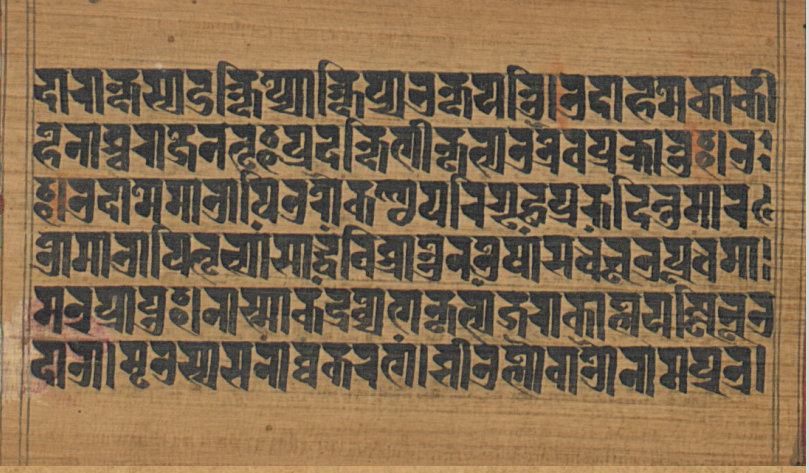
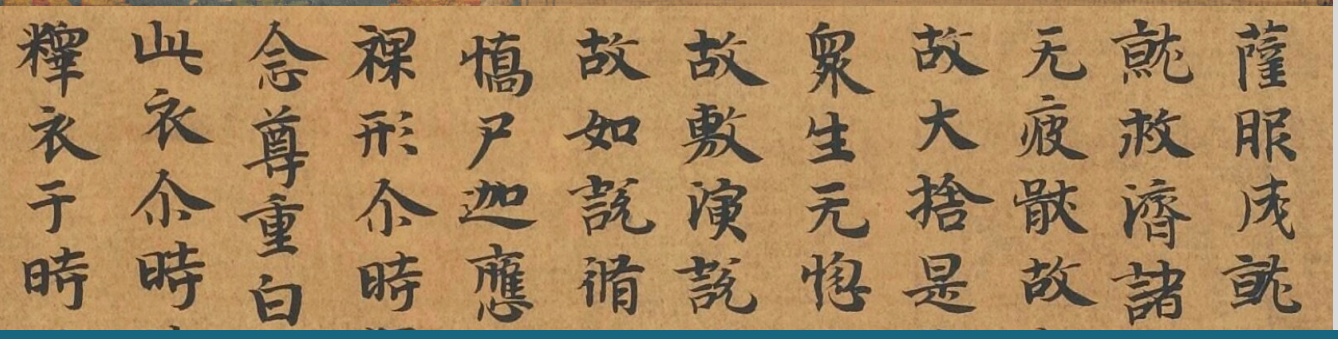






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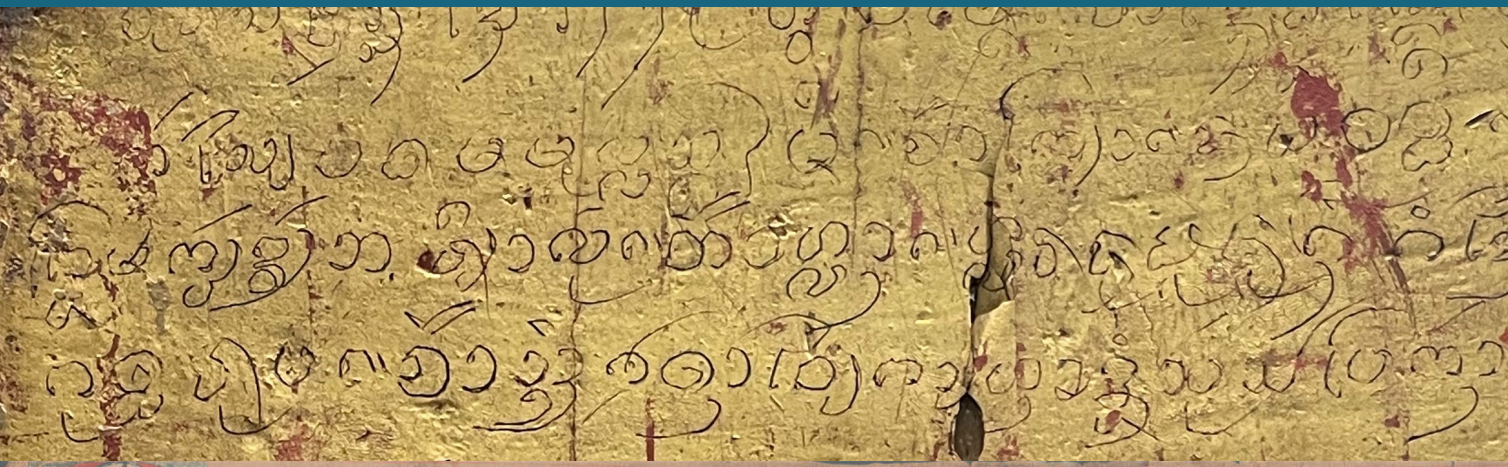
Intensive Teaching Program

