

Studies Scholarship Information

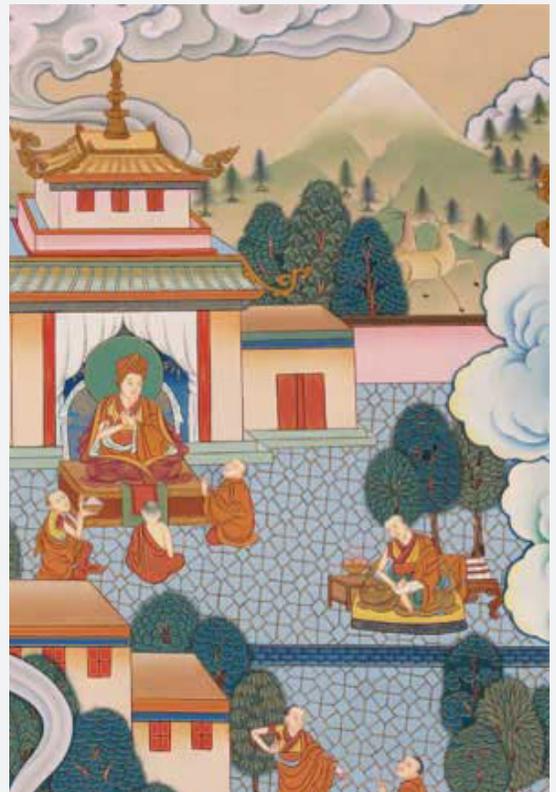
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General Introduction

The two facets of Buddhist teachings—scriptures (*āgama-dharma*, *lung gi chos*) and realization (*adhigamadharma*, *rtogs pa'i chos*)—are transmitted through study, reflection, and meditation. This threefold process, vital for the training of Buddhist practitioners, is facilitated by institutes for study and retreat centers.

Beginning with the founding of Nālandā University in ancient India, through the early monasteries of Samyé, Sangpu, and Shalu, and continuing now in the new or reestablished Tibetan monastic colleges in India and Nepal, intensive study has flourished for over fifteen hundred years within Buddhist institutes dedicated to the pursuit of higher learning. While intensive contemplative practice was generally pursued in solitary retreats lasting months, years, or even a lifetime, in more recent times, the tradition of group three-year retreats has been found to be particularly conducive to meditative training.

In recognition of the growing interest of Western Buddhists in undertaking serious studies, as well as long-term contemplative retreats, Tsadra Foundation is pleased to offer two scholarship initiatives: Advanced Studies Scholarships and Advanced Contemplative Scholarships.



Advanced Studies Scholarship Description

Tsadra Foundation's Advanced Studies Scholarships provide Western Buddhists with an opportunity for in-depth study of Buddhist philosophical literature in the Tibetan language. The foundation offers three-year scholarships to Westerners who wish to study at Tibetan Buddhist institutes in India and Nepal.

While there are many institutes that admit Western students, Tsadra Foundation is aware that the following institutes will accept qualified Western men and women (lay or monastic) for the duration of the scholarship.

- Ka-Nying Shedra, Boudhanath, Nepal
- Karma Lekshe Ling, Swayambhunath, Nepal
- Rangjung Yeshe Institute M.A. program, Boudhanath, Nepal
- Shechen Institute for Higher Buddhist Studies, Boudhanath, Nepal
- Vajra Vidya Institute, Sarnath, India, and Namu Buddha, Nepal

Scholarships are not, however, limited to those institutes nor to any specific tradition. Please note that these scholarships are not available for translator or interpreter training programs.

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Eligibility

Main Criteria

- Acceptance at the institute where you wish to study for three years
- Be a practicing Tibetan Buddhist for five years or more
- B.A. or equivalent
- Minimum of an intermediate level of proficiency in literary Tibetan
- Preference will be given to those with an intermediate or higher level of proficiency in colloquial Tibetan
- Preference will be given to those whose previous studies include Collected Topics (*bsdus grwa*), Classifications of Mental States (*blo rigs*), Classifications of Reasons (*rtags rigs*), and debate training

Personal qualities that we are looking for include, but are not limited to:

- Prior experience living, or traveling, in South Asia
- Understanding of, and respect for, monastic culture and traditional modes of study
- Diligence and enthusiasm for learning
- Open-mindedness
- Emotional stability
- A sense of humor
- Flexibility

Financial Award

Scholarships cover the following costs each year for three years:

- Tuition or an offering to the institute in lieu of tuition
- Room and board
- International medical insurance
- Visa expenses
- Round-trip economy airfare from home country to India or Nepal. (This will provide scholarship recipients with the opportunity to return to their home countries once a year during their break.)
- A book allowance will also be provided.

Application Procedure

Required documentation

1. Completed application form and documentation checklist (see *Documentation Download* web page).
2. Curriculum vitae: in addition to your work history and other academic studies, this should include all relevant Buddhist studies, Tibetan language studies, meditation practice, any meditation retreats, and the date you took refuge. Please include any other relevant information in a short paragraph.



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3. Two letters of recommendation from university professors, Western Buddhist teachers, meditation instructors, or senior saṅgha members. Letters of recommendation must be sent directly to the foundation as pdf files by their authors.
4. A letter from the institute you wish to attend stating that you have been accepted for a three-year period of study.

All materials should be sent in pdf format to: studyscholarship@tsadra.org

Deadlines for 2011 Scholarships

- Application deadline is September 1, 2010.
- Candidates must be available for interviews via Skype from September 1 to October 15.
- Final decisions will be announced by November 1, 2010.

Reporting and Evaluation

Scholarship recipients will be required to submit quarterly reports to the Advanced Studies Scholarship director. Each scholarship recipient will be expected to pass their institute's yearly exams, and the Foundation will review their academic standing yearly with the head khenpo or geshe of their institute. Anyone who does not maintain the required academic standards or their institute's rules of conduct will have their scholarship terminated.

A scholarship recipient who wishes to discontinue his or her studies at any time for reasons other than medical ones or a family emergency will be required to reimburse the foundation for the amount of scholarship funding he or she has received up to that point.