



# BUDDHIST STUDIES IN INDIA

Carleton Global Engagement Programs • Fall 2022 Advising Guide

## FOCUS

Buddhist meditation practice and comparative Buddhist philosophy, culture, and history.

## LOCATION

The Burmese Vihar in Bodh Gaya has hosted the *Buddhist Studies in India* program for 40 years, and is a ten-minute walk from the Mahabodhi Temple. Bodh Gaya is a unique Buddhist pilgrimage center in northern India, and is home to more than 40 Buddhist temples within a largely Hindu and Muslim community.

## THIS PROGRAM WILL BE A GREAT FIT FOR:

- Students who want to take a deep dive into the theory and practice of three Buddhist traditions.
- Students who value the opportunity to study and live in community following the Buddhist precepts.
- Students who are excited about carrying out an independent student project in South Asia as part of their study abroad experience.

## FEATURES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- Live in a Buddhist monastery with a cohort of 25-30 other students from diverse academic institutions and backgrounds.
- Focus on studying the three major Buddhist traditions: Theravada, Mahayana and Vajrayana.
- Practice three major Buddhist meditation traditions: Burmese Vipassana (Theravada), Japanese Zen (Mahayana), and Tibetan Vajrayana with renowned meditation masters.
- Design and carry out a three-week independent study project that includes the opportunity to travel to a Buddhist community in India or a neighboring country.

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### COMMUNITY INTERACTION

- Religious and cultural festivals
- Visits to area temples
- Living in an active monastery for pilgrims (the Vihar)

### SITE LOCATIONS DURING THE PROGRAM

London (orientation) • New Delhi (orientation) • Bodh Gaya (primary residence) • Varanasi and Calcutta (optional long weekends)

### IMPORTANT TO KNOW

- While residing at the Vihar, students must commit to following the five basic Buddhist precepts: to protect life, to abstain from theft, to protect relationships and abstain from sexual misconduct, to speak the truth, to abstain from intoxicants.
- Independent student travel prior to the ISP is restricted to scheduled long weekends and must be coordinated with the program staff and other students.
- Locations for ISPs vary from year to year due to political, health and safety, and practical considerations.
- Students must consult with a medical professional during the summer regarding appropriate vaccinations and malaria prevention medication. Students are strongly advised to follow the recommendations of their doctor/medical professional.

### BE PREPARED FOR

- Intentional low-technology environment (limited wireless access and phone use)
- Hot weather in September with no air conditioning at the monastery
- Staying hydrated and drinking only purified water
- Vegetarian diet

### COURSEWORK

Coursework is accredited and transcribed by Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota. Students enroll in five courses for a total of the Carleton-equivalent of 16 semester credits.

#### Required Courses

- RELG 359: Buddhist Meditation Traditions
- ASST 255: Introduction to Field Methods and Ethics
- ASST 391: Independent Study

#### Core Courses

- PHIL 318: Buddhist Philosophy
- SOAN 322: Contemporary Buddhist Culture
- ASST 319: History of South Asian Buddhism

#### Language Courses

- LCST 101: Elementary Hindi
- LCST 103: Intermediate Hindi
- LCST 101: Elementary Tibetan