

Buddhist Studies in UK Universities – WIP List

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Contents

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Introduction

This is a list of UK Universities with academics in Buddhist Studies and related areas providing their research interests. It also includes BA and MA programmes or modules in Buddhist studies, (including modules that have a significant Buddhist content). Also included is an indication of UK course provision for the learning of Sanskrit, Pali and Tibetan languages, as these are largely engaged in for the purpose of research or reading of Buddhist texts. Although not specified separately, where academic staff have the relevant expertise, proposals for doctoral research in Buddhist Studies may be welcomed.

Updates and suggestions can be sent to Ilmari Koria via ilmarikoria@posteo.net.

Updated: Dec 12, 2022.

University List [7/19]

WAITING Cardiff University

- 2022-11-26 Sat Waiting for update by Dr Greaves

People

- School of History, Archaeology and Religion
 - Prof Max Deeg, Professor in Buddhist Studies
 - * Note: Study Leave 2022/3.
 - * Research: Buddhist history, particularly the historical connection between India, Central Asia and China; Chinese Buddhist pilgrims.
 - * Contact: deegm1@cardiff.ac.uk

Courses

- Undergraduate

- *Introduction to Buddhism* (first year).
- *Buddhism: The first 1000 years* (a historical overview of that period) [2nd year]
- We also offer Sanskrit as a scriptural language (taught by Dr. Simon Brodbeck).

RECONTACTED Durham University

People

- Department of Archaeology
 - Prof Robin Coningham, 2014 UNESCO Chair on Archaeological Ethics and Practice in Cultural Heritage
 - * Research: The archaeological of South Asian Buddhism, Lumbini and the Greater Lumbini Area, Buddhist Heritage protection and preservation, Caste and the development of craft specialisation, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea Trade.
 - * Contact: r.a.e.coningham@durham.ac.uk
- Department of Philosophy
 - Professor Simon P. James, Professor/DEC Chair
 - * Research: Environmental philosophy, Buddhist philosophy (especially ethics).
 - * Contact: via department contact form.

RECONTACTED Goldsmiths, University of London

People

- Department of History
 - Dr Ronit Yoeli-Tlalim, Reader

* Research: the History of Asian Medicine, Interactions between Medicine and Buddhism, the transmission of medical ideas along the Silk-Roads and the history of early Tibetan medicine.

* Contact: r.yoeli-tlalim@gold.ac.uk

Courses

- Undergraduate
 - *A Global History of Buddhism*
 - *History of Asian Medicine: From Manuscripts to YouTube*
 - *Healing, Magic and Mindfulness on the Silk Road* (Special Subject: open to University of London students)
- Postgraduate
 - *Healing, Magic and Mindfulness on the Silk Road*

DONE King's College London

People

- Department of Theology & Religious Studies
 - Dr Karen O'Brien-Kop, Lecturer in Modern Asian Religions
 - * Research: Abhidharma, Yogacara, Meditation, Sanskrit Texts.
 - * Contact: karen.obrien-kop@kcl.ac.uk

Courses

- Undergraduate

- *Introduction to Buddhism*
- *Buddhist Ethics*
- *Theravada Buddhism*
- Graduate Research Reading Group
 - *Mind-body philosophies in Asia*

RECONTACTED Lancaster University

People

- Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion
 - Prof Chakravarthi Ram-Prasad, Distinguished Professor of Comparative Religion and Philosophy
 - * Research: Indian (Hindu, Buddhist, Jain) and comparative phenomenology, epistemology, metaphysics, theology, and philosophy of religion; religion, politics and conflict; South Asian religious identities in contemporary Britain; the conceptual sources of modern Hindu life and beliefs.
 - * Contact: c.ram-prasad@lancaster.ac.uk
 - Prof Hiroko Kawanami, Professor of Buddhism and Society
 - * Research: Gender and Buddhism, dissemination of knowledge and moral values, social justice and wellbeing, charismatic power(s) of monastic practitioners, and more recently on Buddhist orthodoxy and how heretical monks are created in Myanmar.
 - * Contact: h.kawanami@lancaster.ac.uk

Courses

- *‘Buddhism section’ in World Religions for Part One* (1st year students in RS)
- *Buddhism and Modernity in Asian Societies* (2nd year core module)
- *Reading Buddhism* (3rd year and MA Students)
- *Indian Religious and Philosophical Thought*
- *Indian Politics, Society and Religion*
- *Hinduism in the Modern World*

DONE University College London

People

- Department of Anthropology
 - Dr Joanna Cook, Reader in Medical Anthropology
 - * Research: Buddhism, mental health, mindfulness, monasticism, gender, Thailand, UK, the anthropology of ethics.
 - * Contact: joanna.cook@ucl.ac.uk

RECONTACTED University of Aberdeen

People

- School of Social Science
 - Dr Martin A. Mills, Senior Lecturer

- * Research: The anthropology of Tibet and Tibetan-speaking areas, and in particular its religious and state life (including the ceremonial nexuses of Tibetan monastic and state life); the formulation of new ways in which modern ethnographers of Tibetan regions can integrate their work with textual specialists and indigenous scholars to create an historical anthropology of the region.

* Contact: m.a.mills@abdn.ac.uk

RECONTACTED University of Bristol

People

- Department of Religion and Theology
 - Dr Benedetta Lomi, Lecturer in East Asian Religions
 - * Research: The History of Japanese Buddhism, Japanese Esoteric Buddhism, Esoteric Buddhism in East Asia, Buddhist Medicine, Healing Rituals, Buddhist Iconography.“
 - * Contact: b.lomi@bristol.ac.uk
 - Dr Rita Langer, Senior Lecturer in Buddhist Studies
 - * Research: Research: Merit in the early Pali sources; Buddhist ritual and its origin (in South and South East Asia, particularly Sri Lanka); Food and Cosmology).
 - * Contact: rita.langer@bristol.ac.uk
 - Prof Rupert Gethin, Professor Emeritus of Buddhist Studies
 - * Research: Early Buddhist literature, the history and development of Buddhist thought in the Nikayas and Pali commentaries, Indian Buddhist meditation, Abhidharma.
 - * Contact: rupert.gethin@bristol.ac.uk

Courses

- BA in Religion and Theology [Not all these units will be available in any one year]:
 - *Living Religions East*
 - *Religions and Cultural Change in India: from Indus to Islam*
 - *Religion and Material Culture*
 - *3000 Years of Chinese Religion*
 - *Indian Philosophy*
 - *Zen Buddhism*
 - *Buddhist Psychology and Mental Health*
 - *Buddhism in Practice*
 - *Yoga and Meditation*
 - *Introduction to Japanese Religions*
 - *The Lotus Sūtra*
 - *The Journey to the West*
 - *Mahāyāna Literature in East Asia*
 - *The Body in East Asian Religions*
 - *Sanskrit*
 - *Classical Chinese*

- MA in Religion (Buddhist Studies) [Not all these units will be available in any one year]:
 - *Buddhism: The Foundations*
 - *Buddhism in Practice*
 - *Buddhist Psychology and Mental Health*
 - *Yoga and Meditation*
 - *Mahāyāna Literature in East Asia*
 - *Zen Buddhism*
 - *Esoteric Buddhism in East Asia*
 - *The Body in East Asian Religions*
 - *Sanskrit*
 - *Buddhist Sanskrit and Pali*
 - *Classical Chinese*

RECONTACTED University of Cambridge

People

- Faculty of Divinity
 - Dr Christopher V Jones, Research Associate and Affiliated Lecturer
 - * Research: Indian 'Buddha-nature' tradition as it has been preserved in South, Central and East Asian literatures, foremost in connection to literature associated with the *Mahāparinirvāṇa-mahāsūtra/Dabanniepan jing*; Pre-modern Buddhist attitudes

to non-Buddhist teaching and authority in India and elsewhere, and the evolving place of Buddhist reflection on liberation and liberated beings in South Asia in the early centuries CE.

* Contact: cvj20@cam.ac.uk

Courses

DONE University of Chester

People

- Department of Theology and Religious Studies: Faculty of Arts and Humanities
 - Dr Wendy Dossett, Associate Professor of Religious Studies
 - * Research: Japanese Pure Land Buddhism, Buddhism and Addiction Recovery, Buddhism and Religious Education.
 - * Contact: w.dossett@chester.ac.uk

Courses

- Undergraduate
 - *LEVEL 4 TH4070 Dharmic Worldviews* (Four sessions on Buddhism).
 - *LEVEL 5 TH5066 Contemporary Asian Traditions* (Four sessions on Buddhism).
- Postgraduate
 - *TH7046 Buddhist Concepts of Awakening* (20 credit MA module in MA Theology and Religious Studies programme).

DONE University of Edinburgh

Note

Prospective students are encouraged to get in touch via the Edinburgh Buddhist Studies (EBS) Network: buddhist.studies@ed.ac.uk.

People

- College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
 - Dr Halle O’Neal, Reader in Japanese Art (on research leave)
 - * Research: Japanese Buddhist art; Word and image studies; Relics and reliquaries; Performativity and haptic nature of manuscripts; Death commemorations in visual and material culture; Palimpsests; Digital Humanities.
 - * Contact: halle.oneal@ed.ac.uk
 - Dr Ian Astley, Senior Lecturer in Japanese
 - * Research: Japanese and Chinese religions and philosophy, especially Shingon Buddhist tradition in China and Japan, focussing on the development of the school’s thought in the transition from a Chinese to a Japanese religio-political environment, with particular reference to the role of material culture and prosody in the development of ideology in the body politic; The early commentarial tradition of the Ligu jing (J.: Rishukyō); Developments in the Meiji Restoration, with particular reference to Shingon Buddhism and the manner in which the Japanese were introducing their form of Buddhism to the West, more specifically the UK.
 - * Contact: ian.astley@ed.ac.uk
 - Dr Naomi Appleton, Senior Lecturer in Asian Religions
 - * Research: Early Indian religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism) and Buddhist Studies more broadly; Role of narrative in the construction, communication and negotiation of ideas in Indian religions, including Buddhism, Jainism and early

Hindu traditions.

* Contact: naomi.appleton@ed.ac.uk

– Prof Joachim Gentz, Chair in Chinese Philosophy and Religion

* Research: Chinese philosophy and religions, text and commentary, ritual and divination, and theories of cultural and religious studies. Further interests include conceptions of space and body, Chinese histories of thought, and Chinese literary composition (artistic prose).

* Contact: joachim.gentz@ed.ac.uk

– Dr Paul Fuller, Teaching Fellow in Buddhist Studies

* Research: Textual basis of discrimination and attachment in early Buddhism; Engaged Buddhism; The prevalence of blasphemy in Buddhist culture; Political and chauvinistic expressions of Buddhism; Contemporary issues in Buddhism including, politics, sexuality, gender, eco-engaged Buddhism and ethnocentric Buddhism.

* Contact: paul.fuller@ed.ac.uk

– Dr Takeshi Morisato, Lecturer

* Research: Metaphysics, Philosophy of Religion, and Existentialism; Contemporary Japanese philosophy (especially the Kyoto School); Kūkai (774–835) and his Shingon Esoteric Buddhist philosophy.

* Contact: tmorisat@ed.ac.uk

– Prof Jonathan Spencer, Regius Professor of South Asian Language, Culture and Society

* Research: Religion and politics, Sri Lanka, South and South-east Asia, Buddhism, war and peace.

* Contact: jonathan.spencer@ed.ac.uk

- Dr Abigail MacBain, Lecturer of Premodern Japanese Studies
 - * Research: Buddhism’s transmission to Japan and its role in early Japan’s overseas relations; Overlap between Buddhism and the state, and Japan’s role in Silk Road trade and communication.
 - * Contact: abigail.macbain@ed.ac.uk

Courses

- MA Religious Studies (4 year undergraduate programme, School of Divinity).
- MA Chinese and MA Japanese (4 year undergraduate programmes, Asian Studies).
- Anthropology, Art History and Philosophy also have some relevant optional courses.
- Courses on offer vary year on year, and are often available across programmes outside their “home” School.
- At postgraduate level there is a taught masters (MSc) in Religious Studies, and research degrees (MScR, PhD) available working with any of the people noted above.

- Please contact individual members of staff to discuss this.

RECONTACTED University of Kent

People

- Department of Religious Studies
 - Dr Leslie de Vries, Lecturer in East Asian Studies

- * Research: History of medicine and religion in China, Vietnam and Japan, with a focus on cosmology, the body, self-cultivation and therapy.
- * Contact: l.devries@kent.ac.uk

Courses

- Undergraduate
 - *Hinduism and Buddhism*
 - *Introduction to East Asian Traditions* (one or more sessions on East Asian Buddhism)
 - *Ethics, Society and the Good Life* (one session on Buddhist ethics)
 - *Themes in the Study of Asia* (one or more sessions on Buddhism and related topics such as mindfulness)
 - *Buddhism: The Foundations*
 - *Religion and Japanese Culture* (sessions on Japanese Buddhism)
 - *Health, Medicine and the Body in East Asia* (one or more sessions on Buddhism)
 - *Critical Issues in the Study of Buddhism*
- Postgraduate
 - Possible to do a MA dissertation in Religious Studies on Buddhism.

RECONTACTED University of Leeds

People

- School of Languages, Cultures and Societies
 - Professor Martin Seeger, Professor of Thai Studies
 - * Research: Theravada Buddhism; Thai Buddhism; modern Thai history; Thai language
 - * Contact: m.seeger@leeds.ac.uk

WAITING University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)

- 2022-11-26 Sat Waiting for update by Dr Travagnin

People

- Department of Religions and Philosophies
 - Dr Lucia Dolce, Numata Reader in Japanese Buddhism
 - * Research: Japanese religious history, especially the medieval period; Japanese Tantric Buddhism and the esotericisation of religious practice; Millenarian writings and prophecy; Kami-Buddhas associations
 - * Contact: ld16@soas.ac.uk
 - Professor Ulrich Pagel, Head of School
 - * Research: History of Buddhism in Tibet, Mahāyāna Buddhism, Kanjur Studies, Vinaya, Religions of Central Asia, Tibetan, Sanskrit.
 - * Contact: up1@soas.ac.uk
- Department of the History of Art and Archaeology

- Dr Christian Luczanits, David L. Snellgrove Senior Lecturer in Tibetan and Buddhist Art
 - * Research: History of art and architecture of the Himalayan region; Buddhist art of the western Himalayas; Gandharan art; presenting and exhibiting Buddhist art; heritage, preservation and conservation.
 - * Contact: cl46@soas.ac.uk
- Dr Peter D. Sharrock, Senior Teaching Fellow
 - * Research: He is now focusing on the evidence in Indochina for the influence of tantric or esoteric Buddhism, developed in the great monasteries of the Ganges valley and diffused and developed in different ways through much of Asia.
 - * Contact: ps56@soas.ac.uk

Courses

- Postgraduate
 - MA Buddhist Studies

DONE University of Manchester

People

- School of Arts, Languages and Cultures
 - Dr Gregory Adam Scott, Senior Lecturer in Chinese Culture and History
 - * Research: History and culture of China between 1800 and 1978.
 - * Contact: gregory.scott@manchester.ac.uk
 - Prof Erica Baffelli, Professor of Japanese Studies

- * Research: Religion in contemporary Japan with a focus on religious minorities/marginalities, media and technology, violence, emotions and temporalities.
- * Contact: erica.baffelli@manchester.ac.uk

Courses

- *JAPA20221, History of Religion in Japan*
- *CHIN30401, Ideas and Ideologies in Chinese Civilisation*

DONE University of Oxford

People

- Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
 - Dr Cathy Cantwell, Associate Faculty Member
 - * Research: Tibetan textual transmission/development; tantric rituals, symbolism, art; rNying-ma canonical texts; Dunhuang and later ritual manuals; Phur-pa traditions (rNying-ma, Sa-skya, Bon); bDud-'joms gter-ma tradition.
 - * Contact: catherine.cantwell@orinst.ox.ac.uk
 - Dr Robert Mayer, University Research Lecturer
 - * Research: Early rNying ma and Bon tantric tradition; Critically editing old Tibetan texts; Dunhuang tantric texts.
 - * Contact: robert.mayer@orinst.ox.ac.uk
 - Dr Sarah Shaw, Faculty Member
 - * Research: Early Buddhist (Pali) suttas and Abhidhamma material on meditation; Early Buddhist narrative: literary features of Jatakas and Dhammapada stories; Indian and

Asian influences on British nineteenth-century writers; modern South and Southeast Asian Buddhist ritual, chant and meditation.

* Contact: sarah.shaw@orinst.ox.ac.uk

– Prof David Gellner, Professor of Social Anthropology

* Research: Anthropology of South Asia, East Asia, Buddhism, Hinduism, cities, ritual, politics, ethnicity, activism, borderlands, class formation and cultural change.

* Contact: david.gellner@anthro.ox.ac.uk

– Prof Kate Crosby, Numata Professor of Buddhist Studies

* Research: Pali, Sanskrit, and Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia literature, Theravada meditation, history and practice, comparative Theravada

* Contact: kate.crosby@orinst.ox.ac.uk

– Prof Ulrike Roesler, Professor of Tibetan and Himalayan Studies

* Research: Literature and religion of the Veda; Indo-Tibetan Buddhism; history of bKa’-gdams-pa school; ‘sacred landscapes’ in literature and ritual practice.

* Contact: ulrike.roesler@orinst.ox.ac.uk

- Faculty of Theology and Religion

– Dr Andrew Skilton, Pali Instructor

* Research: Collecting, interpretation and translation of Buddhist texts; the roles of writing and orality in the formation of Buddhist scripture; pre-reform meditation systems in the Theravada Buddhist world, and Buddhist meditation in general; Mahayana scripture, especially the Samadhiraja Sutra (C2nd CE); Buddhism in the contemporary world, including

its transmission to the UK.

* Contact: andrew.skilton@theology.ox.ac.uk

– Prof Jan Westerhoff, Professor of Buddhist Philosophy

* Research: Philosophical aspects of the religious traditions of ancient India. Buddhist thought (especially Madhyamaka) as preserved in Sanskrit and Tibetan sources; Classical Indian philosophy (particularly Nyāya); Buddhist philosophy, both theoretical (metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of language) and normative aspects (ethics).

* Contact: jan.westerhoff@theology.ox.ac.uk

Courses

- Undergraduate
 - BA Religion and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
 - BA in Sanskrit:
- Postgraduate
 - MSt in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
 - MPhil in Buddhist Studies
 - MPhil in Classical Indian Religion
 - MPhil in Tibetan and Himalayan Studies

RECONTACTED University of South Wales

People

- Faculty of Creative Industries

- Dr Nick Swann, Senior Lecturer and Course Leader
 - * Research: Tibetan Religion, Anthropology of Religion, Buddhist Ethics, Digital Buddhism.
 - * Contact: nick.swann@southwales.ac.uk
- Dr Sarah Shaw, Khyentse Foundation Reader in Buddhist Studies
 - * Research: Pāli Buddhist narrative and meditative literature; Southeast Asian ritual and chant; Abhidhamma.
 - * Contact: sarah.shaw@southwales.ac.uk
- Dr Warren Todd, Associate Lecturer
 - * Research: Buddhist Philosophy, Buddhist Ethics, Comparative Ethics & Philosophy.
 - * Contact: warren.todd@southwales.ac.uk

Courses

- Postgraduate
 - MA Buddhist Studies
 - * *Buddhist Ethics*
 - * *Buddhist Philosophy*
 - * *Buddhist Meditation and Psychology*
 - * *Pali Language*
 - * Distance learning, part-time (two or three year options).

DONE University of Stirling

People

- Division of Literature and Languages
 - Mr Kevin MacNeil, Lecturer in Creative Writing
 - * Research: The intersection of Buddhism and literature, recent and contemporary literature of the Scottish Highlands and Islands, Buddhism (Theravada and Mahayana, but especially interested in Zen), Scottish Literature, poetry and prose of the Hebrides, contemporary novels, creative writing, playwriting, screenwriting, poetry, Buddhist literature, the connections between physical activity and creativity.
 - * Contact: kevin.macneil@stir.ac.uk

RECONTACTED University of Winchester

People

- Centre for Religion, Reconciliation and Peace
 - Professor Mark Owen, Director: Centre for Religion, Reconciliation and Peace
 - * Research: Religions' role in peacebuilding and conflict transformation, conflict assessment and analysis, Buddhism, conflict and peacebuilding, Tibetan Buddhism, Asian politics and development
 - * Contact: mark.owen@winchester.ac.uk