

TI-RATANA INSTITUTE OF BUDDHIST STUDIES

COURSE GUIDE 2026

Buddhist Education • Dhamma in Daily Life • Leadership • Digital Dhamma

Website: www.ti-ratana.org/ibs

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ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

The **Ti-Ratana Institute of Buddhist Studies (TRIBS)** provides structured Buddhist education for children, youths, adults, seniors and Buddhist volunteers.

Our programmes combine the study of Buddhist teachings with reflection, critical thinking, practical application, community participation and contemporary approaches to Dhamma education.

Courses may include:

- Dhamma lessons and discussions
- Puja and meditation
- Buddhist hymns and activities
- Quizzes and assessments
- Presentations and group work
- Temple visits and field trips
- Community participation
- Digital learning
- Practical projects

Programmes are offered through selected Ti-Ratana Buddhist Society education programmes in physical, online or hybrid formats.

Exact **2026 intake dates, class times, venues and delivery arrangements** may vary by programme and will be announced separately through the Ti-Ratana Institute of Buddhist Studies.

The majority of structured TRIBS programmes and physical classes are based at Ti-Ratana Lumbini Garden, Puchong, which serves as the Institute's principal physical learning centre. TRIBS also recognises selected Buddhist learning activities conducted throughout Ti-Ratana Buddhist Society branches through its Applied Learning Recognition System.

SUMMARY OF EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS

Ti-Ratana Institute of Buddhist Studies

Primary physical base: Ti-Ratana Lumbini Garden, Puchong

Provides structured programmes including:

- Certificate: Introduction to Buddhism
- Certificate of Buddhist Studies
- Certificate: Introduction to the Digital Dhamma

These programmes may include formal teaching, assessments, attendance requirements and structured course progression.

Ti-Ratana Sukha Dhamma School, Cheras

Operates its own structured Buddhist education programme.

Certification: Yes — certificates are administered independently by Sukha Dhamma School.

Sukha certificates are separate from standard TRIBS qualifications.

Selected activities may additionally qualify for TRIBS Applied Learning recognition.

Ti-Ratana Vihara, Klang — Sutta Study

Provides Sutta Study and Buddhist discussion for Dhamma learning and practice.

Separate Ti-Ratana Vihara Sutta Study Certificate: None.

Eligible Sutta Study participation may nevertheless contribute towards a TRIBS Certificate of Applied Buddhist Learning where the required participation is recorded.

Ti-Ratana Heights, Seri Kembangan

Provides branch-based Buddhist programmes and activities.

Selected programmes may qualify for TRIBS Applied Learning recognition.

Ti-Ratana Penchala, Petaling Jaya

Provides branch-based Buddhist programmes and activities.

Selected programmes may qualify for TRIBS Applied Learning recognition.

Ti-Ratana Bangsar

Provides branch-based Buddhist programmes and activities.

Selected programmes may qualify for TRIBS Applied Learning recognition.

Applied Learning — Devotees

Recognition: Certificate of Applied Buddhist Learning

Awarded to eligible devotees who fulfil the required participation requirements through recognised Buddhist learning activities.

Attendance must be appropriately recorded through the TRIBS Check-In System where required.

Honorary Recognition — Sangha

Recognition: Honorary Certificate of Buddhist Studies (Hon. CBS)

Awarded in recognition of Buddhist learning, practice, teaching, guidance, participation and contribution.

The Honorary Certificate is a recognition award and does not require completion of the conventional student assessment pathway.

STUDY PATHWAYS

Sunday Dhamma School

The Sunday Dhamma School pathway is designed primarily for school-age students and provides a longer learning format with additional activities, festival participation and opportunities for guided learning.

The **Introduction to Buddhism** course is delivered over 24 weeks.

Students continuing towards the **Certificate of Buddhist Studies** complete four additional 12-week courses, resulting in an overall programme duration of approximately 72 teaching weeks.

Youth Dhamma Programme

The Youth Dhamma Programme provides an accelerated learning format suitable for youths, college and university students, young working adults and other adult learners.

The **Introduction to Buddhism** course is delivered over 12 weeks.

Students continuing towards the **Certificate of Buddhist Studies** complete four additional 12-week courses, resulting in an overall programme duration of approximately 60 teaching weeks.

Seniors Learning Programme

Selected courses, including **Introduction to the Digital Dhamma**, may be offered through the Seniors Learning Programme.

Lessons are designed to provide practical and accessible instruction while allowing participants to develop confidence in using technology for Buddhist and community purposes.

PROGRAMS OFFERED

CERTIFICATE: INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM

Programme Overview

The Certificate: Introduction to Buddhism introduces students to the fundamentals of Buddhism and Buddhist practice.

Students explore the life of the Buddha, common misconceptions about Buddhism, the Three Refuges, Five Precepts, Four Noble Truths, Noble Eightfold Path, kamma, mindfulness, meditation, Buddhist history and the application of Buddhist teachings in contemporary life.

The programme aims to establish a strong foundation for students who are new to Buddhist studies while encouraging the thoughtful application of Dhamma in everyday life.

Programme Offerings

Sunday Dhamma School

Duration: 24 weeks

Course Code: MT001

Mode: Physical and online options

Youth Dhamma Programme

Duration: 12 weeks

Course Code: YT1000

Mode: Physical and online options

Benefits

Students completing the programme should develop:

- A foundational understanding of the Buddha's teachings
- Knowledge of essential Buddhist concepts and practices
- Greater understanding of Buddhist history and traditions
- The ability to relate Buddhist teachings to everyday situations
- Critical-thinking skills when discussing Buddhism
- A foundation for further study in the Certificate of Buddhist Studies

Successful students are awarded the **Certificate: Introduction to Buddhism**.

