

Proposal  
for  
Diploma in Buddhist Studies (DBSF)  
(Overseas Programme)

This proposal for Diploma in Buddhist Studies (overseas programme) is submitted to the Faculty Board of Humanities and other higher academic boards for approval.

Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies,  
Faculty of Humanities,  
University of Kelaniya.  
28.12.2011

## Rationale

The Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies in the University of Kelaniya, is one of the internationally recognized centres of Pali and Buddhist education. Since the establishment of the Department, over 60 years ago, it has gained a vast development in both sectors i.e. infrastructure and human resources. The Department has produced thousands of local and foreign academics qualified with Degrees. As an expanding centre of teaching and research, it remains deeply committed to the study of Pali and Buddhist Studies.

The Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies has earned its international reputation being the foremost Sri Lanka academic institute, which admitted the highest number of foreign students in the last twenty years. In addition to internal academic programmes in the main campus, the Department has been successful in conducting external general degree courses in Singapore as well. Having such a vast and long experience in providing study programmes to foreign students, in Pali and Buddhist Studies, the Department has designed this Diploma in Buddhist Studies programme, mainly to cater to overseas countries. The University has already signed an agreement with the Buddhist Academy in Malaysia, in order to conduct examinations and to award degrees. Therefore, first, we expect to introduce this programme through Malaysia Buddhist Academy.

## Aims and Objectives.

- Today there is a growing interest in religions, in view of the rising tension in the society and separate individuals. People from different walks of life seek support from religious teachings to find solutions to their problems. Many people living in different parts of the world now think Buddha's teachings can provide sustainable solution to current problems. As a result, Buddhism is becoming a growing force in the world, particularly in America and Europe. We have also seen a worldwide increase in academic interest in relation to science and Buddhism.
- In line with this trend, the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies of the University of Kelaniya has taken steps to introduce new study programmes and course units to promote Buddhist studies and research in different aspects of Buddhism and its relevance to the world today. The Department believes that this programme will suit both non Buddhists and non Theravada Buddhists as well, to improve their knowledge in Buddhism. Apart from this, the programme is aimed to assist those who seek solutions to individual and social problems through Buddhism.

## Admission Requirements

- (i) Pass in the GCE (General Certificate of Education) Advanced Level Examination or equivalent examination, or
- (ii) Diploma, preferably in Buddhist studies from a recognized university or an institute, or
- (iii) Diploma in any subject from a recognized higher educational institution along with 2 years working experience in Buddhist studies, or

- (iv) Any other qualification approved by the Senate, University of Kelaniya.

## Structure of the Programme and Duration

This is a one year programme with five Course Units and an Essay. A course unit and the essay offer 5 credits each, and the total number of credits any student has to obtain is 30. Essay topic selected by every student has to be approved by the Department. Total number of hours of the programme is 450; 375 hours lectures and 75 hours research work.

### Course units

Title	Course code	Status
Historical Background of Buddhism	DBSF 03015	C
Fundamental Teachings of Buddhism	DBSF 03025	C
Theravada and Mahayana	DBSF 03035	C
Buddhist Ethics and Meditation	DBSF 03045	C
Abhidhamma and Development of Buddhist Thought	DBSF 03055	C
Essay	DBSF 03065	C

### Evaluation Criteria

- (i) The examination of the Course will be held at the end of each academic year.
- (ii) Examination consists of five question papers of three hours duration each.
- (iii) The essay of not less than 3500 words should be submitted on the date prescribed by the institute.
- (iv) Candidates are expected to sit the examination within one year after enrolment and they should attend at least 75% of lectures.

### Key to Grades

Range of marks	Grade	Grade point value
85-100	A+	4.00
70-84	A	4.00
65-69	A-	3.70
60-64	B+	3.30
55-59	B	3.00
50-54	B-	2.70
45-49	C+	2.30
40-44	C	2.00
35-39	C-	1.70
30-34	D+	1.30
25-29	D	1.00
00-24	E	0.00

#### Ordinary pass

Candidates earning a Grade Point Average (GPA) value of 2.00, or more having obtained at least 'C' grades for all Course Units are considered as having passed.

#### Merit pass

Any candidate earning a minimum GPA value of 3.3, with at least a B+ grade in each Course Unit, within One year, is entitled to a Merit Pass.

#### Referred

Candidates obtaining C-, D+ or D grade for only one course unit and unable to reach required GPA Level are considered as referred, and will be allowed to upgrade the result within a period of three consecutive academic years.

#### Failure

Candidates, who obtain one 'E' grade or more than one C-, D+ or D grade, are considered as failed.

#### Re-sitting

- (I) Any unsuccessful candidate will be allowed to re-sit and secure a pass, within following three consecutive years.
- (II) The best grade obtainable by a candidate who re-sits the examination and fulfils requirements is 'C' grade, unless he or she is applying under Medical Repeat category.

#### Re-registration

Candidates, who are unable to complete the above requirements to pass the examination within three consecutive years, can apply for re-registration by paying 30% of the Course Fee.

### Content of the Course Units

Course code	-	<b>DBSF 03015</b>
Title	-	Historical Background of Buddhism
Status	-	Compulsory
Learning outcome	-	By the end of this course unit, the students will be able to <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) explain Vedic teachings and practices of Brahmins.</li><li>(ii) describe contemporary religious views of Sramana traditions.</li><li>(iii) introduce life of the Buddha and identity of Buddhism.</li><li>(iv) trace out establishment and growth of Buddhist Order.</li><li>(v) survey spread of Buddhism in India and political contribution to Buddhism.</li></ul>
Course content	-	Cultural and philosophical background of Vedic period: Development of Vedic thought in Brahmana and Upanisad periods: belief in creator God, polytheism,

monotheism and monism: practice of sacrifice and cast: concepts such as Atman, Brahma, Karma, yoga and rebirth; sramana traditions and ascetic practices; six religious masters and their teachings; Buddhist critique towards Brahmana and sramana teachings and practices.

Method of teaching and learning -Lectures, classroom discussions and case studies.  
Assessment - Presentations and end of year examination.  
Recommended readings :

1. Basham,A.L, 1975, ed *A Cultural History of India*, Oxford.
2. Barua,M.B, 1925, *Pre-Buddhist Indian Philosophy*. Calcutta.
3. Radhakrishnan,S, 1958, *India Philosophy*, Vol.I, London.
4. Jayatilleke,K.N, 1963, *Early Buddhist Theory of Knowledge*, pp. 1.168, London.
5. Pande,G.C, 1995, *Studies in the Origins of Buddhism*, Motilal Banarasidas, Chp.xiv.
6. Davids,Rhys 1959, *Buddhist India*, 8th ed, Calcutta.

Course code	-	<b>DBSF 03025</b>
Title	-	Fundamental Teachings of Buddhism
Status	-	Compulsory
Learning outcome		By the end of this course unit, the students will be able to
		(i) describe basic teachings of Buddhism such as Dependant origination, Four Noble Truths etc.
		(ii) discuss comparatively the Buddhist teachings with contemporary non-Buddhist views.
		(iii) apply Buddhist teachings as solutions to address current issues.
Course content		Tilakkha\ā (three characteristics); Cattāri Ariya saccāni (four noble truths); Aṭṭhaṅgikamagga (noble eight fold path); Paṭiccasamuppāda (dependent origination);
Pañcakkhandha (five aggregates);		( five aggregates); Dvādasāyatana (twelve sense bases); Punabbhava (kamma and rebirth); Nibbāna (emancipation).

Method of teaching and learning -Lectures, classroom discussions and assignments.  
Assessment - Presentations and end of year examination.

Recommended readings

01. Walpola, Rahula, 1959, *What the Buddha Taught*, Bedford.
02. Wader,A.K, 1980, *Indian Buddhism*, Delhi.
03. Thomas,E.J, 1993, *The History of Buddhist Thought*, New Delhi.
04. Kalupahana,D.J, 1976, *Buddhist Philosophy : A Historical Analysis* , Honolulu.
05. Ven. Narada, *The Buddha and his Teaching*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, Malaysia,

Course code	-	<b>DBSF 03035</b>
Title	-	Theravāda and Mahāyāna
Status	-	Compulsory

Learning outcome	By the end of this course unit, the students will be able to (i) introduce Theravāda and Mahāyāna Buddhist traditions. (ii) trace out the history of divisions. (iii) describe philosophical and cultural differences.
Course content	Development of early Buddhist teachings; Buddhist Councils; emergence of schism; Buddhist schools; establishment of Theravāda; geographical expansion of Northern Buddhism; Theravāda and Mahāyāna countries; concepts such as Buddha, Bodhisatta and trikāya; scriptures of Theravāda and Mahāyāna .
Method of teaching and learning	-Lectures, classroom discussions and assignments.
Assessment	- Presentations and end of year examination.

#### Recommended readings :

1. Puri,B.N, 1987, *Buddhism in Central Asia*, Motilal Banarsidas, Delhi.
2. Hazra,K.L, 1988, *History of Theravada Buddhism in South-East Asia*, Munsriram Manoharlal, Delhi.
3. Conze Edward, 1962, *Buddhist thought in India*, Allen and Unwin, London.
4. Mcgoeveru,W.M, 1997, *An Introduction to Mahāyāna Buddhism*, Munsriram Manoharlal, Delhi.

Course code	-	<b>DBSF 03045</b>
Title	-	Buddhist Ethics and Meditation
Status	-	Compulsory
Learning outcome able to	By the end of this course unit, the students will be  (i) define what ethics is and introduce Buddhist ethics , (ii) clarify ethics found in Vinaya Pitaka and other discourses, (iii) apply Buddhist ethics and meditation to establish peace and well being of individual and society, (iv) identify the necessity of ethics and meditation to attain to ultimate goal.	
Course content	Religious and philosophical definitions to ethics; Buddhist discourses leading to ethics; freewill and morality; <i>kusala- akusala</i> ; criteria of ethical judgement ; duty and obligation; ethics and social welfare; Buddhist ethics related to religion, politics, economics and society; teacher-pupil ethics;  psycho- physical disorders; worry and fear; <i>citta, mano</i> and <i>vinnana</i> ; mind culture; mind development and peace;	

insight meditation leading to self control; *sila, samadhi* and *panna*; *nibbana* - the supreme bliss;

Method of teaching and learning - Lectures, classroom discussions and assignments.

Assessment - Presentations and end of year examination.

#### Recommended readings :

1. Jayatileke, K.N, 1972, *Ethics in Buddhist Perspective*, Kandy.
2. Saddhatissa Thero, H, 1970, *Buddhist Ethics*, Allen and Unwin, London.
3. Tachibana, S, 1997, *Ethics in Buddhism*, Surrey.
4. De Silva Padmasiri, 1979, *An Introduction to Buddhist Psychology*, Macmillan, London.
5. Galmangoda Sumanapala, 2005, *Buddhist Social Philosophy and Ethics*, Singapore.
6. Rune Johansson, E.A, 1985, *The Dynamic Psychology of Early Buddhism*, Curzon Press, London.

Course code - **DBSF 03055**

Title Abhidhamma and Development of Buddhist Thought

Status - Compulsory

Learning outcome By the end of this course unit, the students will be able to  
 (i) define Abhidhamma in respect to teachings of Tipitaka,  
 (ii) explain origin and evolution of Abhidhamma,  
 (iii) discuss the psychological importance of Abhidhamma,

Course content Place of Abhidhamma in the Pāli Tipiṭaka; authenticity of Abhidhamma as Buddha's teaching; emergence of Abhidhamma philosophy; Abhidhamma literature of Therāvada and Sarvāstivāda; Abhidhamma compendiums; analysis of mind; methods of synthesis and analysis of Abhidhamma;

Method of teaching and learning - Lectures, classroom discussions and assignments.

Assessment - Presentations and end of year examination.

#### Recommended readings

1. Nyanatiloka, 1949, *Guide Through the Abhidhamma Piṭaka*, Colombo.
2. Sumanapala, G.D, 1988, *Theravāda Abhidhamma*, Singapore.
3. Norman, K.R, 1982, *Pali Literature*, PTS, London.
4. Hirakawa Akira, 1993, *A History of Indian Buddhism*, Delhi.
5. Galmangoda sumanapala, 2005, *Abhidhammic Interpretation of Early Buddhist teachings*, Singapore.
6. Galmangoda sumanapala, 1998, *An introduction to Theravada Abhidhamma*, Singapore.

Course code - **DBSF 03065**

Title	-	Essay
Status	-	Compulsory

Learning outcome	By the end of this course unit, the students will be able to (i) employ critical thinking and analytical knowledge in order to organize an assignment or an essay. (ii) apply research methodology in preparing synopsis and essays. (iii) compose essays and assignments successfully.
Course content	Introduction to research methodology; preparing a synopsis; data collection and analysis; methods of organizing footnotes/endnotes and bibliography; art of writing essays; power point presentations; effective methods of writing articles.
Method of teaching and learning	-Lectures, classroom discussions and assignments.
Assessment	Essay will also be evaluated as the question papers are evaluated.

Recommended readings :

1. Mishra,R.P, 1989, *Research Methodology*, Motilal Banarsidas, Delhi.
2. Kothari,C.R, 2010, *Research Methodology*, New Age International Publishers, Delhi.