

Financial Situation

I do not have any substantial savings, but I do have a car which I plan to sell as an investment in the retreat. I calculate that it will be \$5000. Aside from that, although I have been working full time and have a small business, I have not had enough to save outside of living expenses. I was in a committed relationship and also used a substantial amount of money towards my partner as she had financial and residential issues having moved from Venezuela.

Aside from pursuing this scholarship I am undergoing a campaign to educate my friends and family of my upcoming retreat. Although many know that I am a Buddhist and have been on retreat before, they themselves are not Buddhist. Thanks to the school I was in in high school, I have connections with many successful families and believe I can raise substantial funds, if not find one or two serious benefactors. This task is new to me, and will only begin upon completion of my current retreat when I go back to Panama. I am using this retreat as a means of documenting and sharing what it is I actually engage in.

Although I have been residing mainly in Panama for the last 10 years, have two US credit cards with a total limit of \$1300. I plan on closing those before retreat.

In the next months I also plan to focus entirely on my ice cream business as a means of income, while I fulfill a promise to help organize the remodeling of my parent's apartment. My parents are willing to assist me with travel and other basic needs leading up to retreat, but cannot afford to give substantial support. They do support me morally now, though, which was not the case when perhaps I couldn't explain to them well what I was up to!