



# RANGJUNG YESHE INSTITUTE

## Study Buddhism in Nepal



## STUDY THE BUDDHIST CLASSICS



Since earliest times, the thorough study of the Buddha's teachings has been a distinguishing feature of Buddhism. This scholarly tradition thrived in the great universities of India and was later adopted by the Tibetan monastic colleges. Until recently however, opportunities for laypeople to become truly well-versed in Buddhist philosophy have been limited.

Such an opportunity is now available at Rangjung Yeshe Institute, where students from all over the world study Buddhist philosophy in an authentic setting, with qualified teachers from both the monastic tradition of higher learning as well as the modern academy.



## WHY STUDY AT RANGJUNG YESHE INSTITUTE?



Students express a variety of reasons for their interest in studying at RYI:

- To explore the Buddhist tradition - to understand what the tradition teaches and what it might mean for them in their own lives.
- To understand how the tradition has evolved - to explore the wider role of Buddhism and religion in the world and its impact on culture, society, language, literature, art, and psychology.
- To read the classic texts of the tradition in Tibetan or Sanskrit, or to become translators and interpreters.
- To earn undergraduate and graduate degrees, although some study strictly out of personal interest.

And for most students, studying Buddhism is also a labor of love. The programs RYI offers meet the needs of a variety of students with these and similar interests.

# COURSES

Our study program unites the traditional Buddhist approach to scholarship found in Tibetan monastic colleges with the academic approach and methods of modern universities. The curriculum centers on in-depth study of Buddhist philosophy and practice and Tibetan and Sanskrit, which have been used to communicate the Buddhist tradition for centuries.

Students who attend our program develop a broad knowledge of Buddhist philosophy and practice and related historical developments, as well as the ability to analyze complex philosophical issues across cultures and times. Students become conversant in Tibetan and Nepali, and learn to read texts in Classical Tibetan and Sanskrit. Those who focus on Tibetan learn to follow philosophical teachings directly in Tibetan.

## PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

Our philosophy and religion courses investigate the nature and history of Buddhist philosophy, doctrine and practice. Here the philosophical classics of masters such as Nāgārjuna, Asaṅga, Vasubandhu, Candrakīrti, and Śāntideva are studied and



analyzed in courses taught by qualified holders of traditional monastic degrees.

Professors from the modern academy consider the historical developments of the Buddhist traditions and schools of thought, including examinations of Buddhist philosophy, psychology, ethics, ritual, practice, and art, in courses that approach Buddhist studies from a contemporary perspective.

## LANGUAGE

The language program at Rangjung Yeshe Institute offers both modern and classical Tibetan language study, Sanskrit, and Nepali. By the third year of classes, students who focus on Tibetan language study gain a sufficient level of Tibetan to follow philosophical teachings offered directly in Tibetan.

Through studying Sanskrit, students are able to relate directly with the rich philosophical heritage of Buddhist India, while the Nepali courses provide the necessary language skills for experiencing contemporary Nepalese culture and society.



## OUR FACULTY



The Abbot of Ka-Nying Shedrup Ling monastery, Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche, is the founder of Rangjung Yeshe Institute and a well-known Buddhist teacher who leads seminars on meditation and Buddhist philosophy in Nepal and around the world. The monastery is also the residence of two other prominent teachers, Chokling Rinpoche and Phakchok Rinpoche, who also teach widely in Nepal and abroad. RYI students have the opportunity to participate in occasional seminars and teachings with these gifted teachers.



The regular faculty at Rangjung Yeshe Institute represent a broad spectrum of traditions and approaches to Buddhist Studies. The philosophy and religion faculty consists of both learned monastic professors (Khenpos and Lopons) trained in Nepal, India and Tibet, and international professors educated in modern academic approaches. With respect to languages, the faculty includes experienced teachers who are experts in Sanskrit, Tibetan, and Nepali. In addition to these instructors, the Institute also hosts regular guest seminars with distinguished university professors and traditional philosophy teachers from around the world.



## WHAT BUDDHIST SCHOLARS HAVE TO SAY



"CBS is now regarded as a foremost institution to visit to further one's scholarly learning and research and to connect to leading Buddhist scholars of the Kathmandu Valley."  
John Makransky, Associate Professor, Boston College.



"CBS has become a premier institution in Buddhist Studies, not only in Asia, but worldwide."  
John Dunne, Associate Professor, Emory University.



"CBS has significantly benefitted the field of Tibetan and Buddhist Studies and I am confident that it will continue to do so in the future."  
Tom Tillemans, Emeritus Professor, University of Lausanne.

## OUR CAMPUS



RYI's classes are held within the Ka-Nying Shedrub Ling Monastery complex, just a few minutes walk from the Great Stupa of Boudhanath in the Kathmandu Valley. Ka-Nying Shedrub Ling is one of Nepal's largest monasteries and houses more than two hundred monks and lamas.

### THE CENTRE FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES

Rangjung Yeshe Institute has conducted study programs and seminars in Nepal for more than twenty-five years. Today we are among the leading educational institutions in Asia, offering a comprehensive Buddhist curriculum combined with in-depth study of Tibetan, Sanskrit and Nepali languages.

In 2002, through a partnership between Rangjung Yeshe Institute and Kathmandu University, the Centre for Buddhist Studies was formed, and the Centre now offers BA, MA, and PhD degrees in Buddhist Studies, as well as accredited courses taught online.



