



RETREAT SUPPORT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Two Fellowship Positions Available

IMS is seeking mature candidates, well-established in Theravada Buddhist meditation practices and studies, for its new Retreat Support Fellowship Program. This is a unique training opportunity, under the guidance of our respected dharma teachers, to support the physical and psychological welfare of participants (yogis) during IMS retreats.

Two Fellowship positions are available. Each Fellow will serve as an adjunct to retreat teaching teams at both IMS facilities – the Retreat Center and the Forest Refuge. Fellows work together to ensure adequate year-round coverage of responsibilities.

All applications must include one or more references from a senior IMS teacher.

Principal Responsibilities and Expectations

- Stay in close communication with the teaching teams and the office staff at both IMS centers regarding any current or potential yogi medical or psychological situations of concern.
- Work flexible hours to provide additional attention, support or counseling to individual yogis during the daytime, as directed by retreat teachers, helping to minimize potential psychological distress.
- Provide other practical support that might be needed, such as accompanying a sick or injured yogi to the Emergency Room, driving yogis to medical appointments, or picking up prescriptions.
- Attend some group sittings, meditation instruction sessions and dharma talks, both to establish a familiar presence for yogis and to remain aware of the scope and type of meditation instructions being offered at any time.
- Be on call after the close of normal business hours and overnight to respond to occasional calls from retreatants. These may range from simple requests for assistance to emergency situations.
- Welcome, orient and establish rapport with all yogis arriving at the Forest Refuge for a personal retreat.
- Help with integration practices for departing yogis at the Forest Refuge, such as facilitating group or individual discussions.
- Live on site at IMS, alternating every six months between accommodations at the Retreat Center and at the Forest Refuge.

Duties listed above are to be rotated between the two Fellows so as to provide consistent coverage of duties as well as reasonable off time for each person. Fellows are expected to be engaged in service for approximately 25 hours per week.

Training Opportunities

- Receive guidance on various aspects of the retreat experience from internationally-recognized senior insight meditation teachers.
- Gain experience in offering support and counseling to yogis.
- Be mentored by two experienced IMS meditation teachers-in-residence.

Benefits

- Room and board at IMS.
- Comprehensive health insurance coverage.
- A monthly stipend of \$900.
- Participation in the IMS Staff Sangha Program.
- One month of retreat at the Forest Refuge after completing 12 months of service.

Current Openings

- March 1, 2012 to February 28, 2013
- April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013
- Positions may be extended upon mutual agreement.

Qualifications/Experience

- Deep and long-standing commitment to personal meditation practice in the Theravada Buddhist tradition.
- Long-term insight meditation retreat experience.
- Commitment to understanding and practicing the teachings of the Buddha across all aspects of daily life, including the ethical guidelines of the Five Precepts.
- Involvement in Spirit Rock/IMS Teacher Training, Community Dharma Leader or Dedicated Practitioner Programs or equivalents preferred.
- Ability to interact compassionately with and be sensitive to a wide range of people across all backgrounds.
- Understanding of physical, psychological and emotional states that may arise as a result of intensive meditation practice and capacity to distinguish between healthy and unhealthy states.
- Comfort with a range of medical issues; training in first aid preferred.
- Ability to stay calm and make decisions under pressure.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Discretion and skill in handling confidential information.
- Training in counseling, pastoral care, MBSR, non-violent communication or other similar modalities preferred.
- Ability to work well in a collaborative teamwork atmosphere.
- Flexible and comfortable with changing needs and priorities.
- Training in diversity and cross-cultural issues preferred.
- Current driver's license with a clean driving record.
- Comfort with driving at night and in adverse winter weather conditions.
- Prior authorization to work in the US.

Application Submission and Deadline

Qualified applicants can email an application to fellowship@dharm.org, fax it to 978-355-6398 or mail it to Fellowship Program, IMS, 1230 Pleasant Street, Barre MA 01005. **All applications must be received by January 30, 2012 and include one or more references from a senior IMS teacher.**