

Mayapur Academy

PROSPECTUS

**DIPLOMA IN DEITY
WORSHIP**



His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta
Swami Prabhupada
Founder Acharya: ISKCON



Mayapur
Academy



ISKCON®

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Welcome Message

Dear Students,

Hare Krishna! We warmly welcome you to Mayapur Academy, where our mission is to provide high-quality education and training in various aspects of deity worship and devotional practices. Our courses are designed to deepen your spiritual knowledge and enhance your service to the Lord.





About Mayapur Academy

Mayapur Academy is an esteemed institution dedicated to training pujaris and devotees in the sacred arts of deity worship. Established with the blessings of Srila Prabhupada, our Academy has been serving the devotee community for over 18 years. We offer both online and on-site courses to cater to the needs of devotees worldwide.

Our Vision and Mission

Vision: To create a global community of well-trained pujaris dedicated to maintaining high standards of deity worship.

Mission: To provide systematic education in the principles and practices of deity worship, ensuring the preservation and transmission of these sacred traditions.





International Diploma course in Deity Worship

(17th Oct 2024 -5th Feb 2025)

International Diploma in Deity Worship at Mayapur Academy is a four-month on-site intensive educational program that trains students in various aspects of Pujari.

Developed on the instruction and teachings of His Divine Grace A.C Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada (ISKCON's Founder-Acharya), the entire program focuses on the appropriate mood, values, skills, and knowledge required to be a pujari in any of the ISKCON temples.

This unique educational program has produced hundreds of the finest pujaris within ISKCON Communities over the last 18 years, contributing to the increase in standards of Brahminical culture worldwide. All our courses and faculties emphasize the essential values of the right mood that is built on the foundation of knowledge along with the expert skills

The full 16-week program comprises of following units:

There are 5 core units :

1. Brahminical Culture & Ethics
2. Temple Worship
3. Cooking
4. Dressing
5. Mantras

Apart from Core units, there are several electives:

1. Samskaras
2. Festivals
3. Tulasi Care & Worship
4. Dress- design
5. Jewellery Making
6. Flower Arranging
7. Astrology

The curriculum has been developed and managed by ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry to fulfill Śrīla Prabhupāda's desire for the development of deity worship and brahminical culture in ISKCON. The program is a joint educational initiative of the ISKCON Mayapur Deity Department and ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry.

Dates: 17th October 2024 to 5th February 2025

Venue: Mayapur Academy, Chaitanya Bhavan, Campus of ISKCON Mayapur (India)



COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Commencement ceremony	Oct 17
Orientation	Oct 18
Brahminical Culture and Ethics	Oct 21- Nov 8
Gayatri	Oct 28- Nov 1
Mantras	Oct 21- Feb 5
Tulasi Care	Oct 26- Feb 5
Flower Arrangement & Garland Making	Nov 4 - 8
Jewellery Making	Nov 11 - 15
Samskaras	Nov 18 -29
Dress Design	Dec 2- 6
Dressing (Batch -1)	Dec 9 - 20
Cooking (Batch -1)	Dec 9 - 20
Dressing (Batch -2)	Dec 23- Jan 3
Cooking (Batch -2)	Dec 23- Jan 3
Festivals/ Abhishek	Jan 6 - 10
Astrology	Jan 6- 8
Temple worship	Jan 13- 31
Practicum	Feb 2- 5
Graduation Ceremony	Feb 9



Admission Criterion

The course is open to all initiated devotees in good standing. While preference will be given to those with Brahminical initiation, devotees with first initiation and Gurukul devotees may also apply.

IMPORTANT: Applying to attend the course does not automatically guarantee acceptance. We consider all applications individually before notifying prospective students of acceptance. For the duration of the course, devotees are required to attend the full morning program, follow the 4 regulative principles, and chant at least 16 rounds of Japa every day. This is a mandatory prerequisite.



Admission Process



Step 1

Visit our website at
[www.mayapuracademy.org]
(<http://www.mayapuracademy.org>)



Step 2

Fill out the registration
form for the desired
course along with
recommendation letter



Step 3

After approval of
application, make the
payment using the
provided payment
gateway link or QR code
(for Indian citizens) or
our Bank account
details.



Step 4

Receive confirmation
and course details from
our team.

Course fees

(for individual units and total diploma)

**Total Fee for
International Diploma
₹40000/-**

- Temple Worship
₹ 6,800
- Brahminical Culture & Ethics
₹ 5,000
- Men's Samskaras
₹ 5,000
- Ladies Samskaras
₹ 3,500
- Festivals
₹ 4,000
- Tulasi
₹ 3,500
- Cooking
₹ 9,000
- Dressing
₹ 5,000
- Dress-design
₹ 4,000
- Astrology
₹ 3,500
- Jewellery making
₹ 4,000
- Flower Arranging
₹ 3,500

Registration Forms

To register for the complete diploma, click the link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdWJhhdOSCp7ucCFySuJH4hmuFYnY5S_x7iykPX5KUL6WwGcw/viewform

To register for any specific units, click the link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfhNgdwlCGbrLdsE9VlkflOTqllZrFrAdc-4jnomoCEjf3PiA/viewform>





Payment and Refund Policy

Payment Methods: We accept various payment methods, including credit/debit cards, PayPal, and bank transfers. Account details will be communicated individually to the students.