## OUR PROGRAMS

RYI offers undergraduate and graduate degrees, non-degree study, accredited study-abroad opportunities for visiting students, Summer courses, a Translator Training Program, and online courses.

### UNDERGRADUATE STUDY

Undergraduate courses in Buddhist philosophy, specialized topics, and languages are available to students who wish to earn a four-year BA degree, to study for one or two semesters and transfer credits to their home university, or to do non-degree study. BA and study abroad students are eligible for student visas: non-degree students are not. BA students take a mix of courses, including philosophy courses taught by Khenpos and Lopons, Buddhist Studies courses taught by western faculty, and language courses taught by native speakers and western faculty. Students can emphasize Buddhist Studies or language, depending on their interests and goals.

### STUDY ABROAD

Every year, students who are enrolled at colleges or universities in their home countries join the Centre for Buddhist Studies for a



semester or a whole year. Courses offered at the Centre for Buddhist Studies are accredited by various universities around the world, and formal exchange agreements exist with several universities in Europe and the US. In a typical year, students from more than twenty different countries study at the Centre for Buddhist Studies.

### GRADUATE STUDY

CBS students do graduate study at the MA level, earn PhDs, and join us as research affiliates. The MA program is a two-year program with three semesters of course work and one semester for writing a dissertation. Coursework emphasizes Buddhist philosophy and historical developments and the methodology of Buddhist Studies. The PhD program is a research doctorate that requires submission of a dissertation detailing original research appropriate to the field of Buddhist Studies. A full-time candidate is expected to be able to complete the dissertation in three years, although an additional two years may be granted.

Research affiliates have at least an MA degree and are doing research in an area consonant with RYI's mission.



### SUMMER INTENSIVE COURSES

Each summer, we offer intensive 8-week study programs in Buddhist Studies and Tibetan, Sanskrit, and Nepali languages. Our Buddhist Studies program provides a living exposure to Buddhist philosophy and a practical introduction to the richness of personal meditation training.

The language programs offer a full immersion into Tibetan, Sanskrit, and Nepali and are known for rapidly bringing about spoken and written proficiency. Our summer courses also include the opportunity to live with local Tibetan and Nepali families. Many graduate students find the intensive and immersive nature of the Summer Language programs to be just what they need to meet the language requirements of their programs and their research.

*"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*



### TRANSLATOR TRAINING PROGRAM

Our Translator Training Program is an intensive one-year course that gives students the language background and practical training necessary to engage in oral interpretation of basic Buddhist teachings. The program involves intensive in-class training and many opportunities to practice their skills in a language immersion environment, as students live with Tibetan families for the duration of the program. We offer the program for students with one year's prior study of spoken and Classical Tibetan.

*"I SPENT A FEW YEARS OF MY LIFE HOPING TO FIND A PROGRAM OFFERING WHAT THE TRANSLATOR TRAINING PROGRAM ADVERTISES. NOT ONLY DID I FIND IT, BUT IT ALSO FULFILLED ITS PROMISES. AFTER A VERY INTENSIVE YEAR OF HARD WORK, I FOUND MYSELF INTERPRETING FOR A TIBETAN TULKU IN FRONT OF A REAL AUDIENCE. IT WAS A DREAM COME TRUE!"*

*TRANSLATOR TRAINING PROGRAM STUDENT*

### ONLINE LEARNING PROGRAM

As a service for those who are unable to study in Nepal, Rangjung Yeshe Institute offers courses online to students anywhere in the world. As in the regular study program, the online curriculum offers the great classics of Indian Buddhism, taught by Tibetan monastic teachers and translated into English. Courses taught by western professors are also available, as are short courses, to accommodate students who don't have time to study for a full semester. Certain online courses may be taken for credit.

*"THE TERRIFIC BENEFIT OF STUDYING ONLINE IS THAT YOU CAN STUDY WHEN YOU ARE MOST AWAKE AND MOST ALERT, WHEN YOU ARE MOST RELAXED, AT YOUR OWN CONVENIENCE AND IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME. I FEEL LIKE THE QUALITY OF MY MIND IS SO MUCH MORE AVAILABLE TO LISTEN TO THE TEACHINGS BECAUSE I'M NOT DISTRACTED BY THE CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT!"*

*ONLINE STUDENT*



### RETREAT

Students who wish to spend school breaks on meditation and contemplation in peaceful settings may do so at one of Ka-Nying Shedrub Ling Monastery's two retreat centers. Whether for short or long meditation retreats, our students can stay at the Asura Cave Monastery near Pharping, a picturesque village on the southern rim of the Kathmandu Valley or at Nagi Gompa Nunnery, a remote convent nestled on the slopes of the Shivapuri Mountain range overlooking the Kathmandu Valley.

### PILGRIMAGE

For students who wish to experience the rich and ancient culture of Buddhism, there is a wealth of sacred and historical monuments scattered throughout the Kathmandu Valley. Beyond the valley, many of the most sacred sites of Buddhism—such as Lumbini in southern Nepal and Bodhgaya, Sarnath, and Kushinagar in northern India—are easily accessible during holidays. To the north, Tibet and its capital, Lhasa, are a short flight away and can, subject to visa regulations, often be reached overland during longer holidays.





We invite you to come to the Kathmandu Valley and share in the unique experience of studying at the Rangjung Yeshe Institute. Explore first-hand the many educational and cultural opportunities that await you!

## **Rangjung Yeshe Institute**

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

Kathmandu University  
Centre for Buddhist Studies  
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# KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY

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