



INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST EDUCATION FOUNDATION

*3456 S. Glenmark Dr.,
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745*

International Buddhist Education Foundation (IBEF) Graduate Student Research Grant Eligibility and Application

General Eligibility:

- Must be a graduate student enrolled at the University of the West with good academic standing; and
- Must be a graduate student has advanced to candidacy for a PhD degree and registered for a minimum of 3 credit hours as he/she conducts the respective proposed and approved dissertation research,
or
- Must be a monastic graduate student has advanced to candidacy for a DBMin degree and registered for a minimum of 3 credit hours as he/she conducts the respective proposed and approved project.

Grants available:

A. Master Hsing Yun Dissertation Fellowships in Humanistic Buddhism

Provide four consecutive semesters stipends to PhD candidate for preparation of dissertations project. The fellowship period may be used for archival research, fieldwork, analysis of collected data, or for writing after research is complete. The topic areas of dissertation project for receiving this fellowship and associated annual cap of fellowship granting are specified as below.

	Topic area	Annual cap of fellowship granted *	Granted
A1	Topics related to the study of worldwide Fo Guang Shan temples and/or Buddha's Light International Association	Unlimited	0
A2	Chinese Buddhism and modern society	4	0

* Number of annual caps includes new and renewal applications.

Fellowship details

- Stipend of \$24,000 (\$6,000 per semester);
- Tenure: 4 semesters;
- Service hours: 50 hours per funding semester (Details will be announced at the beginning of each funding semester);
- Evaluation of working progress: at the end of 2nd funding semester or the first anniversary;

Revised: 01/15/2026

- For the travel and other expenses attributed to conduct research as stated in applicant’s dissertation or project proposal to the specified location of Fo Guang Shan temple(s), additional travel grant may be offered upon the request in additional written application;
- For the additional stipend of granted fellowship beyond its tenured period, applicant must specify and detail the reason for applying additional stipend for the same dissertation prospectus in written format, with the comment and original signature of applicant’s chair of Advisor committee. The additional amount of stipend beyond the tenured period is not guaranteed.

Eligibility

- Pursuit of the PhD degree offered by the Department of Religious Studies;
- Completion of all requirements for the PhD degree except research and writing of the dissertation (the equivalent of ABD in the US system). A successful applicant, before being named as Fellow, must provide confirmation of ABD status or equivalent status from UWest official;
- The attached document of application must be written in English, including,
 - copy of the dissertation prospectus been approved by applicant’s chair of Advisor Committee;
 - copy of required work document with approved signature, for example: IRB (Institutional Review Board), authorization of accessing archives, etc.
- Individual is only allowed to receive any type of IBEF dissertation fellowship one time for pursuing the PhD degree in UWest;
- There are no restrictions as to the citizenship/residence of applicants.

Selection Criteria

- Significance of the topic and its potential contribution to the study of Humanistic Buddhism;
- Feasibility of the plan of work;
- Potential of the applicant for an academic career in Buddhist studies or in monastic community.

B. IBEF Dissertation Fellowships in Buddhist Studies

Provide four consecutive semesters stipends to PhD candidate for preparation of dissertations. The fellowship period may be used for archival research, fieldwork, analysis of collected data, or for writing after research is complete. The topic areas of dissertation project for receiving this fellowship and associated annual cap of fellowship granting are specified as below.

	Topic area	Annual cap of fellowship granted *	Granted
B1	Mahayana Buddhist traditions	2	1(Spring 2026)
B2	Theravada Buddhist traditions	2	2 (Spring 2025, Fall 2025)

B3	Language and Buddhism	1	0
B4	Arts and Buddhism	1	1 (Fall 2025)
B5	Literature and Buddhism	1	0
B6	Science and Buddhism	1	0
B7	Psychology and Buddhism	2	0
B8	Business management and Buddhism	1	0
B9	Buddhism and current issue(s) in society (i.e. family, gender, racism, poverty, natural resource/environment, politics)	1	0
B10	Comparative study of Buddhism and other religious traditions in the world	1	0

* Number of annual caps includes new and renewal applications.

Fellowship details

- Stipend of \$20,000 (\$5,000 per semester);
- Tenure: 4 semesters;
- Service Hours: 50 hours per funding semester (Details will be announced at the beginning of each funding semester);
- Evaluation of working progress: at end of 2nd funding semester or the first anniversary;
- No additional stipend of granted fellowship beyond its tenured period.

Eligibility

- Pursuit of the PhD degree offered by the Religious Department;
- Completion of all requirements for the PhD degree except research and writing of the dissertation (the equivalent of ABD in the US system). A successful applicant, before being named as Fellow, must provide confirmation of ABD status or equivalent status from UWest official;
- The attached document of application must be written in English, including,
 - copy of the dissertation prospectus been approved by applicant's chair of Advisor Committee;
 - copy of required work document with approved signature, for example: IRB (Institutional Review Board), authorization of accessing archives, etc.;
- Individual is only allowed to receive any type of IBEF dissertation fellowship one time for pursuing the PhD degree in UWest;
- There are no restrictions as to the citizenship/residence of applicants.

