

# WINTER SCHOOL IN BUDDHIST TEXTUAL SCHOLARSHIP

**Chiang Mai, 4-9 March 2024**

EPHE-PSL, EFEO, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU)

The Winter School in Buddhist Textual Scholarship is a new intensive teaching program organized jointly by academics of the EPHE-PSL (Paris), the EFEO and the Ludwig-Maximilians University Munich. It is offered to international postgraduate students carrying out research in the domain of Buddhist Studies, and will provide a solid grounding into **philology**, **codicology**, and **epigraphy**. Its focus will be 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 will introduce students to fieldwork and will allow 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 during the PSL-Week, from **March 4 to 9, 2024**, at the EFEO Center in **Chiang Mai** (Thailand) and offer 6 days of tuition (7 nights stay).

Arrival: Sunday March 3  
Winter School: Monday March 4 – Saturday March 9  
Departure: Sunday March 10

## Costs

Tuition is free of charge and **the program will cover the costs of the overnight stay (7 nights) and lunch**.

## 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 on the basis of applications, within the limit of **12 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, pāli, Thai-Lao, Khmer, Burmese, Chinese, Tibetan) require a basic level of 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.

## Application

Call for applications: November 8 2023  
Deadline for applications: November 30 2023  
Results: December 15 2023

## Credits

The Winter School is equivalent to a **6 credits (UE)** teaching module within the framework of the MA “**Études asiatiques**” (PSL-EHESS-EPHE-EFEO), and within the MA “**Religion und Philosophie in Asien**” (LMU). Paris-based students also have the opportunity to validate the training they receive during this winter school as a training course.

**International students** will receive a **certificate of attendance** (36 hours of intensive tuition) to hand in to their university’s administration.

## Schedule

The Winter School in Buddhist Textual Scholarship comprises five teaching days and one field day.

The teaching days (Mo-Fri) will each focus on a specific theme: (1) the study and description of the physical characteristics of manuscripts and ancient xylographs; (2) epigraphic practices; (3) textual criticism and editions; (4) the formation of canonical collections, translation and the phenomena of “vernacularization”; (5) the relationship between text and image. These days consist of two modules, organized as follows:

- 1. Morning lectures (9:00–12:00):** they constitute the core study curriculum, and will focus on methodological aspects of the study of Buddhist texts.
- 2. Workshops (13:30-16:30):** afternoon workshops will enable students to train the skills introduced in the morning lectures by focusing on case studies, examining documents written in one of the languages of Buddhist Asia (Sanskrit, Pāli, Thai, Chinese, Tibetan). Each student will participate in the workshop that best suits his or her specific area of research and linguistic specialization.

The final day of the Winter School (Saturday) will be devoted to **fieldwork**. 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. The aim of the workshop is to introduce students to the region’s Buddhist material culture, and to give them an insight into the use of texts in contemporary and past religious practices.

Program	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9h00-12h00	Lecture  Codicology & Book History: Manuscripts and xylographs in Buddhism	Lecture  Epigraphy: Engraving techniques, types of inscriptions & research methods	Lecture  Text Transmission, Critical & Diplomatic Editions	Lecture  Translations, Canons, Multi-lingual & Vernacular Texts	Lecture  Text & Image: Interaction between texts and images in Buddhist primary sources	Field trip
12h00-13h30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
13h30-16h30	Workshops	Workshops	Workshops	Workshops	Workshops	Final dinner
<b>Teaching hours</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>

## Instructors

Gregory KOURILSKY is Associate Professor in Buddhist Studies at the EFEO, and responsible for the EFEO centers in Bangkok (Thailand) and Yangon (Burma).

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

Marta SERNESI is Professor of Tibetan Religions at the EPHE-PSL (Paris).

Vincent TOURNIER is Professor of Indology at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU).