

Guhyasamaja Center Class Facilitator:

Approval:

Must be approved by the Guhyasamaja Center's director, spiritual program coordinator (SPC), and current teachers. With this level of certification, one can lead classes using FPMT's curricula for Meditation 101, Buddhism in a Nutshell, & Heart Advice for Death & Dying. One can also lead other introductory classes on topics such as Introduction to Meditation, Mindfulness Meditation, and Introduction to Buddhism. And, one can also facilitate (but not yet teach) Discovering Buddhism classes. A facilitator should use the Discovering Buddhism at Home/online course transcripts in preparing for the course, and is also encouraged to make use of the MP3 recordings of teachings and guided meditations either personally or with the group.

Benefits:

Becoming an approved facilitator is the first step in being approved to teach meditation and Buddhism within the FPMT and for Guhyasamaja Center. Teaching others is an excellent way to further your own learning of Dharma and of integrating Dharma knowledge into your experience. Also, Buddhism teaches that the generosity of giving Dharma to others is the supreme form of charity, helping others to learn precious methods to train their minds in the path to liberation and to full enlightenment. It's an excellent way to benefit others. Giving Dharma with a sincere motivation is also a great way to create the positive karma to connect with Dharma from life to life, progressing on the path of wisdom and compassion.

Requirements:

To be eligible for approval as a facilitator, you must:

- Have taken teachings in person from Kyabje Lama Zopa Rinpoche and consider Rinpoche to be one of your lamas.
- Have taken refuge
- Have been an active member/participant of Guhyasamaja Center (or another FPMT center if you've recently moved to the area) for at least 4-5 years.
- Be actively engaged in completing one of FPMT's formal educational programs (such as Discovering Buddhism, Living in the Path, the Basic Program, or the Master's Program). A very strong preference will be given to those who are taking one of these programs in person for a completion certificate. If you are participating in such a program at the center and have committed to completing it, this can fulfill this requirement.
- Maintain a regular, daily meditation practice.
- Have completed at least 15% of the purification and/or retreat practices that comprise the Special Integration Practices (module 14) of Discovering Buddhism. (These practices include Lam Rim retreat, Vajrasattva recitations, prostrations, and Nyung Na retreats.)
- Have a sincere, deep wish to serve others by sharing the Dharma as taught by Lama Zopa Rinpoche
- Have completed at least 1 weeks of retreat on Lam Rim (the Stages of the Path).

- Complete 2-3 sessions of teacher training with current Guhyasamaja Center teachers and Spiritual Program Coordinator.
- Offer a class to a group of students with the SPC, Center Director, or Assistant Director in attendance..
- Have read and signed the FPMT Ethical Policy and the FPMT Introductory Class Leader Guidelines. Be committed to maintaining ethical conduct appropriate for someone in the role of presenting Dharma.
- Either have already attended a retreat with Kyabje Lama Zopa Rinpoche (such as a Kopan Course or the Light of the Path Retreat) or plan to do so within the next two years.
- Have the intention of becoming registered as a teacher by FPMT.
- Not required but recommended: Attend a training from FPMT such as the Ritual Training or the Foundation Training in Compassionate Service.

After having served as a facilitator for some time, one can next apply to become a registered teacher. Teachers must be recommended by the center as part of applying to be a registered FPMT teacher. To become a registered teacher, one must have completed one of the FPMT educational programs and have received a completion certificate (again with in-person completion being preferred to on-line or correspondence.) Additional completion of meditation retreats in general and of studies with Kyabje Lama Zopa Rinpoche are also part of the process of being certified as an FPMT teacher.

FPMT registers teachers at various levels, which include:

- **Foundational Buddhism:** Foundation of Buddhist Thought, Discovering Buddhism, Living in the Path
- **In-Depth Buddhism:** Basic Program, Masters Program. • *This category includes geshes. Teachers registered for In-Depth Buddhism are qualified to teach Foundational Buddhism programs.*
- **Long Retreat Leader:** Can lead long retreat of 1 month and upwards

A current goal for Guhyasamaja Center is to begin a long-term process of gradually helping local students to become qualified first as class facilitators and then as teachers at those various levels. In that interest, we also plan to offer FPMT educational programs for completion certificates for those students who are interested in gaining a deeper understanding of Buddhism in order to help their own sincere practice of Dharma and also in order to move towards teaching the Dharma to others.