Refund Policy: Course fees are non-refundable. However, if you cannot attend, you can use the amount to enrol in any other course within two years or transfer the fees to another individual.

Faculties & Staff

The esteemed faculty at Mayapur Academy comprises experienced and dedicated instructors, each bringing a wealth of knowledge and devotion to their teachings in deity worship and Vaishnava practices.



Jananivas
Das



Narsimha
Kavaca
Das



His Holiness
Bhanu Swami



Kurma
Chaitanya
Das



Ananda
Tirtha
Das



Radha
Sundari Devi
Dasi



Murali
Manohar
Das



Ananda Lila
Devi Dasi



Bimla
Prasad
Das



Premanjana
Das



Hamsa
Avatar
Das



Hari Ballabhi
Devi Dasi



Krishna
Kanta
Das

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is Mayapur Academy?

Mayapur Academy is a joint educational initiative of the ISKCON Mayapur Deity Department and ISKCON Deity Worship Ministry that offers several courses throughout the year to train students in different aspects of deity worship. All the courses are designed based on instructions and teachings of His Divine Grace A.C Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, ISKCON's Founder Acharya to fulfill his desire for the development of deity worship and Brahminical culture within ISKCON.

Its campus is located at ISKCON Mayapur in Chaitanya Bhavan

The Academy has classrooms with separate rooms for deity dressing with sets of deities to train in different aspects of deity dressing, a deity kitchen classroom with eight six-gas-burner stoves, a lecture room, and a library with an expanding collection of devotional literature. The facilities at Mayapur Academy ensure that each student has a clean and structured learning environment to maximize the benefits of learning the brahminical arts.

Do you accept non initiated or first initiated devotees for this course?

While the preference is given to devotees with Brahminical initiation , several of our courses are opened for first initiated and non initiated devotees as well. Some courses like Samskaras for men are not open to non initiated devotees. However, being initiated or even second initiated does not guarantee admission into our programs. Each application is screened individually, specifically for our 4 month diploma programs.

How to enroll for the admission in the course?

All application forms are available at <https://mayapuracademy.org/> Each applicant is required to fill a detailed form that also requires a letter of recommendation from the Temple President or recognised leader of the community. Each application is screened individually. Since there are limited seats for the course and preference is given to those with Brahminical initiation , each applicant is notified about the status of their application. There may be individual calls with the applicant or with the leader recommending them for the course, in case we need more clarity about certain aspects. All the approved applicants are then required to deposit the fee before the deadline for the admission into the program.

I don't wish to do the entire course, can I enroll for only some specific unit ?

We give first preference to students who have enrolled for the full diploma program that is of 4 month duration. If the capacity of the individual course that you are intending to do is remaining (there is a maximum limit to each of our individual courses) , seats are then filled on a first come first serve basis. We recommend all the students to apply timely and not wait for the last moment.

What is the difference between Diploma and Certificate courses?

The full 4 month program is called Diploma Whereas, if someone is attending only some specific unit and not the full program, they are given certificates. For both diploma or certificate, devotees are required to attend the full morning program, follow the 4 regulative principles, and chant at least 16 rounds of Japa every day. This is a mandatory prerequisite.

Do you provide accommodation , Prasada for the duration of the course ?

No, we don't provide that. These arrangements are to be made by students themselves.

Can a non English speaker enroll for these courses ?

