

Financial Situation

I have waited until now to submit this application specifically in order to relay the most accurate depiction of my finances. I returned to the U.S. in April and have been actively pursuing paid work. At the moment I have \$6,000 in the bank and am working steadily to save funds before the start of this retreat next June. I am working full-time as a Yoga Teacher in 11 different locations, teaching 20-30 classes each week across Connecticut. I am currently able to make about \$500 per week.

Until this point I have been a full-time Dharma student and Tsadra Fellow in Nepal, working only during the summers when I return home to the U.S. for a few months each year. Though my family is supportive of my aspirations and intention to participate in this retreat, they are not able to contribute financially to the costs. This is why in the past, and now, I have had to rely on the generosity of foundations and friends to pursue the study and practice of Dharma.

Though I was fortunate to receive scholarships that made undergraduate school possible, I still owe \$16,000. Under the current administration I am concerned these will require active payment very soon. In addition, I own a small cottage in upstate CT that I bought as a summer retreat house in 2022. It is part of a community that collects annual dues, in addition to the monthly bills and annual property taxes. I am intending to both save for and garner support for these expenses from within my own means and circles.

Toward that end, I have kindly received two pledges for support. One pledge is from a Dharma friend for 300 euros a month to cover the cottage expenses and any additional expenses for food or medicine during retreat. Another has offered help in transitioning out of retreat after it finishes. She has not followed up or disclosed an amount of help. Therefore I am turning to Tsadra with a sincere wish for help with the bulk of retreat costs, while likewise acknowledging the tremendous generosity I have already been so fortunate to receive for study. Words cannot thank you enough for that. When I participated in the three-month retreat at Gomde in 2020, I turned to help from Khyentse Foundation, family, and friends. Though I was successful in raising the \$3,000 for that, I am admittedly concerned with the prospect of raising 33,000 euros.

When I interviewed with Tsadra for the MA Fellowship, I had already given rise to a strong wish to participate in a three-year retreat within this lineage. I expressed this wish to Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche in 2018 and he advised that I complete the MA at RYI first. I also expressed my wish for longer retreat during the interview with Tsadra, hoping this day would come. While I do wish to someday be on the other end of supporting Dharma scholar-practitioners, at the moment that is not my circumstance. My personal goal is to save \$15,000 by the start of the retreat. I do intend to reach out personally to Sangha, friends and family, but until seeing Rinpoche last week I was not certain of my status for this retreat. Now that he has officially confirmed my participation, I plan to make a fundraising page as I have done in the past. Still, I am humbly requesting additional support from Tsadra to help overcome the biggest remaining obstacle. I am truly so grateful for your consideration and support until this point.