

General Financial Situation:

I grew up in a middle-class family in Porto Alegre, Brazil, with parents who have been supportive of my education and life choices. In 2016 I traveled to Nepal where I discovered RYI and decided to dedicate myself to formal Dharma education, receiving support from my family for these studies.

From my second semester onward I received partial tuition scholarships through the Khyentse Foundation's merit-based program at RYI, which significantly eased the financial burden. By my final year of the B.A. (2021-2022), I was able to sustain my living expenses through translation and interpretation work. Since 2023, I have been teaching Classical Tibetan online to students from small sanghas, which has become my main stable source of income.

For my current M.A. studies, my family helped with the commitment that I would secure a 50% merit-based scholarship and cover my own expenses. I successfully obtained the scholarship from the second semester onward and have been supporting myself primarily through online teaching work and occasional interpretation jobs.

Total Retreat Costs:

The estimated total cost for the 3-year retreat is €37,000, broken down as follows:

- Retreat fees: €32,500
- Shrine items: €1,500 (reduced from €2,000 as I already have some items)
- Obligatory health insurance (required for long-term visa in France): €1,300-2,600
- Visa processing fees: approximately €1,000 for the entire period (visa must be renewed annually)
- Travel costs and personal hygiene items: €700

Funding Efforts:

Crowdfunding Initiative: My primary funding strategy involves a crowdfunding campaign in both English and Portuguese. As a symbolic exchange for donations, I will offer a Tibetan language course covering alphabet basics, recitation training, and common vocabulary. For more advanced students, I have compiled an extensive list of useful learning and translation resources. Since teaching Tibetan has been my main occupation for the past 2.5 years, I believe this will be an interesting and valuable addition to the crowdfunding campaign. I plan to promote this through social media and sangha networks.

Having recently received approval to join the retreat while completing my M.A. thesis, I have not yet launched this campaign and cannot predict the exact amount it will raise.

Personal and Family Resources: My family has indicated they could contribute 10-15% of the total retreat costs to help cover any remaining funding gaps after scholarship and crowdfunding efforts. Additionally, I have approximately \$2,000 USD in emergency savings that could be accessed if necessary, though I would prefer to preserve this for post-retreat needs.

Funding Request: Given the extremely high costs relative to Brazil's socio-economic reality and our devalued currency against the Euro, and considering that I am just graduating without significant accumulated wealth, I am requesting scholarship support for 70% of the retreat costs (€25,900). Without having such a foundational guarantee, it might not be realistic to proceed with the retreat given the financial constraints. This scholarship would serve as the essential enabler that makes the retreat feasible, while I work to secure the remaining funds through crowdfunding and eventual family support. My goal is to minimize dependence on the scholarship through successful fundraising efforts, with any excess funds from crowdfunding being used to reduce the scholarship requirement, thereby allowing Tsadra Foundation resources to support additional practitioners.

I deeply appreciate your consideration of this application and the opportunity to pursue this transformative practice.