

## **Eligibility for the Teacher Rate for a Forest Refuge or Retreat Center Course**

IMS Policy, Effective September 2019

*Updated January 2024*

It is IMS's wish to support insight meditation retreat teachers and trainees in their ongoing practice and commitment to the Dharma. To qualify for our teacher rate to sit at the Forest Refuge or Retreat Center, the following criteria must be met:

### **Criteria**

- The applicant has been a full IMS teacher within the last five years, or is currently a participant in IMS's, Spirit Rock's or Bodhi College's Teacher Training Program.
- If not part of IMS's faculty, the applicant is currently a full teacher at another recognized insight meditation retreat center that offers a reciprocal teacher rate policy – e.g. Spirit Rock, Gaia House, Beatenberg. (If in doubt about a center's reciprocity, IMS's Program Director will find out.)
- Dharma retreat teaching is the primary source of earned income. Please note two exceptions to this:
  - This is not required for trainees who share this aspiration but who are still in training.
  - This is not required for new teachers making their transition into more dharma teaching, specifically those who have graduated within the last three years from one of the teacher training programs mentioned above.

### **Length of Stay**

The IMS teacher rate is available for up to one month of retreat per calendar year, or six weeks if sitting the Three-Month Retreat.

### **Teacher Rate**

IMS's fee for eligible teachers and trainees is the Retreat Center's lowest scholarship rate (currently \$34 per night). Depending on an individual teacher or trainee's financial circumstances, as well as the amount of financial assistance funds available, a rate as low as our You Choose fee (currently \$25 per night) may be possible.

Funding for the teacher rate differs from IMS's usual scholarship process, where financial assistance funds supplement the scholarship rate paid by retreatants up to IMS's Base fee. The difference between the teacher rate and IMS's Base fee is not supplemented by other funds; instead it is IMS's heartfelt offering to the community of insight meditation retreat faculty.

## **Application Process**

Teachers wishing to apply for the teacher rate should contact either Retreat Center registration ([registration@dharm.org](mailto:registration@dharm.org)) or the Forest Refuge office ([fr@dharm.org](mailto:fr@dharm.org)).

Approval to award the teacher rate is at the discretion of IMS's Registration Director and/or Executive Director. Awards will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis, and may be limited, depending on the demand for a particular retreat, or other operational circumstances.