CERTIFICATE OF BUDDHIST STUDIES

Programme Overview

The **Certificate of Buddhist Studies** is designed for students who wish to undertake more comprehensive and in-depth Buddhist studies.

Students progress from the foundations of Buddhism to the Jataka Tales, the Buddha's disciples, Buddhism in contemporary society, and the diverse traditions and communities found across the Buddhist world.

The programme consists of five courses.

Component Courses

1. **MT001 / YT1000: Introduction to Buddhism**
24 weeks for Sunday Dhamma School or 12 weeks for Youth Dhamma Programme
 2. **KR001: The Countless Past Lives of Gautama Buddha**
12 weeks
 3. **KR002: Buddhism and the Disciples of the Buddha**
12 weeks
 4. **MD001: Buddhism and the World**
12 weeks
 5. **MD002: Traditions of Buddhism — The Countless Buddhas of the World and Dharma Doors**
12 weeks
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Advanced Entry

Students who have already successfully completed the **Certificate: Introduction to Buddhism** do not need to repeat MT001 or YT1000.

They may proceed directly to the remaining component courses of the Certificate of Buddhist Studies, subject to the Institute's enrolment arrangements.

Benefits

Students completing the programme should develop:

- A deeper understanding of Buddhist teachings
- Knowledge of Buddhist history, traditions and communities
- Familiarity with important Buddhist stories, figures and practices
- Greater ability to apply Buddhist principles to contemporary issues
- Critical-thinking and discussion skills
- Communication and Dhamma leadership skills
- A foundation for assisting with Buddhist education and community activities

Graduates may also be considered for opportunities to assist with or teach Dhamma classes within Ti-Ratana programmes, **subject to the requirements and approval of the Institute and the relevant Ti-Ratana Buddhist Society section.**

CERTIFICATE: INTRODUCTION TO THE DIGITAL DHAMMA

Programme Overview

The Certificate: Introduction to the Digital Dhamma is designed for Buddhist volunteers, practitioners and community members who wish to use modern technology in support of Buddhist education, Dhammaduta activities and Buddhist organisations.

Students explore the practical use of social media, websites, livestreaming, audio-visual production, information technology, digital archives, artificial intelligence and online community platforms.

The course also examines the ethical responsibilities associated with the use of technology for Dhamma purposes, including accuracy, transparency, privacy, Right Speech and responsible use of artificial intelligence.

Participants are introduced to free, low-cost or not-for-profit digital tools and services that may be available to eligible registered Buddhist organisations.

Offerings

Youth Dhamma Programme

Duration: 12 weeks

Mode: Online and physical options

Seniors Learning Programme

Duration: 12 weeks

Mode: Online and physical options

Course Code: TBC

Benefits

Students completing this programme should be better equipped to:

- Support the digital operations of Buddhist organisations
- Manage social media and online communications
- Assist with livestreams and hybrid events
- Produce basic photo, video and audio content
- Maintain websites and digital resources
- Organise documents and cloud-based information
- Understand basic cybersecurity responsibilities
- Use artificial intelligence responsibly
- Support online Buddhist communities
- Develop digital Dhammaduta projects
- Help Buddhist organisations make effective use of available technology

COURSE CATALOGUE

MT001 / YT1000: INTRODUCTION TO BUDDHISM

Overview

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of Buddhism and Buddhist studies.

Students examine the Buddha's life and teachings together with important Buddhist ethical, philosophical and practical concepts.

MT001 and YT1000 share the same overall learning objectives but are delivered through different programme formats.

Course Information

MT001 – Sunday Dhamma School

- Duration: 24 weeks
- Value: 2 credit points
- Format: Full-year programme

YT1000 – Youth Dhamma Programme

- Duration: 12 weeks
- Value: 2 credit points
- Format: Accelerated programme

Successful completion leads to the **Certificate: Introduction to Buddhism**.

Enrolment Requirements

There are no academic prerequisites for this course.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the fundamentals of Buddhism.
 2. Explain important Buddhist teachings and practices.
 3. Apply basic Buddhist principles to situations encountered in everyday life.
 4. Use critical-thinking skills when considering contemporary issues from a Buddhist perspective.
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Indicative MT001 Syllabus

Part I — Foundations of Buddhism

Week 1: Introduction and Buddhism in a Nutshell

Week 2: The Life of the Buddha — Part I

Week 3: The Life of the Buddha — Part II

Week 4: Frequent Misconceptions about Buddhism

Week 5: The Three Refuges

Week 6: The Five Precepts

Week 7: Special Lesson on Wesak and Buddhist Practice

Week 8: Wesak Activities and Performance Preparation

Week 9: Buddhism and Mindfulness

Week 10: Introduction to Meditation

Week 11: Field Trip / Visit to another Buddhist temple or Ti-Ratana centre, subject to arrangements

Week 12: Revision and Reflection

A study break and assessment period may follow the first part of the programme.

Part II — Buddhism in Practice and Society

Week 13: The Four Noble Truths and Noble Eightfold Path

Week 14: Buddhism and Contemporary Issues

Week 15: The Ten Perfections

Week 16: Kamma — The Law of Cause and Effect

Week 17: The Spread of Buddhism

Week 18: Buddhism in the Modern World

Week 19: Dhamma Talk and Discussion Session I

Week 20: History of Buddhism in Malaysia

Week 21: Special Lesson on Kathina and Buddhist Community Practice

Week 22: Dhamma Talk and Discussion Session II

Week 23: Field Trip / Buddhist Community Learning Activity

Week 24: Revision and Course Reflection

Final assessment arrangements are announced by the Institute.

Indicative YT1000 Accelerated Syllabus

Week 1: Introduction and Buddhism in a Nutshell

Week 2: The Life of the Buddha

Week 3: The Three Refuges

Week 4: Frequent Misconceptions about Buddhism

Week 5: Study and Reflection Week

Week 6: The Five Precepts

Week 7: The Four Noble Truths and Noble Eightfold Path

Week 8: The Spread of Buddhism

Week 9: Buddhism and Contemporary Issues

Week 10: The Ten Perfections and Kamma

Week 11: Presentation and Final Assessment

Week 12: Final Assessment Discussion and Course Reflection

The accelerated programme incorporates the study and assessment period within its 12-week structure.

Assessment

Total: 100%

Quizzes — 20%

Topics may include:

- The Life of the Buddha — 5%
- Fundamentals of Buddhism — 5%
- Spread of Buddhism — 5%
- Buddhism and Contemporary Issues — 5%

Quizzes may be completed online or on-site using a digital device with an internet connection.

Unless otherwise announced, quizzes are open-book.

For MT001, two quizzes may be conducted for each topic area.

For YT1000, one quiz may be conducted for each topic area.

Activities — 20%

MT001

- Buddhist arts and craft — 5%
- Field-trip reflection or observation notes — 5%
- Wesak participation — 10%

YT1000

Students complete a presentation based on an approved topic.

Possible topics include:

- What if the Buddha were alive today?
- Buddhism Applied in Daily Life
- Buddhism at University

- Buddhism at College
- Buddhism in the Workplace
- The Spread of Buddhism

Value: 20%

Attendance — 30%

Full attendance is required to receive full attendance marks.

Students must obtain at least **17 out of 30 attendance marks** to satisfy the attendance component.

As a general guide, this corresponds to attendance at approximately:

- 14 of 24 sessions for MT001
- 7 of 12 sessions for YT1000

Late, excused and other attendance classifications may receive reduced attendance marks in accordance with Institute policy.

Final Assessment — 30%

The final assessment covers the topics taught in the student's relevant programme.

Method: Online or on-site using a digital device with internet access.

Unless otherwise announced, the assessment is open-book.

Indicative Weekly Workload

Approximately:

- 45 minutes of teaching
- 10 minutes of hymns and/or activities

- 5 minutes of Puja

Additional time may be required for quizzes, presentations, field-trip activities and assessments.

Course Contacts

Course Coordinator: Lee Lin Jun (Rain)

Teacher: Lee Lin Jun (Rain)

Email: rainleelinjun@ti-ratana.org

KR001: THE COUNTLESS PAST LIVES OF GAUTAMA BUDDHA

Overview

This course explores the **Jataka Tales**, stories concerning the Buddha's previous lives and the gradual development of virtues associated with the Bodhisatta path.

Particular attention is given to the **Ten Paramis or Perfections** and to the ethical lessons communicated through the Jataka tradition.

Students are encouraged not only to learn the stories but also to examine how their teachings can be understood and applied in contemporary life.

Offerings

Duration: 12 weeks

The course may be offered in physical or hybrid formats according to the arrangements for the relevant intake.

Enrolment Requirements

Students must be registered with the Ti-Ratana Institute of Buddhist Studies.

Where KR001 is undertaken as part of the Certificate of Buddhist Studies, students should normally have completed MT001 or YT1000.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Recount selected Jataka Tales and explain their principal teachings.
 2. Understand and explain the Ten Paramis and their significance to the Bodhisatta path.
 3. Identify ethical and moral themes within the Jataka Tales.
 4. Reflect on how lessons from the Jataka Tales and Paramis may be applied in personal and community life.
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Indicative Syllabus

Week 1: Introduction to the Jataka Tales

- What the Jataka Tales are
- Their place within Buddhist traditions
- Rebirth and kamma in the Jataka stories

Week 2: The Ten Paramis

- Introduction to the Ten Perfections
- Dana — Generosity
- Sila — Morality

Week 3: Renunciation and Wisdom

- Nekkhamma — Renunciation
- Panna — Wisdom
- Examples from selected Jataka Tales

Week 4: Effort and Patience

- Viriya — Effort
- Khanti — Patience
- Their relevance to spiritual development

Week 5: Completing the Ten Paramis

- Sacca — Truthfulness
- Adhitthana — Determination
- Metta — Loving-kindness
- Upekkha — Equanimity

Week 6: Comparative Study

- Paramis and ethical virtues in other cultural or religious traditions
- Comparative discussion of selected stories and folklore
- Buddhist festival or community activity preparation where applicable

Week 7: Key Jataka Tales I

- Selected stories illustrating the Paramis
- Interpretation and discussion

Week 8: Key Jataka Tales II

- Further selected stories
- Ethical and practical themes

A mid-semester break may be scheduled between Weeks 8 and 9.

Week 9: The Bodhisatta Path

- The development of a Bodhisatta
- Relationship between the Jataka Tales and the Paramis

Week 10: Moral and Ethical Lessons

- Ethical themes in the Jataka tradition
- Relevance to contemporary situations

Week 11: Jataka Tales in Art and Literature

- Buddhist art
- Literature
- Cultural transmission across Asia

Week 12: Reflection and Integration

- Review of the Jataka Tales
 - Review of the Ten Paramis
 - Applying the teachings to modern challenges
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Assessment

Within-semester assessment: 70%

Final assessment: 30%

Attendance — 30%

Students must attend at least 6 of the 12 scheduled classes to satisfy the minimum attendance requirement.

Quizzes — 20%

Indicative topic areas:

- Jataka Tales — 5%
- Ten Paramis — 5%
- The Bodhisatta Path — 5%
- Moral and Ethical Lessons from the Jataka Tales — 5%

Quizzes are normally completed online or on-site using a digital device with internet access and are open-book unless otherwise announced.

Activities — 20%

- Creative retelling or illustration of a Jataka Tale — 10%
- Group discussion and presentation on applying a Parami to contemporary life — 10%

Activities may be completed through physical or hybrid learning.

Final Assessment — 30%

All major topics covered in the course may be assessed.

The final assessment is normally conducted digitally on-site and is open-book unless otherwise announced.

Indicative Weekly Workload

Pre-Class

Students may be required to:

- Review learning materials
- Access the Institute's learning platform
- Check course announcements
- Complete assigned preparation

In-Class

Approximately:

- 45 minutes of teaching
- 25 minutes of discussion
- 20 minutes of activities, including Puja, meditation and hymns where applicable

Post-Class

Selected weeks may include:

- Quizzes
 - Activities
 - Reflection exercises
 - Assessment preparation
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Course Contacts

Course Coordinator: Lee Lin Jun (Rain)

Teacher: Lee Lin Jun (Rain)

Email: rainleelinjun@ti-ratana.org

KR002: BUDDHISM AND THE DISCIPLES OF THE BUDDHA

Overview

This course forms part of the Certificate of Buddhist Studies and focuses on the Buddha's disciples and the early Buddhist community.

Through the study of important disciples and their stories, students examine different qualities of Buddhist practice, service, wisdom, discipline and spiritual development.

The course also provides an opportunity to understand how the Sangha and lay Buddhist community developed during and after the Buddha's lifetime.

Duration

12 weeks

Enrolment Requirements

Students undertaking KR002 as part of the Certificate of Buddhist Studies should normally have completed:

- MT001 or YT1000: Introduction to Buddhism
 - KR001: The Countless Past Lives of Gautama Buddha
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2026 Course Information

KR002: BUDDHISM AND THE DISCIPLES OF THE BUDDHA

Overview

This course explores the lives, qualities and contributions of the Buddha's principal disciples and examines how their examples relate to Buddhist practice.

Students study the **Ten Principal Disciples**, including their distinctive qualities, roles within the early Buddhist community and contributions to the preservation and transmission of the Dhamma.

The course then develops students' understanding of the **Ten Paramitas (Perfections)** and their application in Buddhist practice and daily life.

Students are also introduced to further Buddhist teachings and practices including **kamma, mindfulness, dependent origination and the Wheel of Life**.

Practical Dhamma Living components may also be incorporated throughout the course, including Buddhist customs, festivals, chanting, temple practices and the application of Buddhist values in everyday situations.

Duration

12 weeks

Course Value

1 credit point

Enrolment Requirements

Prerequisites

Students undertaking KR002 as part of the Certificate of Buddhist Studies should normally have completed:

- MT001 or YT1000: Introduction to Buddhism
- KR001: The Countless Past Lives of Gautama Buddha

Enrolment Rule

Students must be enrolled in the **Certificate of Buddhist Studies** programme.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify the principal disciples of Gautama Buddha and explain their respective qualities and contributions.
 2. Explain the role of the Buddha's disciples in the development and preservation of the early Buddhist community and teachings.
 3. Understand and explain the Ten Paramitas and their significance in Buddhist practice.
 4. Apply qualities represented by the Paramitas to situations encountered in everyday life.
 5. Explain basic Buddhist understandings of kamma and the relationship between actions, intentions and consequences.
 6. Demonstrate an introductory understanding of mindfulness and dependent origination.
 7. Interpret the principal elements represented in the Buddhist Wheel of Life.
 8. Relate Buddhist teachings, practices and traditions to personal and community life.
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Indicative Syllabus

Week 1: The Great Disciples — Introduction, Sariputta and Moggallana

Topics include:

- Introduction to the Ten Principal Disciples
 - The role of disciples in the Buddha's ministry
 - Sariputta (Shariputra) and his association with wisdom
 - Moggallana (Mahāmoggallāna) and his place among the Buddha's chief disciples
 - The relationship between Sariputta and Moggallana
 - Their contributions to the Buddhist community
 - Moggallana and the later Buddhist traditions associated with Ullambana
-

Week 2: Subhuti and Punna

Topics include:

- Subhuti and his association with teachings on emptiness
 - Subhuti in later Mahayana Buddhist literature
 - Punna Mantaniputta / Purna Maitrayani-putra
 - Punna as a teacher and preacher of the Dhamma
 - Communication and the effective teaching of Buddhism
 - Applying the qualities of the disciples to contemporary Dhamma education
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Week 3: Katyayana and Anuruddha

Topics include:

- Mahakaccana / Katyayana and his ability to explain the Buddha's teachings
- The role of interpretation and explanation in transmitting the Dhamma
- Anuruddha and the practice of mindfulness
- Anuruddha's relationship with the Buddha
- The disciples' roles during important events in the early Buddhist community

- Their participation in the preservation of Buddhist teachings
-

Week 4: Upali and Rahula

Topics include:

- Upali and his association with the Vinaya
 - Upali's background and ordination
 - Equality and social distinctions in the early Buddhist community
 - The preservation of monastic discipline
 - Rahula as the Buddha's son and disciple
 - Rahula's training and Buddhist education
 - The importance of being willing to learn and receive guidance
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Week 5: Ananda and Mahakassapa

Topics include:

- Ananda as attendant to the Buddha
- Ananda's memory and preservation of the Buddha's teachings
- The role of oral transmission in early Buddhism
- Mahakassapa and ascetic practice
- Mahakassapa's leadership following the Buddha's passing
- The First Buddhist Council
- The importance of preserving the Dhamma for future generations

This lesson may also incorporate an introduction to **Buddhist chanting and hymns** as part of Dhamma Living Skills.

The Ten Paramitas

Week 6: Generosity, Morality, Renunciation and Wisdom

Students are introduced to the concept of the **Paramitas or Perfections** and their importance to Buddhist spiritual development.

