

Heidrun Koppl
Rangjung Yeshe Gomde Pyrenees
RD 13
La Bastide 66110
France

11/07/2025

Recommendation Letter for Amit Odedra – Tsadra Contemplative Scholarship

Dear Tsadra Scholarship Committee,

It is with immense pleasure and wholehearted support that I write this letter of recommendation for Amit Odedra. I am deeply inspired by his sincere dedication to the Dharma and his aspiration to continue his transformative journey by undertaking a second three-year retreat at Gomde Pyrenees, beginning in September 2026.

I first met Amit in 2018 when he arrived at Gomde Pyrenees as a volunteer. At the time, he identified neither as religious nor spiritual, yet his openness and curiosity were evident from the start. Observing his sincere and growing connection to the Dharma has been a meaningful part of my own journey. A pivotal moment arose during his early days when he had the great fortune to receive teachings from Rinpoche and formally take refuge—a turning point that marked the beginning of his earnest spiritual journey.

What makes Amit's commitment truly remarkable is the courage he demonstrated in joining his current retreat. At the time, he had little prior exposure to Vajrayana Buddhism; in fact, he had only completed the first excellence (the Theravada portion) of the Triple Excellence program. For someone so new to these teachings, entering a strict three-year Vajrayana retreat required extraordinary trust, humility, and determination. I was deeply impressed by his willingness to step into the unknown with such wholehearted dedication—a quality that speaks volumes about his character and potential as a practitioner.

Amit's growth since then has been nothing short of inspiring. As both a volunteer and a retreatant, he has demonstrated an exceptional work ethic, a keen intellect, and a natural aptitude for Dharma practice. Our discussions on Buddhist philosophy and texts are always enriching; his insights are thoughtful, incisive, and refreshingly direct. Beyond his intellectual engagement, Amit embodies the teachings through his humility, grounded presence, and unwavering enthusiasm. His warmth and sincerity make him a cherished member of our community, and I have no doubt he will bring the same generosity of spirit to the next retreat.

Amit's contributions to Gomde Pyrenees extend far beyond his personal practice. Recognizing the center's need for reliable connectivity, he spearheaded a project to install stable, high-speed satellite internet. With characteristic diligence, he secured a kind-hearted sangha member to donate and install the necessary equipment and has generously covered the monthly subscription costs—an offering that benefited the entire community.

Having assisted Amit in fundraising for his current retreat, I can confirm it was made possible through the extraordinary generosity of his friends, family, and sangha - many of whom made significant personal sacrifices to support him. These same supporters, while deeply devoted to Amit's path, are not in a position to contribute again. Most are practitioners themselves with limited means, and Amit is understandably reluctant to burden them further when they've already given so much. This reality makes the Tsadra scholarship not just helpful but essential for Amit to continue his practice without creating hardship for those who love him. I can think of no more worthy recipient for your support than someone who has demonstrated such consistent dedication while showing thoughtful consideration for others.

It is my sincere hope that the Tsadra Foundation will recognize the profound value of Amit's journey and grant him this contemplative scholarship. His practice is not only a personal endeavor but a gift to the Dharma community at large.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With utmost respect and gratitude,

Heidi Koppl

Translator for Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche