

To the Director of Tsadra Foundation Advanced Contemplative Scholarships [if you want to mention his name, it is Anthony Chapman (Lama Drupgyu)],

This letter is written in support of Mariel Hespanhol Torres's application for the Advanced Contemplative Scholarship, in response to her resolute aspiration to undertake a long-term traditional retreat in accordance with the authentic Chokling Tersar lineage. I have known her for four years as someone who has demonstrated discipline and diligence in one-month and three-month retreats at Khadro Ling, Chagdud Gonpa Brasil's center in Southern Brazil. She is a serious practitioner.

Mariel has shown strong, sincere motivation for doing the three-year retreat at Gomde Pyrénées, a clear understanding of the commitments involved in it, and a realistic approach to the physical and mental challenges of such an endeavor. She is committed to following the schedule until the retreat concludes, and I believe that she is well-prepared to benefit from this retreat, and equally, to carry forward its fruits in service of others. Without reservation I can recommend Mariel Hespanhol Torres for a Tsadra scholarship.

Perhaps this exchange will elucidate Mariel's intention: I asked the cost of her retreat funding, and when she replied, I wrote that for the same amount she could build a retreat house in Brazil. She answered that she would try "to sell an apartment that my mother gave me (although she won't be so happy about it) . . . For me, it's a unique opportunity to receive teachings from Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche twice a year, and the guidance of Lama Tenzin Sangpo (the resident lama in Gomde Pyrénées) throughout the retreat. I like to think that guru yoga compels me."

I also think that guru yoga compels Mariel and I hope that she receives a scholarship. Please feel free to contact me should you require any further information.

Respectfully,
Chagdud Khadro
Spiritual Director of Chagdud Gonpa Brasil