Selection Criteria

- Significance of the topic and its potential contribution to Buddhist studies;
- Feasibility of the plan of work;
- Potential of the applicant for an academic career in Buddhist studies or monastic community.

C. IBEF Research Fellowships in Buddhist Chaplaincy

Provide four consecutive semesters stipends to DBMin monastic candidate for preparation of final research project in Department of Buddhist Chaplaincy. The fellowship period may be used for fieldwork, analysis of collected data, or for writing after research is complete. The topic areas of research project for receiving this fellowship and associated annual cap of fellowship granting are suggested specified as below.

	Topic Area	Annual cap of fellowship granted *	Granted
C1	Theoretical and/or methodological construction of Buddhist Chaplaincy curriculum	3	0
C2	Applied Buddhism in clinical setting (i.e. hospital and health-related industry)	3	0
C3	Applied Buddhism in institutional setting (i.e. military, prison, detention center, and other types of probational/preventive agency)	3	1 (Spring 2026)
C4	Applied Buddhism in Temple, Monastic, Religious, and Community Contexts	3	2 (Fall 2025)

* Number of annual caps includes new and renewal applications.

Fellowship details

- Stipend of \$18,000 (\$4,500 per semester);
- Tenure: 4 semesters;
- Service Hours: 50 hours per funding semester (Details will be announced at the beginning of each funding semester);
- Evaluation of working progress: at end of 2nd funding semester or the first anniversary;
- No additional stipend of granted fellowship beyond its tenured period.

Eligibility

- Monastic student in pursuit of the DBMin degree offered by Department of Buddhist Chaplaincy;
- Completion of all requirements for the DBMin degree except research and furnishing of the final project. A successful applicant, before been named as Fellow, must provide confirmation of ABD status or equivalent status from UWest official;
- The attached document of application must be written in English, including,
 - copy of the project prospectus been approved by applicant’s chair of Advisor Committee;
 - copy of required work document with approved signature, for example: IRB (Institutional Review Board), authorization of fieldwork sponsor, etc.

- Individual is only allowed to receive any type of IBEF dissertation fellowship one time for pursuing the DBMin degree in UWest;
- There are no restrictions as to the citizenship/residence of applicants.

Selection Criteria

- Significance of the topic and its potential contribution to Buddhist Chaplaincy studies;
- Feasibility of the plan of work;
- Potential of the applicant for an academic career in Buddhist Chaplaincy studies or monastic community.

Fellowship work:

- Students selected shall be notified by the IBEF Liaison Officer individually;
- Number of awards are based on the various areas of concentration or study. IBEF reserves the right to increase or decrease the number of awardees;
- Fellowship recipients need to renew his/her Fellow status at the end of each funding semester, evidenced by Dissertation/Project Committee Chair's recommendation to continue receiving remaining fund;
- Fellowship recipients need to be evaluated by the Institute for the Study of Humanistic Buddhism (ISHB) at the end of second funding semester or the first anniversary on their research work progress. Each Fellowship recipient needs to submit the most up-to-date writing product, or successful acceptance of his/her research work in the academic conference or workshop such as AAR/AAR regional, AAS/AAS regional, or any type of graduate student conference in the United States (with name and topic listed in the program or agenda of such conference or workshop), or other related artifacts. The result will deliver to their individual Chair and IBEF for further advising purpose.

Application Deadline:

- May 1 - for grants in the fall semester
- November 15 - for grants in the spring semester

Renewal Deadline:

- May 1 - for grants to continue financial support in the fall semester
- November 15 - for grants to continue financial support in the spring semester

Required Documents for Initial Application:

- a) Completed IBEF Research Grant application form;
- b) Approved dissertation or project proposal/prospectus with Committee Chair approval and expected completion date;
- c) Required work document, if any, with approved signature, for example: IRB (Institutional Review Board), authorization of accessing archives or fieldwork sponsor, etc.;
- d) Three letters of recommendation (one must be from the Dissertation Committee Chair);
- e) Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5;
- f) Curriculum Vitae including evidence of presentation or lectures at conferences, workshops, or

other professional settings.

g) Please submit above documents to IBEF@uwest.edu before deadline.

Renewal Requirements:

- Writing Recommendation from the Dissertation/Project Committee Chair, including an assessment of the quality and relevance of the work that the student has accomplished;
- Completion of 50 service hours per semester;
- Annual evaluation by ISHB if required.
- Please submit above documents to IBEF@uwest.edu before deadline.

Disbursement/Payment Process:

Based on current university disbursement/reimbursement process and procedure aligned with IBEF policy.