition teach? How has it taken root and developed in other cultures? What impact has it had on society as a whole and on individual practitioners? What role can it play in the modern world?

## MASTER OF ARTS: BUDDHIST STUDIES

What role does religion in general and Buddhism in particular play in human society and how has it shaped our understanding? As students and scholars we have the responsibility to examine our religious traditions critically, to understand where they yield insight and ethical guidance and to locate where they fall prey to dogmatic assertions and outside pressures. Religious traditions provide a recognized space for engaging with the transcendent and a framework for our moral lives. The concentrated study of a particular religion allows us to understand how that religion has affected a society and its culture, history, and intellectual traditions.

At RYI, we offer students the opportunity to engage with the Buddhist tradition in a committed and serious way. Our rich environment is unique, situated in the midst of the living tradition of Tibetan Buddhism, where, in classes taught by monastic scholars, texts are analyzed, discussed, and compared. Students also engage with the Western tradition of scholarship, drawing on a variety of academic disciplines to further extend their ability to think critically about Buddhist texts, doctrine and practice.

The two-year MA in Buddhist Studies offers an opportunity for study and research, emphasizing Buddhist philosophy, the use of primary source texts, exploration of various methods used in religious studies, and culminating in a thesis based on original research. This MA degree is for students who have completed their baccalaureate degrees and wish to study the Buddhist tradition in more depth with highly qualified scholars from the Tibetan and Western traditions.

## MASTER OF ARTS: TRANSLATION, TEXTUAL INTERPRETATION, & PHILOLOGY

Translation is not a simple matter of linguistic competence applied to a text with familiar subject matter. Beyond the words themselves lie larger issues, such as the culture of the time, the intellectual climate, and the political situation, as well as small issues such as subtle shifts in connotation signaled by the choice of a different synonym, or a new phrasing used for a familiar technical term. Nor is there a one-to-one mapping of syntactical structures or common expressions. Buddhist textual translation becomes a process of interpretation, where translators do their best to express what was intended by authors writing in Sanskrit and Tibetan hundreds of years ago.

At RYI, students learn to translate and interpret, staying as close to what can be known of the intended meaning as possible. Students study among representatives of the living Buddhist tradition, while Western faculty introduce students to the methodological tools of translation and provide a workshop environment where texts are brought for critique and improvement.

The two-year MA in Translation, Textual Interpretation, and Philology prepares students who are already conversant in Classical Tibetan to hone their skills as Buddhist translators from Tibetan into English. Course work emphasizes translation theory and method, workshops with experienced translators, philosophy classes with monastic scholars, and a thesis framed around an original translation. This MA degree is for students who have completed their baccalaureate degrees and wish to join their efforts with others in the larger project of translating Buddhist texts into English.