

SUMMER PROGRAM IN

DHARAMSALA, INDIA 2012

Dharamsala

Dharamsala is in the northeastern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh, a state known for its mountains and valleys, British-era hill stations, old princely states, local village cultures, and seats of Tibetan culture in exile.

The first 4 weeks will take place at the Norbulingka Institute for teaching and preserving Tibet's artistic culture. The Institute has a beautiful and quiet campus, with studios, temple, student and master teacher residences, hospitality center, and cafe. It is set amidst gardens and surrounded by green fields against a backdrop of the Dhauladhar Mountains of the Outer Himalayan Range.

The Program

Purchase College [SUNY] operates a five-week summer program in Dharamsala, India, which offers classes in Tibetan philosophy, Indo-Tibetan social thought, and studio courses in traditional Tibetan arts.

The program is open to students, teachers, and community members.

Students will select either Tibetan Buddhist Philosophy or Action and Reflection in Indo-Tibetan Traditions. Students will also choose between Tibetan Thangka Painting and Tibetan Woodworking (each taught by Tibetan Master Artists). There will be guided meditation, and service projects with local Tibetan exiles in addition to field trips to extraordinary sites of interest. Finally, there will be a trek, led by experienced mountaineers, through the Himalayas.

Courses:

Action and Reflection in IndoTibetan Traditions

This course will examine a major theme in Indian and Tibetan thought: what is the relationship between contemplative practices and active ethical engagement in life? It begins by exploring this relationship in the ancient Vedic tradition. It continues with an examination of variations on the moral action/contemplation theme in Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism. Through on-going experiential opportunities for contemplative practices and community service, the course investigates and interacts with the ways the relationship manifests itself among Tibetan Buddhists in exile in Dharamsala. It also examines current challenges to traditional Tibetan moral and spiritual integration, as well as efforts to become aware of and modify out-dated cultural patterns.

Tibetan Buddhist Philosophy

An examination of the major elements of the rich philosophies of Tibetan Buddhism, this course will allow students to explore the theoretical background and philosophic assumptions which are the underpinning of the Buddhist practices students will be observing and participating in during the summer program. Substantial reading in both primary and secondary texts is a part of this course. Initially students will briefly examine the Theravada and Mahayana developments of Indian Buddhism through the lens of the Dalai Lama's description of what he terms the first two turnings of



The Basics

Location

Dharamsala, India

Housing

Double occupancy rooms with private baths in Samdup Ling or Dolma Ling Nunnery guest house

Courses

Action and Reflection in IndoTibetan Traditions, Tibetan Buddhist Philosophy, Tibetan Thangka Painting, Tibetan Woodcarving

Excursions

Manali, Banjar and Shimla

Application Dates

March 15th

the wheel, the first two vehicles, of Buddhism. The course will then turn to the philosophy of Nāgārjuna (c. 150-250 AD), one of the most important philosophers of East Asia. Nagarjuna's Madhyamika philosophies, his introduction of the notion of Sunyāta, and of the two truths, are crucial elements of Tibetan Philosophy. After exploration of Nāgārjuna, Madhyāmika, and the two truths, the course will look at the notion of three truths in the Yogacārya system, and then return to the Dalai Lama and Buddhist Tantric philosophy. The course includes a great deal of reading, writing and discussion, but the setting in Norbulingka will allow supplements to our theoretically oriented course through the meditation teaching and service opportunities which will be provided for students outside of class time.

Tibetan Thangka Painting

The Thangka painting course begins with foundational drawing. This allows students both to perfect their drawing technique and to learn some of the figures, images and symbols belonging to the Tibetan iconographic tradition. In preparation for beginning to paint, students will learn how to prepare a canvas, how to distinguish the natural vegetable and mineral sources of pigments and how to prepare them. Students will paint and develop their skills with color under the close supervision of the Master Thangka Painter and his assistants.

Tibetan Woodcarving

Students begin by learning to draw such iconographic figures and symbols as the Eight Auspicious Signs, Seven

Jeweled Pairs, and Four Harmonious Brothers. They also learn how to make and maintain their set of tools and will learn to small items such as a plain altar, small folding tables, photo frames, small plain boxes, and blocks for printing.

Financial Aid

Students who are currently receiving financial aid can use their aid for overseas study, and in some cases may have their awards increased. Students not currently receiving financial aid may also be eligible.

Students should contact the financial aid office on their home campus for further information.

Apply

A \$200 non-refundable deposit is due within ten days of notification of acceptance.

Required Supporting Documents:

- An official college transcript
- A letter of recommendation from an instructor familiar with you and your work
- Letter of intent

Mail Supporting Materials To:

International Programs and Services
Student Services Building, Floor 2
Purchase College, SUNY
735 Anderson Hill Road
Purchase, NY10577-1400

Costs*

In State Tuition and Fees
(6 Credits)

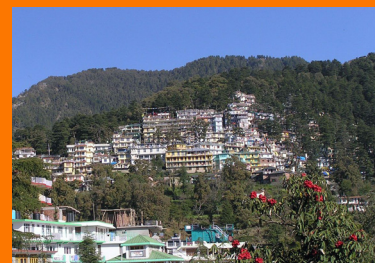
Out of State Tuition and Fees

Transportation
(Round-Trip Airfare)

Room and Board

Program Fees

Deposit Upon Acceptance
\$200



*costs are subject to change

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