

RESIDENTIAL PALI COURSE

Vipassana Research Institute (VRI)

Global Vipassana Pagoda, Next to Essel world, Gorai Village,
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Vipassana Research Institute offers an intensive three-month Pali course for serious Vipassana meditators fully committed to the tradition of Sayagyi U Ba Khin as taught by SN Goenka. The programme provides excellent opportunity for both the theory (pariyatti) and practice (patipatti) of Dhamma. The course introduces students to Pali, the language in which the teachings of the Buddha are preserved. It does this in the environment of a meditation centre, where the teachings are actually practiced. This three-month programme begins with a 10-day Vipassana-course, followed by a 10-week intensive Pali course. This combination of scholarly and meditative approaches makes the programme unique.

Curriculum

The curriculum includes Pali grammar and selected suttas and verses from the Tipitaka, some of which are chanted by Goenkaji in a ten-day Vipassana course. The 10 weeks of class provide in-depth instructions in Pali grammar, with drills for a rapid assimilation of the material, as well as reading of extracts from the Tipitaka, allowing students to synthesize their knowledge with more substantial readings. Suttas readings also take place on a weekly basis, providing exposure to the language and content of the canon in its full blown form and texts of relevance to the meditator.

The basics of Pali grammar are covered within the first month, and the second month is devoted to intermediate and advanced topics and readings. Evaluation is facilitated through periodic quizzes and a cumulative final exam.

By the end of the course, students can expect to have a firm grasp of the basic language, a working vocabulary of roughly 1000 words, and competency in reading standard prose passages with minimal assistance. Equivalent to the first semester and a half of a university-level language course.

Suggested Reading:

Advised Basic Texts: L. de Silva, Pali Primer (drills), J. Gair, A new course in reading Pali,

References:

Tipitaka texts are from the Chattha Sangayana CD edited by VRI.
A.K. Warder, Introduction to Pali (grammar),

Course Fees

The Pali studies programme is offered on a Dana basis. There are no fixed charges for tuition, accommodation and boarding. Participants may make donations for the benefit of others.

REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants must meet these minimum requirements for admission:

1. They must have sat three ten-day courses and one Satipatthana course.
2. They should have maintained daily practice (of at least two hours meditation daily) for at least one year, and kept the five basic precepts for at least one year.
3. Applicants must undertake to remain for the entire period of the programme. Students are required to attend all classes and meditation periods and to follow the discipline of the centre carefully.
4. The students must have good communication skill in spoken and written English.
5. All applicants (who meet the requirements) must submit the recommendation of their own Area Teacher, or any Senior Assistant Teacher on the form provided, as well as a completed Pali course application form.

PREPARATION FOR THE COURSE:

The format of this course means intensive work that the students may find challenging. Learning will be much easier if students come prepared with these topics from de Silva Pali Primer that is available for free download from the web and can also be purchased from Vipassana centers: The first 8 chapters completely and vocabulary at the end of the book.

SELECTION AND REGISTRATION PROCESS:

1. Students should forward their application forms along with recommendation from Area Teacher to the contact address. In addition, for earlier notification, the Area Teachers may notify via email about their intention to send in a recommendation.
2. Selected Students will be sent a letter that will be useful to obtain a Student Visa. Students are advised to attend this programme using a student Visa.

COURSE PROGRAMME

- 1) Arrival at Global Vipassana Pagoda preferably before 5 p.m. of the opening day.
- 2) 3-days orientation followed by 10-day meditation course.
- 3) 14 weeks of Pali classes, 6 days a week: daily 4 hours class + evening self-study period.
- 4) Daily 2 hours of meditation.
- 5) The course finishes with Lunch on the concluding day.

Note: VRI-Pali programme has moved to Global Vipassana Pagoda campus, Mumbai from the earlier venue, i.e., Igatpuri. Travel guidance for reaching to Global Vipassana Pagoda site is available from www.globalpagoda.org.

DAILY SCHEDULE

7:30 - 8:00 am	Breakfast
8:30 - 9:30 am	Group sitting
9:35 - 10:55 am	Self-study
11:00 am - 1:00 pm	Pali class- morning session
1:00 - 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 - 2:30 pm	Rest
2:30 - 4:30 pm	Pali class- afternoon session
4:35 - 5:00 pm	Tea break
5:15 - 6:15 pm	Meditation
6:15 - 7:25 pm	Research/ Self-study
7:30 - 8:30 pm	Dinner
8:30 - 9:45 pm	Self-study

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Complete enclosed APPLICATION FOR 3 MONTH INTENSIVE PALI COURSE

Forward enclosed RECOMMENDATION to your own Area Teacher OR Senior A.T.

General requirement is 12 years of education in accredited institutions.

Submit form, recommendation and the following documents at the contact address for Pali program:

- Three recent passport size photos.
- A photocopy of your passport.
- A CERTIFIED PHOTOCOPY OF:

1) High School diploma/ Secondary School certificate stating clearly that the student completed 12 years of studies & High School transcript of marks, with an explanation of grading system along with the subjects taken.

OR / PREFERABLY

2) University degree/diploma & University transcript of all earned marks, with explanation of grading system along with the subjects taken.

DOCUMENTS NOT IN ENGLISH must be translated into English.

Interested persons should submit applications and all documents to the contact address as soon as possible.

The programme begins with a 10-day course.
