



TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY.  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

*Office of*



SEMESTER COURSE OF STUDY ON  
MASTER OF ARTS IN BUDDHIST STUDIES

Prepared by:

CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF BUDDHIST STUDIES (CDoBS),  
TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY  
UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, KIRTIPUR,  
KATHMANDU, NEPAL

December, 2024

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## Acknowledgements

Nepal, the homelands of three Buddhas: Krakuchanda, Kanakamuni and Sakyamuni, takes pride on the birth places in Lumbini. Buddhist Studies is promising subject of sacred erudition with potential research in indigenous fields. Its academic trait is charming for researchers and lay followers of Buddhist nation. Its grown cultural habits and textual practices are sacred inspirational forces towards cultural fidelity and academic practice. Its monastic tradition co-exists with academia for professed devotions of hidden tradition, which might be strange to common society. After its academic establishment of Buddhist studies in Tribhuvan University, it took an academic leaning towards religious studies to walk along with world's traditions.

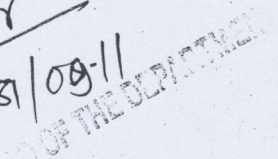
The Central Department of Buddhist Studies, more than two and half decades long history with PGD, MA, MPhil and PhD have given students experiences to blend with the semester course on Master's in Buddhist Studies with field works and practical observations. The skillfulness is quite hopeful aspect of this course in reality to balance the knowledge from thoughtful academia.

Buddhist study introduces archaeological norms, Buddhist Tourism and IT knowledge in Research, for field-based studies with term papers. So that, skills and knowledge of conservation and preservation of cultural heritage sites becomes Buddhist personal for pilgrimage tour operators. Apart from the serious delving in philosophic and meditational practices, it will help them to develop erudite phenomenon in cultural societies for individual and cultural benefits. Their potent information in respect of cultural tradition in Nepal, Asian and world's Religions promotes Buddhist psychology, sacred erudition for upholding with skillful means for their economic changes also.

This Central Department of Buddhist Studies is grateful to the Curriculum Refining Committee coordinate by Assistant Professor Dr. Chandra Kala Ghimire (Head), with members, Professor Dr. Naresh Man Bajracharya, Assistant Professor Dr. Gautam Bir Bajracharya, Assistant Professor Dr. Puspa Ratna Shakya, Assistant Professor Mr. Ved Raj Gnawaly and supportive help of Standing Committee member Assistant Professor Umesh Regmi for refining course description and objectives of the proposed courses. I owe Prem Thapa, Part-Time faculty of this department to his rigorous work on proofreading the language. Assistant Professor Dr. Junu Maiya Basukala is always helpful in refining task of the syllabus. Besides, Part-Time faculty of this department; Arjun Singh Saud, Venerable Janak, Bikash Gnawaly, Surendra Kumar Lama, Ushnish Tara Tuladhar, Dr. Prasannavati (Mama Devi Maharjan). Our staffs specially computer operator Nisha Bhatta did hard work formatting the material you have seen, besides our account officer Jayaram Shrestha and former accountant Badri Karki, Saraswoti Poudel and Archana Raut were supportive in preparing this document.



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I extend sincere thanks to Prof. Dr. Dubinanda Dhakal, Dean, and his team of Assisting Deans of Humanities and Social Science Faculty of Tribhuvan University for motivating this refining task.

*Chandra Kala Ghimire*

HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT

Chandra Kala Ghimire, Ph.D.  
Chairperson, Buddhist Studies Subject Committee TU.  
December, 2024



*Chandra Kala Ghimire*



**Tribhuvan University**  
**Central Department of Buddhist Studies**  
**Curriculum for the Master's Degree in Buddhist Studies,**

**Introduction**

The Master in Buddhist Studies is a 63-credit-hour degree program that combines both theoretical and practical instruction. The syllabus covers the fundamentals of religious studies, including Buddhist history, religion, philosophy, literature, logic, art, iconography, architecture, archaeology, script, Asian Buddhist traditions, Buddhist tourism, heritage conservation, research methods, Buddhist canonical languages, and a brief introduction to world religions.

It provides students with knowledge of Buddhism in Nepal, focusing on its traditions and practices worldwide, as well as an interdisciplinary approach of Buddhism. The program enhances students' understanding in these areas, equipping them with the skills to pursue further research for M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees.

It explores the sects of the Himalayan region, Kathmandu Valley (Nepal-Mandala), and Terai archaeological sites from a cultural perspective. The curriculum introduces the world's sacred traditions, emphasizing the socio-religious cultures of Śrāvakayāna and Samyaksambuddhayāna (Mahayana/Vajrayāna) within the context of Asian and global religious traditions. This four-semester MA in Buddhist Studies stimulates a broad and deep understanding of Buddhism among students.

**Objectives**

1. To familiarize students with the teachings (Dhamma) of Shakyamuni Buddha and his life, including the teachings of various sects in terms of philosophy, religion, literature (texts), and culture (rituals). The course also covers Buddhist arts, iconography, architecture, epigraphical norms, as well as the conservation and preservation of Buddhist archaeological sites and the Buddha's teachings.
2. To acknowledge the chronological sequence of Buddhist traditional cultures in the context of religious tourism and contemporary interdisciplinary approaches to Asian traditions;
3. To enrich students' knowledge of different religious sects and schools of thought in practice.
4. To expand and develop students' translation skills from the Buddhist canonical to other languages and vice versa;
5. To enable our students to guide national and international tourists to Buddhist sites and design Buddhist pilgrimage package for tourists;

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6. To prepare students with ability of contemporary information and methods of research in Buddhist fields.

### **Eligibility for Admission to the MA in Buddhist Studies at CDoBS, TU.**

Admission to Master in Buddhist Studies (MA in Buddhist Studies) is open to all students from any discipline with Bachelor Degree or its equivalent from any TU recognized universities.

### **Admission Procedures**

Students will have to pass written Entrance Examination for the admission. The Examination will be conducted by the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, and the result will be published on the merit basis.

### **Duration of the Course and Examinations**

MA in Buddhist Studies is four semesters academic program. All together there are twenty individual courses, each course weighs against 100 marks in core subject. Its mark split in 60:40 percent to grade in GPA system. The student must appear in the Internal Examination of 40 marks and the Semester End Final Examination of 60 Mark's taken by the University. The internal evaluation will be based on constant monitoring of the supervisor and the subject teachers using specified tools. The 40 marks evaluation will be categorized as follows:

Subject	Marks
Attendance	5
Class Interaction and Participation	5
Assignment of Term Paper and Presentation	10
Performance in the Internal Examination	20
<b>Total Marks</b>	<b>40</b>

The students are obliged to secure minimum of 80 percent attendance to appear in the Semester-End Final Examination of the University. The 40 marks of internal examination will be evaluated by class teachers and supervisors. Students who fail in the internal examination will be disqualified to appear in the Final Examination conducted by the University.

For internal evaluation, students will be assigned Term Paper, by class teachers based on the content of the course. Students are evaluated on the basis of their attendance in the class, application of their theoretical knowledge and skills reflected in the Term Papers and examination.

Students are required to visit Buddhist sites, monasteries, cultural and ritual practices based on the nature and requirements of the subjects. During the visit, students will be reminded to make financial arrangement during the field work practices; placement, research, block, placement and work camps on their own.

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### Grading (General Provisions)

Students will be primarily evaluated using the numerical (out of 100, 40 marks in Internal and 60 marks in Final Examination) which will later be replaced in letter grades. The minimum pass mark will be 50 and the passing grade 'C'.

Letter Grade	GPA	Marks in Percent	Remarks	Definition
A	4.0	90 and above	Distinction	Exceptional performance/Mastery of the subjects
A-	3.7 - 3.99	80-89.99	Very Good	Superior understanding in-depth knowledge on the subject
B+	3.3 - 3.69	70-79.99	First Division	Comprehensive understanding on the subject, advance knowledge of principles and practice in the discipline
B	3.0 - 3.29	60-69.99	2 <sup>nd</sup> Division	Adequate performance in achieving course objective with satisfactory knowledge of principles and practices in the discipline
B-	2.7 - 2.99	50-59.99	Pass in individual Subjects	Sufficient mastery on the subject
F	0	Below 50	Failure	Minimum requirement of the course is not fulfilled

### Fieldwork Practicum

Fieldwork will be organized to expand students' learning beyond classroom upon their own expenses. This practicum helps them apply the knowledge learned in the field to create professional skills connecting them to the specific areas of interest. Students will be taken for site visits as the guided practical class of the core subject by supervising head and teachers.

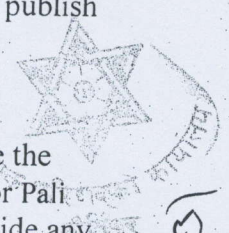
### Course Seminar and Publication

Students will be given opportunity to organize series of seminars in the class rooms or in the public sphere on trends in Buddhist studies focusing on their academic interest within the fields of Buddhist studies. The department will encourage them to publish their writing in TRI- BODHI, students Journal of the Buddhist Studies.

### Optional Courses

Among the optional courses in the fourth semester, the department will provide the classes for only the two subjects among the three: Buddhist Logic (BS 654.1) or Pali Language (BS 654.2) or Sanskrit Language (BS 654.3). The department will provide any one language class among the four to a particular batch. The course structure of the Tibetan Language (BS 654.4) and Chinese Language (BS 654.5) will be prepared later.

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## List of Coursed Courses



### First Semester

Course Code	Course Title	Credit	Teach. Hrs.	Page No.
BS 501	History of Buddhism	3	48	1-3
BS 502	Basic Teachings of Buddha and Buddhist Religion	3	48	4-6
BS 503	Buddhist Pali Literature	3	48	7-9
BS 504	Buddhist Archaeology and Architecture	3	48	10-12
BS 505	History of Buddhism in Nepal	3	48	13-15

### Second Semester

Course Code	Course Title	Credit	Teach. Hrs.	Page No.
BS 551	Buddhist Philosophy	3	48	16-18
BS 552	Buddhist Heritage of Northern Nepal	3	48	19-21
BS 553	Buddhist Sanskrit Literature	3	48	22-25
BS 554	Buddhist Art, Iconography and Scripts	3	48	26-28
BS 555	Buddhism of Nepal Mandala	3	48	29-31

### Third Semester

Course Code	Course title	Credit	Teach. Hrs.	Page No.
BS 601	Buddhist Traditions in South and South East Asia	3	48	32-34
BS 602	Eastern Religion and Philosophy	3	48	35-38
BS 603	Buddhist Traditions in North, East and Central Asia	3	48	39-41
BS 604	Western Religion and Philosophy	3	48	42-43
BS 605	Research Methodology and Art of Translation	3	48	44-47

### Fourth Semester

Course Code	Course title	Credit	Teach. Hrs.	Page No.
BS 651	Buddhist Tourism in Nepal	3	48	48-51
BS 652	Buddhist Heritage Conservation	3	48	52-54
BS 653	Buddhist Approach to Inter-disciplinary Studies	3	48	55-58
BS 654.1	Buddhist Logic	3	48	59-61
BS 654.2	Pali Language	3	48	62-64
BS 654.3	Sanskrit Language	3	48	65-67
BS 654.4	Tibetan Language	3	48	
BS 654.5	Chinese Language	3	48	
BS 655	Thesis Writing	6	-	68-69
Total 63 credit hours				

\*The department will provide any one language class among the four to a particular batch.

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