

**THE ON-LINE COURSE IN PARALLEL TO
“THE INTERNATIONAL MASTER’S IN THE PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF
WISDOM CULTURE AND THE ART OF LIBERATION” (WISDOM)**

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

ON-LINE COURSE

2012/2013

Art. 1

Activation of the On-line Course

In accordance with Art. 6 of the School Charter, Scuola Superiore di Studi Universitari e di Perfezionamento Sant’Anna, Pisa, Italy, in collaboration with Istituto Lama Tzong Khapa, Pomaia (Pisa), Italy, is offering an On-line Course in parallel to the “International Master’s in the Preservation and Development of Wisdom Culture and the Art of Liberation” (Master’s in Wisdom), with a two-year duration.

The On-line Course starts January 16th, 2012 and ends December 13th, 2013, with classes nine months a year, January to June and September to December. The language of instruction is English.

The On-line Course allows for a maximum of 120 places. The course will not proceed if the number of enrolled students is less than 50, however, the Academic Board of the Master’s may decide to run the course with a lower number of participants, if the financial provisioning remains adequate.

Art. 2

On-line Course Organization

The On-line Course paralleling the Master’s in Wisdom is jointly organized by Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna and Istituto Lama Tzong Khapa. The Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna (Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies), Pisa, Italy is an Institute for University Education of international standing, formally recognized as a School of Excellence. Istituto Lama Tzong Khapa, Pomaia (Pisa), Italy, is an International School for Buddhist Studies affiliated with the Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Foundation (FPMT). The On-line Course is hosted on the on-line learning site managed by Istituto Lama Tzong Khapa.

Art. 3

University Credits

The On-line Course envisions the completion of academic, meditation, and project work components as delineated by the Rules and Regulations of the On-line Course in Parallel to the “International Master’s in the Preservation and Development of Wisdom Culture and the Art of Liberation”.

The acquisition of credits is subject to acquiring a minimum of 20 university credits (CFU/ECTS) through successfully completing the academic, meditation, and project work components, including passing all 8 exams and fulfilling the minimum participation requirements, in relation to each of the 8 modules.

Art. 4 Objectives

The On-line Course parallels the on-campus “International Master’s in the Preservation and Development of Wisdom Culture and the Art of Liberation.” This Master’s initiates a new line of education and research at Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna in the interdisciplinary field of Mind Science, which encompasses cognitive neuroscience, psychology, philosophy of the mind, physics, biology, and artificial intelligence. The main objective of the Master’s is to offer an additional approach to the study of the mind through addressing it from a Buddhist perspective, both in terms of content and methodology, in order to learn from this tradition’s centuries-old philosophy of mind. The Master’s is aimed, in particular, at cultivating human qualities, such as kindness, compassion, and wisdom, through the advanced academic study of Buddhist philosophy and psychology accompanied by a strong emphasis on service and meditation. The On-line Course makes it possible for people with work and family responsibilities to engage in a similar, but less intensive and demanding, program of academic study, meditation practice, and project work possessing the same objectives as the full-time Master’s.

Art. 5 Teaching Methodology and Course Structure

The On-line Course is two years in duration and consists of 8 modules, the lengths of which are set out in the table below. Each module consists of classes and meditation sessions for a total amount of 186 hours in the two-year period.

Year 1 and Year 2 are each divided into four modules for a total of 31 weeks of classes, plus 7 weeks of study breaks.

The schedule of the On-line Course with the dates of the individual modules is:

	Modules	Starting date	Ending date
YEAR 1 2012	Foundations of the Path	16 January 2012	7 June 2012
	Transforming the Mind	11 June 2012	29 June 2012
	Mind and Cognition	3 September 2012	25 October 2012
	Philosophical Systems	29 October 2012	14 December 2012
YEAR 2 2013	Final Nature of Mind	14 January 2013	14 February 2013
	Cultivating Altruistic Conduct	18 February 2013	28 June 2013
	Nature of Reality	2 September 2013	19 September 2013
	Application in Complete Aspects	23 September 2013	13 December 2013

Beginning from September 2012, students are required to engage in a total of 60 hours of selective project work.

The rights and responsibilities of the students of the On-line Course, as well as the relationship between the students and the School and the Institute, are regulated by the Rules and Regulations of the On-line Course in Parallel to the “International Master’s in the Preservation and Development of Wisdom Culture and the Art of Liberation”, and by the General Rules and Regulations of the Masters and Training Programmes Division of Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna and by the General Rules and Regulations for On-line Students of Istituto Lama Tzong Khapa.

**Art. 6
Thesis**

Students of the On-line Course are not required to submit a final thesis.

**Art. 7
Admission Requirements**

Applicants for the On-line Course are required to demonstrate a sincere interest in and a strong motivation for the study of the mind from a Buddhist perspective as well as the development of wisdom and compassion.

Applicants are not required to possess a university degree.

Applicants who are not native English speakers must demonstrate an acceptable level of spoken and written English, either by a proficiency certificate (such as TOEFL, IELTS, or Cambridge) or by a self declaration. If it is deemed necessary, the applicant's proficiency in English will be tested by an interview and/or by the submission of a written essay.

All requisites, as stated in the following Art. 8, must be completed by applicants prior to the submission deadline

**Art. 8
Application Procedure**

Applicants for the On-line Course must complete and submit the application form available at <http://www.sssup.it/wisdom> Applicants are strongly advised to provide a detailed description of their motivation in the relevant compulsory section of the application form.

Applicants must complete the application form with the following information:

- a) last name, first name, place and date of birth, nationality, permanent address;
- b) if applicable, the possession of academic titles together with the final score and the name of the university where the title was awarded, as well as the topic of the final thesis;
- c) level of proficiency in English and other languages;
- d) the email address to which correspondence should be sent.

Applicants must also submit the following documentation preferably in electronic format:

- a curriculum vitae covering education, cultural, and professional experiences, including previous experience in the fields of Mind Science and Buddhist studies;
- copies of degree certificates and/or academic transcripts (if applicable);
- a statement of interest (this should include a discussion of reasons for applying to this On-line Course, how the topics relate to one's personal and/or professional life, and how one intends to use this training afterward);
- two reference letters;
- scan of valid passport or other ID;
- a recent passport-size photo,
- any other useful documentation for the assessment (English knowledge certificates, Graduate Record Examinations GRE, etc.).

The application for admission to the On-line Course must be submitted, as detailed above, **no later than November 30th, 2011, 11.00 pm CET (Central European Time)**.

Art. 9 Selection Process

The On-line Course foresees a maximum of 120 positions.

The selection of applicants involves the evaluation of titles and all other documentation required by the application procedure as outlined in Art. 8.

Applications will be examined by the Admissions Committee, a subset of the Academic Board, at regular intervals beginning from May 31st, 2011 up to the submission deadline, November 30th, 2011. The Admissions Committee will select applicants by awarding up to 100 points to their qualifications (curriculum and titles) according to the following criteria:

- relevant related experience, including previous Buddhist studies and meditation practice – up to 50 points;
- academic curriculum (consistency of the curriculum and dissertation with the contents of the Master's, average marks received on exams, award of the Graduate Record Examinations, GRE) – up to 20 points;
- English language skills – up to 10 points;
- motivation and reference letters – up to 20 points.

Applicants who obtain a minimum score of 50/100 will be admitted to the On-line Course, up to a maximum of 120 positions.

Results of the selection process will be published on the website of the Master's no more than one month after the selection process has been completed. Applicants will also be notified by email of the result of the selection.

In case of withdrawal, applicants ranked in the list below the 120th position in the order of scores (provided that it is above 50/100) will be admitted to the On-line Course.

Art. 10 Scholarships

No scholarships are foreseen for the On-line Course.

Art. 11 Acceptance

Applicants who have been accepted into the On-line Course must provide confirmation of their acceptance. To confirm, they must send the following document in electronic format:

- a) confirmation of attendance for the On-line Course, signed by the admitted applicant;
- b) scan of a valid passport or Italian identity card;

c) receipt of the full tuition fee of 750.00 euro for the first year of the On-line Course

Payment method:

- By bank transfer to UNICREDIT BANCA DI ROMA Spa, Piazza Garibaldi 1 – 56100 Pisa (Italy) - IBAN Code: IT 32 0 02008 14006 000401272765 - SWIFT code UNCRITM1G12, description of payment: “installment 1 – On-line Wisdom 2012/13 – student’s full name”.

by email to: altaformazione@sssup.it

by fax to: (+39) 050882633

In the event of a student withdrawing from the On-line Course after confirmation of attendance, he/she will not be refunded any amount. Moreover, he/she is still responsible to pay any fees payable up to the time of withdrawal.

The full tuition fee for the second year must be paid by October 31st, 2012.

Art. 12 Credits Awarded

At the end of the On-line Course, those students who have successfully completed the academic, meditation, and project work components in relation to each one of the 8 modules, including having passed all the exams and having met the minimum attendance requirements, as delineated by the Rules and Regulations of the On-line Course, will receive 20 university credits (CFU/ECTS) in accordance with art. 3 of D.M. 207/2004, from the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna.

Art. 13 Personal Data

In accordance with Italian Legislative Decree no. 196 30/06/2003 (Personal Data Protection Code), please note that the personal details collected by Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna and Istituto Lama Tzong Khapa, the holders of such data processing, will be used only for purposes pertaining to the management of this On-line Course, in accordance with the applicable regulations. Ms. Roberta Chiordi, in charge of the Operational Coordination of the Masters and Training Programmes Division of Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, based in via Cardinale Maffi 27, Pisa, and Ms. Joan Nicell, Study Program Coordinator, Istituto Lama Tzong Khapa, via Poggiberna 15, Pomaia (Pisa), are responsible for such data processing. Anyone concerned can assert their rights under art. 7 of the Italian Legislative Decree 196/2003.

The Director
Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna
Prof. Maria Chiara Carrozza
Responsible Operating Unit
The Masters and Training Programmes Division

Process Manager
Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna
Ms. Roberta Chiordi
E-mail: altaformazione@sssup.it
Tel. +39 050 882635/31/45
Fax +39 050 882633