Topics include:

Dana — Generosity

- Giving
- Sharing
- Selflessness
- Generosity in daily life

Sila — Morality

- Ethical conduct
- Buddhist precepts
- Developing wholesome behaviour

Nekkhamma — Renunciation

- Non-attachment
- Letting go of unhealthy attachment
- Understanding the relationship between attachment and suffering

Panna — Wisdom

- Developing understanding and insight
 - Applying wisdom to one's decisions
 - Distinguishing wisdom from mere knowledge
-

Week 7: Energy and Patience

Viriya — Energy and Effort

Topics include:

- Spiritual effort
- Diligence
- Perseverance
- Developing wholesome habits
- Maintaining Buddhist practice
- Using effort for the benefit of oneself and others

Khanti — Patience

Topics include:

- Patience and forbearance
 - Enduring difficulties constructively
 - Responding to other people without hatred
 - Acceptance of uncertainty
 - Developing composure in difficult situations
 - Patience as an aspect of Buddhist practice
-

Week 8: Truthfulness and Determination

Sacca — Truthfulness

Topics include:

- The importance of truthfulness
- Truthful speech
- Conventional and ultimate understandings of truth
- Honesty in Buddhist practice
- Truthfulness as a quality developed through conduct

Adhitthana — Determination

Topics include:

- Resolution and determination
- Commitment to Buddhist practice
- Maintaining one's intentions

- Discipline and consistency
 - Examples of determination within Buddhist practice and monastic life
-

Week 9: Loving-Kindness and Equanimity

Metta — Loving-Kindness

Topics include:

- Developing goodwill towards oneself and others
- Responding to hatred without hatred
- Metta as a Buddhist mental quality and practice
- Distinguishing loving-kindness from attachment
- Applying kindness in everyday relationships

Upekkha — Equanimity

Topics include:

- Even-mindedness
 - Non-attachment
 - Responding impartially to changing circumstances
 - Avoiding excessive reactions based on likes and dislikes
 - Equanimity as a foundation for wiser responses
-

Further Buddhist Teachings

Week 10: Kamma — The Law of Cause and Effect

Topics include:

- Introduction to kamma
- Intention and action

- Actions of body, speech and mind
- Wholesome and unwholesome actions
- Actions and consequences
- Common misconceptions surrounding kamma
- Why kamma should not be understood merely as reward and punishment
- Applying Buddhist ethical reasoning to complex situations

Students may participate in case-study discussions requiring them to consider intentions, actions, consequences and ethical responsibility.

Week 11: Mindfulness and Dhamma in Daily Life

Topics include:

- Introduction to mindfulness
- Awareness of thoughts, behaviour and actions
- Avoiding simplistic judgements about people
- Applying mindfulness before reacting
- Mindfulness and ethical decision-making
- Relating Buddhist teachings to real-life situations
- Developing Dhamma Living Skills

Practical components may include:

- Guided mindfulness or meditation
 - Buddhist chanting
 - Reflection exercises
 - Discussions on applying Buddhist values in school, university, work, family and community life
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Week 12: Dependent Origination and the Wheel of Life

Topics include:

- Introduction to dependent origination

- Understanding conditionality
- The principle that phenomena arise dependent upon conditions
- The Three Poisons: ignorance, attachment and aversion
- Kamma and the cycle of existence
- The Six Realms
- The Twelve Links of Dependent Origination
- Impermanence
- Dukkha
- Liberation from the cycle of existence
- Understanding the symbolism of the Buddhist Wheel of Life

The concluding lesson provides an opportunity for students to connect the teachings studied throughout KR002, including the Great Disciples, Paramitas, kamma and mindfulness.

Dhamma Living and Practical Learning

Dhamma Living activities may be incorporated throughout the course rather than taught as separate academic units.

Activities may include:

- Sharing and generosity in daily life
- Buddhist hymns and chanting
- Introduction to Vassa and Kathina
- Temple customs and etiquette
- Understanding the physical Buddhist temple
- Identifying common objects and spaces within a Buddhist centre
- Puja and meditation
- Participation in Buddhist festivals
- Discussion of contemporary ethical situations
- Applying the Paramitas to daily life

Where appropriate, a **temple learning activity or field trip** may be organised to allow students to apply what they have learned in a physical Buddhist environment.

Assessment

Within-semester assessment: 70%

Final assessment: 30%

Attendance — 30%

Full attendance is required to receive full attendance marks.

Students must obtain at least **17 out of 30 attendance marks**, corresponding approximately to attendance at 7 of the 12 scheduled sessions.

Late, excused and other attendance classifications may receive reduced attendance marks according to Institute policy.

Quizzes — 20%

Indicative topic areas:

- The Great Disciples — 5%
- The Ten Paramitas I — 5%
- The Ten Paramitas II — 5%
- Kamma, Mindfulness and Dependent Origination — 5%

Quizzes are normally completed online or on-site using a digital device with internet access.

Unless otherwise announced, quizzes are open-book.

Activities — 20%

Activities may include:

Great Disciples Reflection — 5%

Students select one of the Buddha's principal disciples and explain a quality demonstrated by that disciple that remains relevant to Buddhist practice today.

Paramitas in Daily Life — 5%

Students complete an individual or group activity demonstrating how one or more Paramitas can be applied to a contemporary situation.

Dhamma Living / Temple Activity — 10%

Students participate in an approved practical Buddhist learning activity.

This may include:

- A temple learning activity
- Field-trip reflection
- Buddhist festival participation
- Puja or chanting activity
- Group presentation
- Practical Dhamma Living project

Final Assessment — 30%

The final assessment covers the principal topics taught throughout KR002.

Indicative areas include:

- The Great Disciples
- The Ten Paramitas
- Kamma
- Mindfulness
- Dependent Origination
- The Wheel of Life
- Application of Buddhist teachings to daily life

Method: Online or on-site using a digital device with internet access.

Unless otherwise announced, the final assessment is open-book.