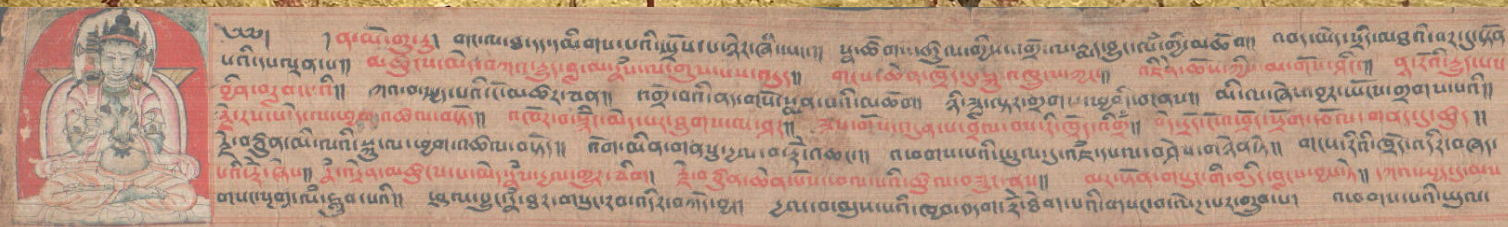
Winter School in

Buddhist Textual Scholarship

Chiang Mai EFEO Center, 22 February–2 March 2027

Co-organized by the École française d'Extrême-Orient, the École Pratique des Hautes Études-PSL, and the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München; sponsored by the Khyentse Foundation.





4TH WINTER SCHOOL IN BUDDHIST TEXTUAL SCHOLARSHIP

Chiang Mai, February 22–March 2, 2027

EFEO, EPHE-PSL, LMU Munich

Sponsored by the Khyentse Foundation

The Winter School in Buddhist Textual Scholarship is an intensive teaching program organized jointly by academics of the École française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO), the École Pratique des Hautes Études (EPHE–PSL, Paris), and the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU). It is offered to international postgraduate students carrying out research in the domain of Buddhist Studies, and it provides a solid grounding into **philology**, **codicology**, and **epigraphy**. Its focus is on primary sources transmitted across the Buddhist world, with close consideration of their material dimension, their contexts of production, and their socio-religious functions. The course introduces students to fieldwork and allows them to hone their broader methodological approach as well as the skills specific to their area of research. The Winter School has a transregional dimension, with lecturers specializing in **South Asia**, **Southeast Asia**, **China** and **Tibet**.

When

The winter school will take place from **February 22 to March 2, 2027**. It offers 9 days of tuition.

Arrival:	Sunday February 21
Winter School:	Monday February 22 – Tuesday March 2
Departure:	Wednesday March 3

Venue

École française d'Extrême-Orient, 131 Charoen Prathet Road, A. Mueang, Chiang Mai 50100, Thailand. https://www.efeo.fr

Costs

Tuition is free of charge, and **the program will cover the costs of the overnight stay (10 nights) and lunch**. The program doesn't cover the travel expenses, but selected students who demonstrably don't benefit from institutional travel funding can be eligible for limited financial support: details will be provided to the selected participants.

Participants

The Winter School is addressed to students in **their second year of a master's degree or at the start of their doctorate**, training in the field of **Buddhist studies**. Participants will be selected based on their applications, within the limit of **20 places available**.

Selection criteria

All courses are taught in **English**. Students are therefore expected to have sufficient knowledge of this language for active participation in the seminars. In addition, modules dealing with specific scriptural traditions (Sanskrit, Pali, Thai, Lao, Khmer, Burmese, Chinese, Tibetan) require a working knowledge of the languages concerned. Participants are therefore required to have sufficient knowledge of at least one of these **Asian languages**. The applicants will also be asked to briefly describe their **research project** and interest in Buddhist textual scholarship. **Applications prepared with AI assistance will not be considered.**

Application

Call for applications:	November	18	2026
Deadline for applications:	December	1	2026 (11:59 PM CET)
Results:	December	10	2026

Credits

The Winter School is equivalent to a **6 credits (UE)** teaching module within the framework of the **MA "Religion und Philosophie in Asien"** (LMU).

International students will receive a **certificate of attendance**.

Schedule

The Winter School in Buddhist Textual Scholarship comprises seven teaching days and two field trip days.

1. A **common-core module** will introduce students to specific themes such as: the study and description of the physical characteristics of manuscripts and ancient xylographs; epigraphic practices; textual criticism and editorial practices; the formation of canonical collections, translation and the phenomena of "vernacularization"; the relationship between text and image.
2. **Specialized seminars** will be taught by the principal instructors in their individual area of expertise. Each seminar will be devoted to the deciphering, description, and study of written materials in one of the languages of Buddhist Asia (Sanskrit, Pali, Thai, Chinese, Tibetan, etc.). Each student will attend one seminar, on the basis of their research area and language specialization.
3. Two **practical workshops** led by local experts will take place. They will introduce students to the techniques of traditional palm-leaf manuscript production and preservation, as well as to different epigraphic documentation methods.
4. **Guest lecture**: a senior guest lecturer from an institution of the host country will be invited to present his or her recent findings on relevant topics.
5. **Student presentations**: research students will have the opportunity to present their research projects and receive sustained feedback from their peers and the lecturers.
6. Days 6 and 7 of the Winter School (Saturday and Sunday) will be devoted to a **field trip**. This will enable participants to examine textual practices and the use of text-bearing objects in Thai Buddhist environments under the guidance of the instructors. Participants will visit different sites (religious, archaeological or museological) characteristic of Northern Thailand.

Instructors

Gregory KOURILSKY is Associate Professor in Buddhist Studies at the EFEO, and Head of the EFEO center in Bangkok (Thailand).

Costantino MORETTI is Associate Professor at the EFEO (Paris), specialized in Medieval Chinese Buddhism and Dunhuang Studies, and Head of the EFEO center in Shanghai (China).

Marta SERNESI is Professor of Tibetan Religions at the EPHE-PSL (Paris), and Key Researcher of the Cluster of Excellence Cross-Cultural Philology at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU).

Vincent TOURNIER is Professor of Indology and Buddhist Studies, Chair of the Institute of Indology and Tibetology, and Principal Investigator of the Cluster of Excellence Cross-Cultural Philology at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU).