



Application for the “International Master Program in Buddhist Studies”

Goals and Content

The International Master Program in Buddhist Studies consists of several study tracks. The regional foci are Buddhism in India, Tibet, China, Japan and Thailand. This International Master is aimed at students with a solid background in one of the above-mentioned regional specializations. We consider language competence in one of these regions the most crucial factor. Most of our courses are based on primary sources and philological training is required in order to be able to follow the classes.

Offered courses vary year by year and deal with topics related for instance to the intellectual history or the literature of a particular region. We consider Buddhism to be one of various factors which constitute and shape culture, society, and the intellectual and religious history of a particular region. In order to understand Buddhist ideas and history properly it is therefore necessary to know equally well about the region this particular strand of Buddhism has developed in, the ways Buddhist traditions have interacted with other sectors of society and how Buddhist thinkers in that region have been influenced by other religious systems and socio-political settings.

In each semester of the first year you will further join the class Topics in Buddhist Studies, whose focus lies on themes spreading across cultural and regional differences, particularly important for Buddhist Studies as a discipline. This course regularly brings together graduate students in Buddhist Studies from all different regional specializations at the Asien-Afrika-Institut. Topics of this course can deal with Buddhist modernity such as Socially Engaged Buddhism, Buddhism in Europe, Buddhist stands on environmentalism and animal rights or Buddhism's contribution to the dialogue with other religions.

Participating in the courses will train your skills in dealing with Buddhist primary sources and advance your competence in cross-cultural and interdisciplinary communication with your fellow students. It will prepare your academic career in terms of joining international post-M.A. graduate schools which emphasize thorough intimacy with Buddhist primary sources on the one hand and interdisciplinary research skills on the other.

Specific characteristics:

- Generally one semester at a partner university outside Germany.
- Courses in the study track India, Tibet and Thailand are held in English. In the other tracks also German language is required.

Application

Applications are accepted without the BA Certificate, provided such certificate is submitted by the end of the first MA-semester.

The application must consist of:

1. An application form: this will be made available online at <https://www.stine.uni-hamburg.de/> (Tab: "Bewerbung") during the application period. Application period for the winter semester: **February 15th to March 31st** and **June 1st to July 15th**.
Application period for the summer semester (if any free places left from the winter semester): **December 1st to January 15th**.
In exceptional cases, applications outside these periods are accepted. Please contact the Program Director.
The form must be filled out and submitted online; a print-out must be sent in together with the accompanying documents (s. §§2-7) to the address indicated below. Please do not forget to sign the application.
2. Curriculum Vitae
3. A brief statement of motivation. Please mention the specialization you apply for.
4. Legally attested Certificate of a university degree (please send only copies, not originals!): this may be a Bachelor's degree, a Master's degree or a Licentiate ("Staatsexamen"). If the relevance for Buddhist Studies of the area (or sub-area) in which you completed your first university degree is not evident from the certificate, please enclose further certification (e.g. Transcript of Records). See § 7 for the specific requirements of each specialization (BA degree and language skills)
5. For applicants who are at the concluding phase of their first University education:
 - a) A list of credited courses ("Auszug aus der Prüfungsakte", "Transcript of Records" or "Provisional certificate")
 - b) If the relevance for Buddhist Studies of the area (or sub-area) in which you are completing your first university degree is not evident from the certificate, please enclose further certification.

See § 7 for the specific requirements of each specialization (BA degree and language skills).

6. All applicants must provide evidence for proficiency in English (equivalent to B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)); English native speakers don't need evidence B2. Applicants with focus on Japan or China must provide evidence for proficiency in German:
http://www.verwaltung.uni-hamburg.de/campuscenter/vor-dem-studium/sprachkenntnisse_e.html

7. Further requirements for each specialization are:

- India:

Legally attested certificate of a university degree: this may be a Bachelor's degree, a Master's degree or a Licentiate ("Staatsexamen"). The degree can be a Bachelor "Sprachen und Kulturen des Indischen Subkontinents und Tibets"

from the Universität Hamburg or a comparable Bachelor of a German or international academic institution. It can be a Bachelor with the specialization in Buddhist or Religious Studies as long as a minimum of 30 credit points (ECTS) for language courses in Sanskrit or Pali have been acquired. Alternatively you will need a degree from a German or international academic institution with a minimum of 45 credit points (ECTS) related to Buddhist Studies, Religious Studies or Indology which include a minimum of 30 credit points (ECTS) for language courses in Sanskrit or Pali or equivalent language training.

In case no sufficient evidence for competence in Pali or Sanskrit can be provided within the application period the candidate will have the possibility to undergo a placement test conducted by the Universität Hamburg which has to be passed.

- Tibet:

Legally attested certificate of a university degree: this may be a Bachelor's degree, a Master's degree or a Licentiate ("Staatsexamen"). The degree can be a Bachelor "Sprachen und Kulturen des Indischen Subkontinents und Tibets" from the Universität Hamburg or a comparable Bachelor of a German or international academic institution. It can be a Bachelor with the specialization in Buddhist or Religious Studies as long as a minimum of 30 credit points (ECTS) for language courses in Classical Tibetan have been acquired. Alternatively you will need a degree from a German or international academic institution with a minimum of 45 credit points (ECTS) related to Buddhist Studies, Religious Studies or Tibetology which include a minimum of 30 credit points (ECTS) for language courses in Classical Tibetan or equivalent language training.

In case no sufficient evidence for competence in Classical Tibetan can be provided within the application period the candidate will have the possibility to undergo a placement test conducted by the Universität Hamburg which has to be passed. Candidates whose mother tongue is Tibetan will need to document at least 20 credit points (ECTS) for language courses in classical Tibetan.

- China:

Legally attested certificate of a university degree: this may be a Bachelor's degree, a Master's degree or a Licentiate ("Staatsexamen"). The degree can be a Bachelor "Ostasien" from the Universität Hamburg or a comparable Bachelor of a German or international academic institution. You will need a minimum of 50 credit points (ECTS) for language courses in Chinese (not necessary for applicants whose mother tongue is Chinese).

- Japan:

Legally attested certificate of a university degree: this may be a Bachelor's degree, a Master's degree or a Licentiate ("Staatsexamen"). The degree can be a Bachelor "Ostasien" from the Universität Hamburg or a comparable Bachelor of a German or international academic institution.

Prove of competence in the Japanese language:

You will need

- a minimum of 50 credit points (ECTS) for language courses in Japanese, or
- 44 semester hours per week (SWS) of Japanese language courses, or

- you must have passed the (old) level 2 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)

The attained degree for language competence must not be older than two years. In case none of the above-mentioned three documentations can be provided within the application period, the candidate will have the possibility to undergo a Japanese language placement test conducted by the Universität Hamburg which has to be passed.

The need to prove competence in the Japanese language is not necessary for applicants whose mother tongue is Japanese.

- **Thai:**

Legally attested certificate of a university degree: this may be a Bachelor's degree, a Master's degree or a Licentiate ("Staatsexamen"). The degree can be a Bachelor "Sprache und Kultur Südostasiens" from the Universität Hamburg or a comparable Bachelor of a German or international academic institution.

Language skills: a minimum of 25 Credit points (ECTS) in Thai.

The need to prove competence in the Thai language is not necessary for applicants whose mother tongue is Thai.

Address

Please send a printed version of the online application form and the required documents (see §§1–7) by post to the following address:

Universität Hamburg
Center for Buddhist Studies
att. Prof. Dr. Michael Zimmermann
Alsterterrasse 1
20354 Hamburg
E-Mail: michael.zimmermann@uni-hamburg.de

Further Information

If you have questions or require further information, please contact Prof. Dr. Michael Zimmermann at michael.zimmermann@uni-hamburg.de
Admission procedures and important dates (or deadlines):

- After evaluating your application documents, the selection committee will contact you by mail, informing you (1) whether you have been considered for admission, (2) whether the admission committee has for you any special recommendations for preparation or other requirements
- For applications during the online application period: After the application deadline, admittance will be notified in your STiNE-application account under "my documents".
IMPORTANT: Please take note of the admission deadline indicated there.
- For applications outside the online application period: Admittance will be notified via email.
IMPORTANT: Please take note of the admission deadline indicated in this email.
- Academic calendar: Information on the beginning of lectures, vacation etc. can be found on: <http://www.uni-hamburg.de/campuscenter/studienorganisation/semestertermine.html>
- Please contact Prof. Zimmermann before the beginning of the lectures.