



RANGJUNG YESHE INSTITUTE  
*Summer Program 2016*







## INTRODUCTION

The Rangjung Yeshe Institute's Centre for Buddhist Studies is pleased to announce its upcoming annual Summer Studies Program offering intensive language training and Buddhist study courses for international students. The language programs offer full immersion into Tibetan, Sanskrit, and Nepali. Beginning Classical Tibetan gets students reading on their own after only a few weeks, and this year we are offering Intermediate Classical Tibetan for the first time. The Buddhist Studies program is a living exposure to Buddhist philosophy and a practical introduction to the richness of personal meditation practice. All summer programs are fully accredited by Kathmandu University.

The Summer Program courses provide a rich and inspiring learning experience:

- Spoken language courses feature daily one-on-one language training with native speakers.
- Home-stays with Tibetan and Nepalese families offer full immersion in spoken language studies.
- Our faculty consists of both traditionally-trained Tibetan monastic teachers, experienced language teachers, and international instructors trained in modern disciplines, providing an in-depth and multi-faceted learning experience.

Classes are held within the Ka-Nying Shedrub Ling Monastery complex, a few minutes walk from the Great Stupa of Boudhanath in the Kathmandu Valley. The Abbot of the monastery, Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche, is the founder of Rangjung Yeshe Institute and he, Chokling Rinpoche, and Phakchok Rinpoche are well-known Buddhist teachers, renowned for their seminars on meditation and philosophy in Nepal and around the world.

Boudhanath is home to many revered teachers and an important pilgrimage site. Students of the Summer Studies Program will have ample opportunity to learn about and immerse themselves in the local Tibetan and Nepalese cultures.



# COLLOQUIAL TIBETAN

## BEGINNING • INTERMEDIATE • ADVANCED

June 8 – August 5, 2016 (8 weeks of class)  
*Includes 4 days of orientation*

The colloquial Tibetan summer program is designed for scholars and researchers planning to work in Tibetan regions and cultures and for students of Buddhism who wish to engage more deeply with the living tradition.

Beginning Tibetan is for students with no prior study of Tibetan. The program is designed to facilitate and accelerate the study of Tibetan in both its spoken and written forms and offers classroom lectures, one-on-one conversation sessions and drill classes with native Tibetan speakers.

Intermediate Tibetan is for students with two semesters of prior study. While continuing to build a firm foundation of colloquial Tibetan grammar, emphasis is placed on developing conversation skills and a rich vocabulary through classroom lectures, one-on-one conversation sessions and drills with native Tibetan speakers.

Advanced Tibetan is for students with four semesters or more of prior study and the program is therefore taught in Tibetan. Besides teaching students the language of everyday usage, Buddhist philosophy is also taught directly in Tibetan by monks, with opportunities to practice speaking about Buddhist philosophy with native speakers. This prepares students to further pursue the study of philosophy in a traditional Tibetan setting.



The courses are quite intensive and require considerable time and effort to meet class requirements and academic expectations. Students who successfully complete the summer programs will be well on their way towards a high degree of proficiency in colloquial Tibetan, and, in the case of Advanced Tibetan students, the spoken Dharma language.

### Accreditation

The courses are accredited at the Centre for Buddhist Studies as follows:

- Beginning Tibetan: TLAN 120, 6 credits (equivalent to Colloquial Tibetan I and II)
- Intermediate Tibetan: TLAN 220, 6 credits (equivalent to Colloquial Tibetan III and IV)
- Advanced Tibetan: TLAN 320, 6 credits (equivalent to Colloquial Tibetan V and VI)

### Housing

Participants have the option to live with local Tibetan families who have been carefully selected by the Institute. This provides intensive exposure to the Tibetan language and a chance to experience life among people in the local community. Families provide breakfast and dinner, with lunch being served Monday through Friday at the Institute's restaurant. Students who do not wish to stay with a Tibetan family may opt out of this service and arrange for accommodation, breakfast, and dinner on their own.

### Admission Criteria

The Tibetan programs each have a maximum enrollment of 20 students and all applications are subject to approval by the Centre for Buddhist Studies.

Students applying for the Intermediate and Advanced programs must present documentation of prior colloquial Tibetan studies at a university or a similarly recognized program. In addition, at the beginning of the program, all Intermediate and Advanced students are given a language placement test to determine their course level.

*"RYI's summer program offers more opportunity for conversation practice than any other program I have studied with."*

ADVANCED TIBETAN STUDENT

# CLASSICAL TIBETAN

## BEGINNING • INTERMEDIATE

June 8 – August 5, 2016 (8 weeks of class)  
*Includes 4 days of orientation*

Beginning Tibetan is for students with no prior study of Classical Tibetan. The course is designed both for those students who wish to be able to read their own practice texts and for those who want a foundation for reading Buddhist philosophical texts in depth. The program begins with the alphabet, pronunciation, and basic vocabulary and goes on to provide a thorough survey of the grammar of Classical Tibetan while developing students' knowledge of verb tenses, general vocabulary, and Buddhist terminology. Students are then able to apply their knowledge to the reading of Tibetan texts during and outside of class. The course includes time spent working one-on-one with a Tibetan language partner to practice reading and provide a forum for individual questions. Students are exposed to a variety of types of Tibetan Buddhist literature, including indigenous Tibetan texts as well as texts translated from Sanskrit. Students are led through the texts in a detailed manner, so that even as beginners, they are able to read and understand the meaning of the texts.

Intermediate Tibetan is for students with two semesters of prior study of Classical Tibetan. The course assumes familiarity with the fundamentals of Tibetan grammar, including the eight cases and their associated particles, common grammatical structures and verb tenses, along with knowledge of Buddhist terms and vocabulary. Students will read and translate Buddhist

literature during class, with emphasis placed on consolidating and developing further knowledge of grammatical structures and Buddhist terminology. Grammar will be explained on the basis of the texts as they are read, and complementary handouts will be provided during the course. The course will consist of readings from different genres of texts, including indigenous Tibetan philosophical literature as well as texts translated from Sanskrit.

The level of intensity of the program is high and students are expected to invest considerable time and effort in order to meet class requirements.

### Accreditation

The courses are accredited at the Centre for Buddhist Studies as follows:

- Beginning Classical Tibetan: TLAN 115, 6 credits (equivalent to Classical Tibetan I and II)
- Intermediate Classical Tibetan: TLAN 215, 6 credits (equivalent to Classical Tibetan III and IV)

### Admission Criteria

The Classical Tibetan programs each have a maximum enrollment of 15 students and all applications are subject to approval by the Centre for Buddhist Studies.

Students applying for the Intermediate program must present documentation of prior Classical Tibetan studies at a university or a similarly recognized program.





# BUDDHIST STUDIES

June 8 – July 22, 2016, in Boudhanath (6 weeks of class)  
Includes 4 days of orientation

July 24 – August 5, 2016, at the Asura Cave Retreat Centre  
(2 weeks of retreat)

This program is a full immersion into the theory and practice of Buddhism. In the unique setting of a Buddhist monastery and a traditional retreat center, students are introduced to both classical Buddhist scholarship and meditation training. In this way, the course offers students firsthand experience with many key aspects of Buddhist training that are otherwise rarely accessible to lay students.

Classes are structured as a combination of traditional Tibetan-style classroom lectures on fundamental Buddhist topics and texts, along with instruction on their practical application through meditation training. Daily meditation sessions are an important aspect of the course and provide a personal perspective on the philosophical content of the lectures. In addition, a western instructor teaches Buddhist philosophy and historical topics to contextualize and elaborate further on the traditional teachings.

During the last two weeks of the program, the course shifts to Ka-Nying Shedrub Ling Monastery's traditional meditation retreat center near Pharping, a picturesque village on the southern rim of the Kathmandu Valley. During this retreat, the main focus of the lectures is on practical



meditation instruction, and a major part of the day is spent in personal contemplation and group meditation practice.

Lectures are delivered in Tibetan by Khenpos and Lopons (senior monastic lecturers) from Ka-Nying Shedrub Ling Monastery, and are translated into English. Teachers and translators are faculty members at the Institute.

The level of intensity of the program is high and students are expected to invest considerable time and effort in order to meet class requirements.

## Accreditation

The course is awarded academic credit at the Centre for Buddhist Studies for TSTD 120, Buddhist Studies Summer Program I (6 credits).

*"The intensity of the course enriches the material – it ends up being more transformative, both academically and personally, than if you were searching for understanding by yourself."*

BUDDHIST STUDIES STUDENT

# NEPALI

## BEGINNING • INTERMEDIATE

June 8 – August 5, 2016 (8 weeks of class)  
*Includes 4 days of orientation*

The colloquial Nepali summer program is designed both for scholars and researchers planning to work in Nepal and for those living in Nepal who wish to communicate directly with the Nepalese people.

**Beginning Nepali** is for students with no prior study of Nepali. It is designed to quickly immerse students in spoken Nepali, and is an excellent introduction for students and researchers. Study of basic grammatical structures and situational vocabulary help develop conversational ability as quickly as possible. Students also learn to read and write using the Devanāgarī alphabet. The course features classroom lectures, drill sessions, and daily individual practice sessions with native Nepali speakers.

**Intermediate Nepali** is offered for students with two semesters of prior study of Nepali. It is designed to both facilitate and accelerate the study of Nepali for students, researchers, and others working in Nepal. The program allows students to continue learning grammar and develop their reading skills while emphasizing conversational fluency. It also develops the foundation needed for further independent studies, research and field visits.



These courses are quite intensive and students are expected to invest considerable time and effort in order to meet class requirements and academic expectations. Students who successfully complete these courses will be well on their way towards a high degree of proficiency in Nepali.

### Accreditation

The courses are accredited at the Centre for Buddhist Studies as follows:

- Beginning Nepali: NLAN 120, 6 credits (equivalent to Nepali I and II)
- Intermediate Nepali: NLAN 220, 6 credits (equivalent to Nepali III and IV)

### Housing

As an integral part of the course, participants have the option of living with local Nepalese families who have been carefully selected by the Institute. This provides intensive exposure to the Nepali language and a chance to experience life among people in the local community. Families provide breakfast and dinner to the students, while lunch is provided Monday through Friday at the Institute's restaurant. Students who do not wish to stay with a Nepalese family may opt out of this service and arrange for accommodation, breakfast, and dinner on their own.

### Admission Criteria

The Nepali programs each have a maximum enrollment of 20 students and all applications are subject to approval by the Centre for Buddhist Studies. Students applying for the Intermediate program must present documentation of prior Nepali studies at a university or a similarly recognized program. In addition, at the beginning of the program, all Intermediate students are given a language placement test to verify their course level.

*"Nepali class was fantastic! Lessons include lots of speaking practice, conversations, writing, games, etc...you learn a lot in a very short amount of time. We also had a great field trip, experiencing and participating in a Nepali festival, with many students and staff involved – just fabulous!"*

NEPALI LANGUAGE STUDENT



# SANSKRIT

## BEGINNERS

June 8 – August 5, 2016 (8 weeks of class)  
*Includes 4 days of orientation*

This intensive Sanskrit course is designed for beginning students with no prior knowledge of Sanskrit and provides a rigorous introduction to the fundamentals of the Sanskrit language. The course is approached from two perspectives, the first of which uses academic pedagogy that privileges memorization of nominal and verbal paradigms as well as general grammatical principles and provides a thorough introduction to the fundamentals of Sanskrit grammar. The second approach considers the material from the standpoint of traditional Sanskrit pedagogy, integrating spoken Sanskrit and the memorization of “well-spoken” (subhāṣita) verses. Both sections of this course will emphasize memorization and students should plan to devote time to memorizing and reviewing on a daily basis. The course provides a thorough grounding in the basics of Sanskrit, and as such provides a strong foundation for the reading of Buddhist Sanskrit literature. In the latter part of the course, the reading of a Sanskrit Buddhist text is used as an efficient way to study grammar in actual application.

The level of intensity of the program is high and students are expected to invest considerable time and effort in order to meet class requirements.

### Accreditation

The course is accredited at the Centre for Buddhist Studies for SLAN 120, 6 credits (equivalent to Sanskrit I and II).

*“This was an excellent program that seemed to cover everything to help learn a language as quickly and effectively as possible.”*

SANSKRIT LANGUAGE STUDENT

# WHY STUDY AT RANGJUNG YESHE INSTITUTE?

The courses offered at Rangjung Yeshe Institute contain a number of unique elements that provide students with a rich and inspiring learning experience:

- All classes are held in a traditional monastic setting near the Great Stupa of Boudhanath in the Kathmandu Valley.
- Our unique faculty consists of traditionally trained Tibetan monastic teachers, skilled language instructors, both native speakers and international, and international instructors trained in modern disciplines.
- An extensive orientation program provides a helpful introduction to living in Nepal.
- Courses feature daily one-on-one language training with native speakers.
- Home-stays with Tibetan and Nepalese families offer full immersion in language studies.
- Living in the middle of a thriving Nepalese and Tibetan community provides cultural insight.
- Academic credit for all courses at the Centre for Buddhist Studies is transferable through Kathmandu University.

### Other Opportunities and Services:

- Many opportunities to meet and receive teachings from resident Lamas.
- Facilitated excursions to sites of ancient cultural significance in and around the historic Kathmandu Valley.
- Efficient and professional medical referral system.
- Connections to local trekking, rafting and sight-seeing companies.

*“It is clear that the faculty and staff at RYI have deep insight about what students need in order to be focused on, and successful in their academic pursuits.”*

BUDDHIST STUDIES STUDENT





## ABOUT THE CENTRE FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES

Kathmandu University – Centre for Buddhist Studies offers academic programs leading to BA, MA and PhD degrees in Buddhist Studies and provides research facilities for international scholars of Buddhism. The Centre is located at the Rangjung Yeshe Institute of Ka-Nying Shedrub Ling Monastery, just a few minutes walk from the Great Stupa of Boudhanath in the midst of several thriving Buddhist cultures and traditions.

Rangjung Yeshe Institute has conducted seminars and study programs in Nepal for more than twenty years. Today it is among the leading educational institutions in Asia offering a full range of intensive language courses in Tibetan, Sanskrit and Nepali. A hallmark of the Rangjung Yeshe Institute has been its ability to combine traditional Buddhist monastic learning with crucial aspects of modern academic scholarship in the area of Buddhist philosophy. The faculty at the Centre for Buddhist Studies is comprised of scholars from both of these traditions, thus constituting a unique environment for both advanced learning and direct personal experience.

For application and further information see: **[www.ryi.org](http://www.ryi.org)**





# KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY

## CENTRE FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES AT RANGJUNG YESHE INSTITUTE

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