

**The Establishment of International
Buddhist College (IBC) –
Its Programs Structure and Challenges**

by
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Songkhla Thailand

Content of Today's Presentation:

- 1. Historical Background of Establishment**
- 2. Programs and Course Structures**
- 3. Challenges of 21st Century's Buddhist Education**



Kinbendharm (Than Hsiang) Foundation Thailand
International Buddhist College
Nakhon Ratchasima, 442/1, Mu 1
Thuanbi Muang Pak, Amphoe Pak Thong Chai
Nakhon Ratchasima 30150, THAILAND



Kinbendharm (Than Hsiang) Foundation Thailand
International Buddhist College
88, Mu 2, Thung Mo Subdistrict, Khuan Sato, Amphoe Sadao
Songkhla 90240, THAILAND

Branch Campus at Korat
(North-eastern Thailand):
Korat Education Center

Main Campus at Sadao
(Southern Thailand):
Offering all degree programs

Logo of IBC

IBC Motto:

- **Bahūnaṃ Vata Atthāya**
(For the Good of the Many)

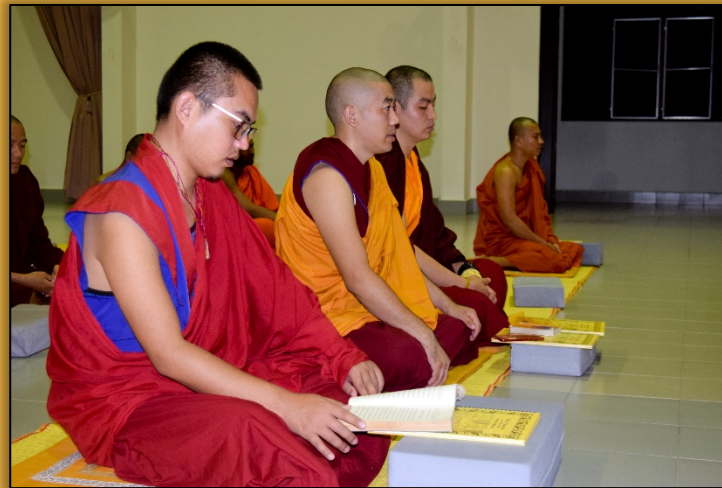
- **The Whole logo represents Sunrise over the sea and signifies Progress and Development in Education and Religion.**



Introduction

The International Buddhist College (IBC) is an institute of higher learning that offers different academic programs related to Buddhist thought. With English and Chinese as a medium of instruction and students and teachers from many countries and parts of the world, IBC is truly international.

IBC was established with the approval of the Higher Education Commission of Thailand. The degrees are accredited and recognized by the Thai government.



History

The idea of starting a university offering courses in different Buddhist traditions was first raised by Professor Karunadasa when he taught at the Than Hsiang Buddhist Research Center in Penang in 1996. The Center had started running courses offered by the Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka in 1994. The Professor saw an interesting mixture of different Buddhist traditions in this part of the world and felt that we really had the unique background to embark on an international Buddhist college project.



檀香
Than Hsiang

少有所学，壮有所用
老有所依，终有所归

For the young to learn,
the strong and healthy to serve,
the aged and sick to be cared for, and
the departed to find spiritual destination



History

The International Buddhist College (IBC) is an international institute of higher learning offering quality Buddhist education within a spiritually dedicated, non-sectarian, modern and scholastic environment.

Our first batch of BA students started in the Academic Year 2004.

It was officially opened in July 17, 2005 by the Vice-Minister of Education of Thailand, Mr. Piyabutr Cholvijarn.



VISION

IBC aims to become an internationally recognized centre for Buddhist Studies.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN FIRST 15 YEARS:

1. Foreign students made up 90% of the total. Produced graduates for more than 30 countries
2. Alumni accepted into top universities of the world and did exceptionally well - Harvard, USA, SOAS London, Hong Kong University, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, University of Malaya, Malaysia, Mahidol University, Thailand, People's University, China, National Taiwan University, Taiwan etc
3. Attracted graduates from top universities to do postgraduate programs - Columbia University, University of California, Yale University, University of London, Hong Kong University, Chinese University of Hong Kong, University of Sydney, University of New South Wales, National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, University of Malaya, Mahidol University, University of Peradeniya etc

Founder

Ven. Dr. Wei Wu

(Malaysia)





Rector

Prof. Charles Willemen

(Belgium)

**Director
(Academic Affairs)**

**Ven. Dr. Zhen Chan
(Malaysia)**



Program Offered & Admission Qualification

Program Offered	Qualification
Bachelor Degree: 1) Bachelor of Arts in Buddhist Studies 2) Bachelor of Arts in Buddhist Textual Studies	A certificate of high school (Grade 6) or equivalent. A Pass in the English Proficiency Test or a TOEFL score of at least 550 or its equivalent.

Program Offered

Qualification

Master Degree:

**Master of Arts in Buddhist
Studies**

(English and Chinese Medium)

A four-year Bachelor Degree's from a recognized or accredited tertiary institution, with a minimum grade point average of 2.75

Or Level Nine of Pāli certificate (For domestic applicants)

A Pass in the English or Chinese Proficiency Test or a TOEFL score of at least 550 or its equivalent.

Program Offered

Qualification

**Doctor of Philosophy Degree:
Ph.D. in Buddhist Studies
(English and Chinese Medium)**

Holders of Master's Degree or equivalent, with good academic records (GPA of 3.5 or higher)

Academic background in Buddhist Studies or other related fields are not absolutely essential but an asset.

A Pass in the English or Chinese Proficiency Test or a TOEFL score of at least 550 or its equivalent.

Course Structure of B.A. Programs (4 years/120 credits)

B.A. in Buddhist Studies	B.A. in Buddhist Textual Studies
(1) General Courses (Not less than 30 credits, by studying 10 courses from 4 subgroups) <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Social Sciences & Valuesiii. Linguistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ii. Humanitiesiv. Science & Mathematics
(2) Core Courses (Not less than 30 credits) BC101 Pre-Buddhist Indian Culture BP201 Theravāda Buddhism BP207 Buddhist Ethics PL101 Pāli Grammar I PL201 Pāli Grammar II	BH203 History of Indian Buddhism BP205 Mahāyāna Buddhism BP209 Theory and Practice of the Bodhisattva Ideal SK301 Sanskrit Language Through Examples SK401 Sanskrit Language Gradual Grammar
(3) Major Required (Not less than 30 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Select from the list of Buddhist philosophy courses	(3) Major Required (Not less than 30 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Select from the list of Buddhist textual and literature courses
(4) Major Elective (Not less than 30 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Select from the list of Buddhist philosophy courses	(4) Major Elective (Not less than 30 credits) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Select from the list of Buddhist textual and literature courses

Course Structure of M.A. in Buddhist Studies Programs (2 years/36 credits) (English & Chinese Mediums)

Plan A	Plan B
Thesis 12 credits; Course work not less than 24 credits	Independent Study 3 credits; Course work not less than 33 credits
(1) Core Courses (Not less than 9 credits) ME6101 Theravāda Buddhism ME6102 Mahāyāna Buddhism ME6103 History of Indian Buddhism	
(2) Elective Courses <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Select from the list of Buddhist courses offered in that particular semester.	
(3) Non-credit (Compulsory) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Methodology: Ethics and Writing Skills	

Elective Courses

- ME6204 Pāli Literature
- ME6205 A Survey of the Doctrines of Abhidharma Schools
- ME6207 Readings in Pāli Texts
- ME6208 Buddhism and Society
- ME6209 Mahāyāna Buddhist Literature
- ME6211 Abhidharma Doctrines and Controversies
- ME6212 Ālāya-vijñāna: The Yogācāra doctrine of the 'Store-consciousness'
- ME6213 The Śūnyatā Doctrine in Nāgārjuna's Mūla-madhyamaka-kārikā
- ME6214 Buddhism in Contemporary Thailand
- ME6215 Chinese Buddhist Thought: A Historical Perspective
- ME6216 Readings in Buddhist Sanskrit Texts (Introduction)
- ME6217 Lam Rim Chen Mo: The Path to Enlightenment in the Tibetan Tradition
- ME6218 Study of the Vinaya
- ME6219 The Ch'an (Dhyāna) School – A Historical Survey
- ME6221 Early Yogācāra –Three Understandings of the Preparatory Path
- ME6222 Abhidharmahrdayaśāstra
- ME6223 Buddhism in Japan
- ME6224 Buddhism in Lanna Kingdom
- ME6225 Mahāyāna Buddhology
- ME6231 Readings in Siddhānta literature (Buddhist Doxography)
- ME6232 Readings in Pramāṇa (Buddhist Epistemology)
- ME6233 Readings in Vaibhāṣika and Sautrāntika
- ME6234 Readings in Yogācāra
- ME6235 Readings in Madhyamaka
- ME6236 Readings in Śrāvaka and Mahāyāna Sūtras
- ME6237 Readings in Subhāṣita literature ('Good Sayings')
- ME6240 Theory of Buddhist Meditation

Course Structure of Ph.D. in Buddhist Studies Programs (3-6 years/54 credits) (English & Chinese Mediums)

Plan A	Plan B
Dissertation (Not less than 54 credits)	Course work not less than 18 credits; Dissertation not less than 36 credits
Plan B: (1) Required Courses (Not less than 9 credits) PE6101 Theravāda Buddhism PE6102 Mahāyāna Buddhism PE6103 History of Indian Buddhism (2) Elective Courses PE814/PC814 Critical Readings in Pāli Texts PE815/PC815 Critical Readings in Sanskrit Texts PE816/PC816 Critical Readings in Chinese Texts PE817/PC817 Critical Readings in Tibetan Texts OR Any other special topics related to the research.	

**Educational
Assistance
&
Scholarships
/Bursaries**



- **The Klintiendharm Foundation administers the Bursary/Scholarship offered to students studying at the International Buddhist College.**
- **Candidates who need financial support can apply to the Klintiendharm Foundation.**
- **Scholarships and Bursaries offered are with no agreement attached.**

Academic Recognition - Dean's Award

- **A student who achieved an average Academic GPA of 3.76 or above will receive a certificate plus a cash award of 1,000 THB.**

Conduct Recognition - Warden's Award

- **A student who achieved an average Conduct GPA of 3.76 or above will receive a certificate plus a cash award of 1,000 THB.**

Challenges of 21st Century's Buddhist Education

(I) Non-Sectarian



(2) Modern ± Traditional Buddhist Education



Sīla - Samādhi - Paññā



Future Prospects

Future Prospects

Four Prospected Fields/Disciplines:

(1) Psychology (Psycho-theraphy)

(2) Education (Early Childhood Education)

(3) Medical (Nursing / Traditional Medication)

(4) Geriatrics (Elderly / Hospice Care)

Important: With Buddhism as the core subjects in each disciplines.

Looking Forward to Our Future Collaboration and Cooperation



**Thank you
Sadhu!**