Indicative Weekly Workload

Pre-Class

Students may be required to:

- Review assigned learning materials
- Access the Institute's learning platform
- Check announcements
- Complete short preparation activities

In-Class

Classes may consist of approximately:

- 45 minutes of teaching
- 25 minutes of discussion and Dhamma Living activities
- 20 minutes of Puja, meditation, hymns or other practical activities

Post-Class

Selected weeks may include:

- Quizzes or reflection activities
- Group work and presentations
- Assessment preparation

Course Contacts

Course Coordinator: -

Teacher: -

Email: -

MD001: BUDDHISM AND THE WORLD

Overview

This course develops students' knowledge and understanding of the relationship between Buddhism and the contemporary world.

Students explore how Buddhist thought, ethics, communities and practices interact with areas such as science, technology, religion, culture, art, business and society.

Duration

12 weeks

Course Value

1 credit point

Enrolment Requirements

Prerequisites

Students must have completed:

- MT001 or YT1000
- KR001
- KR002

Enrolment Rule

Students must be enrolled in the **Certificate of Buddhist Studies** programme.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand and explain the relationship between Buddhism and the contemporary world.
 2. Apply Buddhist teachings when examining areas including science, technology, visual arts, performing arts and the social sciences.
 3. Critically examine contemporary questions and issues relating to Buddhism.
 4. Communicate informed responses when discussing Buddhism with others.
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Indicative Syllabus

Week 1: Buddhism in the Contemporary World

Week 2: Buddhist Music and Performance

Week 3: Buddhist Architecture and Art

Week 4: Buddhism and Other Religions

Week 5: Buddhist Cults, Misrepresentation and How to Evaluate Claims

Week 6: Buddhism and Minority Communities

Week 7: History of Buddhism in Malaysia

Week 8: Buddhism and Science

Week 9: Buddhist Businesses and Ethical Enterprise

Week 10: Buddhism and Technology

Week 11: Field Trip / Visit to a Buddhist Temple or Community

Week 12: Revision and Reflection

Festival preparation or participation may be incorporated into selected classes where appropriate.

Assessment

Total: 100%

Quizzes — 20%

Indicative topic areas:

- Buddhism and Minority Communities — 5%
- Buddhist Cults and Evaluating Religious Claims — 5%
- Buddhism, Science and Technology — 5%
- Buddhism and the Arts — 5%

Quizzes are normally conducted online or on-site using a digital device with internet access.

Unless otherwise announced, quizzes are open-book.

Activities — 20%

Activities may include:

- Buddhist arts and craft — 5%
 - Field-trip observation or reflection notes — 5%
 - Wesak Day or Wesak Eve participation — 10%
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Attendance — 30%

Full attendance is required to receive full attendance marks.

Students must obtain at least **17 out of 30 attendance marks**, corresponding approximately to attendance at 7 of the 12 scheduled sessions.

Late, excused and other attendance classifications may receive reduced marks according to Institute policy.

Final Assessment — 30%

The final assessment may cover all topics taught during the course.

Method: Online or on-site using a digital device with internet access.

Unless otherwise announced, the assessment is open-book.

Indicative Weekly Workload

Approximately:

- 45 minutes of teaching
- 10 minutes of hymns and/or activities
- 5 minutes of Puja

Additional study and assessment preparation may be required.

Course Contacts

Course Coordinator: Lee Lin Jun (Rain)

Teachers: Seet Swee Leng and Lee Lin Jun (Rain)

Email: rainleelinjun@ti-ratana.org

MD002: TRADITIONS OF BUDDHISM — THE COUNTLESS BUDDHAS OF THE WORLD AND DHARMA DOORS

Overview

This course develops students' understanding of the diversity of Buddhist traditions, teachings, communities and approaches to practice.

Students are introduced to major Buddhist traditions and selected Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, schools and practices found throughout the Buddhist world.

The course encourages students to approach different traditions with understanding, respect and critical thinking while distinguishing between differences in legitimate Buddhist traditions and unsupported claims about Buddhist teachings.

Duration

12 weeks

Course Value

1 credit point

Enrolment Requirements

Prerequisites

Students must have completed:

- MT001 or YT1000
- KR001
- KR002
- MD001

Enrolment Rule

Students must be enrolled in the **Certificate of Buddhist Studies** programme.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand major Buddhist traditions and different approaches or Dharma Doors within Buddhism.
2. Describe selected Buddhas, Bodhisattvas, schools and Buddhist practices.
3. Apply their knowledge when examining the validity and context of Buddhist teachings and practices.
4. Use critical-thinking skills when evaluating Buddhist teachings, claims and traditions.
5. Demonstrate respect for the diversity found within the wider Buddhist community.

Indicative Syllabus

Week 1: Study and Preparation Week

Week 2: Guan Yin Bodhisattva — Compassion in the Buddhist Tradition

Week 3: The Three Major Traditions of Buddhism

Week 4: The Thai Forest Tradition

Week 5: Ksitigarbha / Earth Store Bodhisattva

Week 6: Ch'an and Pure Land Buddhism

Week 7: Vajrayana Buddhist Traditions

Week 8: Review of Introduction to Buddhism

Week 9: Review of the Jataka Tales and Life of the Buddha

Week 10: Review of Buddhism and the Contemporary World

Week 11: Field Trip / Comparative Buddhist Community Visit

Week 12: Revision, Reflection and Integration

Assessment

Total: 100%

Quizzes — 20%

Indicative topic areas:

- Guan Yin Bodhisattva — 5%
- Earth Store Bodhisattva — 5%
- Traditions of Buddhism — 5%
- Course Review — 5%

Quizzes are normally conducted online or on-site using a digital device with internet access.

Unless otherwise announced, quizzes are open-book.

Activities — 20%

Activities may include:

- Buddhist arts and craft — 5%
- Field-trip observation or reflection notes — 5%
- Participation in an approved Buddhist event — 10%

Students must participate in at least one approved event where event participation forms part of the course requirements.

Attendance — 30%

Full attendance is required for full attendance marks.

Students must obtain at least **17 out of 30 attendance marks**, corresponding approximately to attendance at 7 of the 12 scheduled sessions.

Late, excused and other attendance classifications may receive reduced marks according to Institute policy.

Final Assessment — 30%

The final assessment covers the principal topics taught during the course.

Method: Online or on-site using a digital device with internet access.

Unless otherwise announced, the assessment is open-book.

Indicative Weekly Workload

Approximately:

- 45 minutes of teaching
- 10 minutes of hymns and/or activities
- 5 minutes of Puja

Additional study and assessment preparation may be required.

Course Contacts

Course Coordinator: -

Teacher: -

Email: -

INTRODUCTION TO THE DIGITAL DHAMMA

Course Objective

This 12-week course equips Buddhist volunteers and practitioners with practical skills for supporting Dhamma education and Buddhist organisations through modern technology.

The programme combines technical skills with Buddhist ethical principles and responsible digital communication.

Technology is treated as a tool in support of the Dhamma and Buddhist community rather than as a replacement for teachers, monastics, spiritual practice or human judgement.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Explain the role of digital technology in contemporary Dhammaduta work.
2. Create appropriate digital content for Buddhist organisations.
3. Support social media, websites, livestreams and online communities.
4. Apply basic audio-visual production techniques.
5. Understand basic IT administration, cloud systems and cybersecurity.
6. Use artificial intelligence and automation responsibly.
7. Apply Buddhist ethical principles, including Right Speech, to digital communication.
8. Develop and present a practical Digital Dhamma project.

Week 1: The Role of Technology in Modern Dhamma

Topics include:

- The development of Buddhist communication from oral traditions to digital platforms
 - Technology as a tool for Dhammaduta
 - Ethical considerations in digital Dhamma work
 - Understanding different digital audiences
 - Case studies of Buddhist digital initiatives in Malaysia and internationally
-

Week 2: Digital Storytelling and Content Creation

Topics include:

- Storytelling in Buddhist communication
- Social-media content for Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and TikTok
- Writing captions, articles and video scripts
- Introduction to visual communication
- Creating posters and digital graphics using accessible design tools
- Maintaining accuracy when simplifying Buddhist teachings for public audiences

Week 3: Social Media Management for Buddhist Organisations

Topics include:

- Selecting suitable social-media platforms
- Understanding the purpose and audience of each platform
- Creating content calendars
- Promoting Dhamma activities and community events
- Community engagement
- Responding to comments and feedback
- Handling misinformation
- Applying mindfulness and Right Speech online

Week 4: Livestreaming and Hybrid Dhamma Activities

Topics include:

- Cameras, microphones, lighting and basic production equipment
- Facebook Live
- YouTube Live
- Zoom and hybrid-event platforms
- Managing online and physical audiences simultaneously
- Moderating questions and comments
- Basic livestream troubleshooting
- Preparing backup systems

Week 5: Videography and Editing for Dhamma Content

Topics include:

- Basic composition and framing
 - Recording Dhamma talks and Buddhist events
 - Capturing usable audio
 - Video-editing fundamentals
 - Introduction to tools such as CapCut and DaVinci Resolve
 - Subtitles and translations
 - Accessibility
 - Short-form content for Reels, Shorts and TikTok
-

Week 6: IT Support for Buddhist Organisations

Topics include:

- Basic website administration
- Managing mailing lists and databases
- Cloud storage and document management
- Google Drive and other collaborative platforms
- File organisation and digital record keeping
- Cybersecurity fundamentals
- Account security and access control
- Protecting organisational information
- Planning reliable IT systems for Buddhist centres

Week 7: Artificial Intelligence in Dhamma Education

Topics include:

- Introduction to generative artificial intelligence
- AI-supported transcription and translation
- AI-assisted educational materials
- Chatbots and frequently asked questions
- Automation for administrative work
- Verification and fact-checking
- Hallucinations and misinformation
- Bias and ethical concerns
- Appropriate and inappropriate uses of AI in religious contexts
- Why AI should not be treated as a substitute for qualified Buddhist teachers

Students may participate in a practical demonstration involving an AI-assisted Buddhist educational resource.

Week 8: Podcasting and Audio Content

Topics include:

- Buddhist podcasts and audio programmes
- Microphones and recording environments
- Basic audio editing
- Structuring Dhamma talks for audio
- Interviews and discussions
- Publishing audio content
- Distribution and promotion
- Accessibility through transcripts

Week 9: Digital Buddhist Libraries and Online Resources

Topics include:

- Digitising Buddhist texts
 - Document scanning and OCR
 - Digital preservation
 - Creating accessible PDFs, ebooks and audio resources
 - Metadata and file organisation
 - Search engine optimisation
 - Helping users find trustworthy Dhamma resources
 - Examples of established digital Buddhist libraries and resources
-

Week 10: Online Communities and Buddhist Cyber Ethics

Topics include:

- Managing online Buddhist groups and communities
- Moderation
- Community guidelines
- Handling disagreement and conflict
- Right Speech in digital environments
- Sectarianism and respectful inter-tradition dialogue
- Misinformation
- Protecting vulnerable community members
- Maintaining healthy boundaries between official and personal communication

Week 11: Digital Fundraising and Community Projects

Topics include:

- Promoting charitable and Buddhist projects online
 - Transparency and accountability
 - Digital donation systems
 - Donation pages and QR payments
 - Ethical fundraising
 - Campaign planning
 - Storytelling for community projects
 - Providing clear information about the purpose and use of donations
-

Week 12: The Future of Digital Dhamma and Final Project

Topics include:

- Emerging digital technologies
- Artificial intelligence
- Immersive and virtual experiences
- Digital learning environments
- Future methods of Buddhist communication
- Responsible innovation
- Maintaining human and spiritual dimensions of Buddhist communities
- Continuing digital education

Students present their final **Digital Dhamma Project** during the concluding session.

Teaching Format

The course may include:

Lectures and Demonstrations

Introduction to technical, organisational and ethical concepts.

Hands-On Workshops

Practical use of digital tools, equipment and software.

Case Studies

Examples from Buddhist centres, community organisations and digital Dhamma initiatives.

Assignments

Short practical activities such as:

- Creating a social-media post
- Producing a poster
- Editing a short video
- Planning a content calendar
- Setting up a livestream
- Organising digital records
- Evaluating an AI-generated Buddhist response

Final Project

Each participant develops a Digital Dhamma project suitable for a Buddhist temple, society or community.

Assessment

Total: 100%

Weekly Quizzes — 30%

Twelve quizzes are conducted across the course.

Value: 2.5% each × 12 quizzes = 30%

Typical format:

- 5–10 multiple-choice questions
- One short-answer question

Quizzes cover the principal concepts from each week's lesson.

Unless otherwise announced, quizzes are open-book but time-limited.

Project Presentation and Group Work — 30%

Group Project — 20%

Students work on an applied Digital Dhamma project.

Possible projects include:

- Developing a social-media campaign for a Buddhist organisation
- Producing a mini-documentary or short-form Buddhist video
- Planning and supporting a livestreamed Dhamma talk
- Designing a prototype Buddhist educational chatbot
- Developing a digital resource library
- Creating a basic website or communications plan

Presentation — 10%

Groups deliver a presentation of approximately 10–15 minutes explaining their project.

Projects may be evaluated according to:

- Creativity and innovation
 - Practicality and application
 - Accuracy and ethical suitability
 - Presentation and execution
-

Final Assessment — 30%

Students demonstrate their ability to integrate concepts learned throughout the course.

Depending on the assessment arrangements for the intake, students may complete either:

Written Assessment

Questions may examine:

- Digital ethics
- Social-media strategy
- Artificial intelligence
- IT systems
- Online communities
- Digital Dhammaduta

Practical Assessment

Tasks may include:

- Editing a Dhamma video
- Preparing a social-media content calendar
- Troubleshooting a technical problem
- Planning a livestream
- Reviewing an AI-generated Buddhist response
- Organising a digital communications workflow

Indicative duration: Up to 2 hours

Unless otherwise announced for the relevant intake, the final assessment is closed-book.

Attendance and Participation — 10%

Attendance — 5%

Students are expected to attend at least 80% of scheduled classes.

Participation — 5%

Students are expected to participate actively in:

- Discussions
 - Workshops
 - Group work
 - Practical activities
-

Course Staff

Teacher: TBC

Course Coordinator: TBC

General enquiries: education@ti-ratana.org

ASSESSMENT AND LEARNING APPROACH

TRIBS courses use a combination of formal and informal assessment.

Depending on the course, assessment may include:

- Online quizzes
- Open-book assessments
- Written assessments
- Practical activities
- Presentations
- Group projects
- Creative assignments
- Field-trip reflections
- Festival and community participation
- Attendance
- Final assessments

Assessment formats vary according to the learning outcomes of each course.

Students should refer to the course information provided at the beginning of each intake for the final assessment schedule and requirements.

ONLINE LEARNING AND DIGITAL DEVICES

Some classes, quizzes and assessments may require access to:

- A smartphone, tablet or computer
- A stable internet connection
- Email
- The Institute's designated learning platform
- Video-conferencing or online-learning platforms where applicable

Students who experience difficulty accessing required technology should contact the course coordinator.

PHYSICAL, ONLINE AND HYBRID LEARNING

Depending on the course and intake, classes may be delivered:

- Physically at a Ti-Ratana Buddhist Society centre or approved venue
- Online
- In hybrid format with both physical and online participation

Certain activities, field trips, ceremonies or practical assessments may require physical attendance.

The mode of delivery for each intake will be stated when enrolment opens.

FIELD TRIPS AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Selected programmes may include visits to:

- Ti-Ratana Buddhist Society branches
- Buddhist temples
- Buddhist organisations
- Cultural or educational locations
- Community activities and Buddhist festivals

Field trips are intended to allow students to experience the diversity of Buddhist communities and practices beyond the classroom.

All field trips are subject to confirmation, availability and the arrangements of the relevant programme.

CERTIFICATION

Certificates are awarded to students who successfully complete the prescribed academic, assessment and attendance requirements for their programme.

The Institute may issue certificates for:

- **Certificate: Introduction to Buddhism**
- **Certificate of Buddhist Studies**
- **Certificate: Introduction to the Digital Dhamma**

Certification requirements are subject to the rules applicable to the student's intake.

Certificates and recognitions administered through the Ti-Ratana Institute of Buddhist Studies include:

- **Certificate: Introduction to Buddhism**
- **Certificate of Buddhist Studies**
- **Certificate: Introduction to the Digital Dhamma**
- **Certificate of Applied Buddhist Learning**
- **Honorary Certificate of Buddhist Studies (Hon. CBS)**

Sukha Dhamma School, Cheras maintains its own separate certification arrangements.

Ti-Ratana Vihara's Sutta Study programme does not presently issue a separate programme certificate, although eligible participation may contribute towards TRIBS Applied Learning recognition.

Certification and recognition requirements are subject to the rules applicable to the relevant programme or pathway.

TI-RATANA INSTITUTE OF BUDDHIST STUDIES

Buddhist Education for Life

www.ti-ratana.org/ibs

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