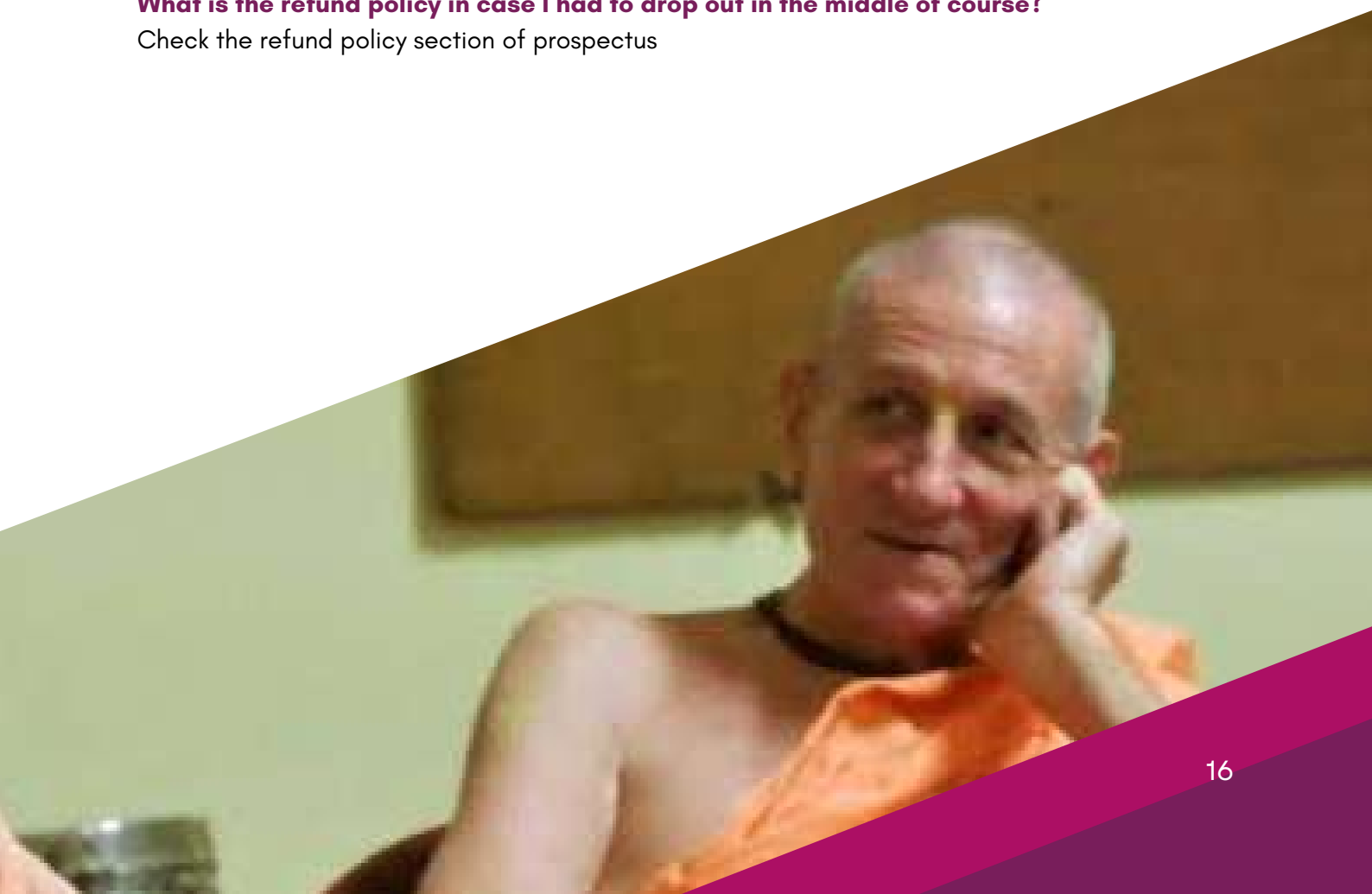
Presently, the international diploma course is available in English language only. Some parts of this program are provided in Bangla and Hindi language as well at different times of the year.

Who are the faculties for the course?

Check the faculties section of this prospectus

What is the refund policy in case I had to drop out in the middle of course?

Check the refund policy section of prospectus





Temple Worship Unit



Temple Worship Unit-Syllabus

Facilitators

Nrsimha Kavaca das
Murli Manohara das
Krishnakanta das
Ananda Lila devi dasi

10 credit points

Course Description & Aims

This course offers a comprehensive introduction to the principles, practices, and values of deity worship, an essential aspect of the Gaudiya Vaishnava tradition and devotional service. Students will gain a deep understanding of the significance of purity in Kṛṣṇa consciousness, exploring how a lifestyle of purity supports spiritual growth and effective deity worship. The course covers practical aspects such as personal cleanliness, paraphernalia cleaning, and the proper execution of rituals like ācamana and samanya arghya.

Students will also delve into the philosophical and scriptural foundations of deity worship, learning about the role and importance of deities, the authenticity of the practice, and the relationship between devotees and the Supreme Lord. Key rituals, including ārati and Śoḍaśopacāra Pūjā, will be thoroughly explored, providing students with the knowledge and skills necessary to perform these ceremonies with devotion and precision. Additionally, the course emphasizes the power of mantras and meditation as tools for deepening one's connection to the spiritual reality. Through a combination of theoretical learning and practical training, participants will be equipped to carry out the basic items of daily temple worship and appreciate its integral role in devotional life.



Brahminical Culture and Ethics





Brahminical Culture and ethics

FACILITATOR: Bimla Prasad Das
Premanjana Das

Course Description: Core Unit

Credit points: 10

This course, offered by Mayapur Academy within the ISKCON framework, provides an in-depth exploration of Brahminical culture and ethics, focusing on cultivating the values, practices, and knowledge essential for leading and guiding a spiritual society. Emphasizing purity, humility, and ethical principles, the course aims to prepare devotees to embody and promote Brahminical living in their personal and community lives.

Participants will study foundational texts and teachings, learning how to apply Brahminical principles in both personal conduct and temple service. The course also highlights the role of a brāhmaṇa in offering guidance and direction to social and managerial structures according to guru, sādhu, and Śāstra. Devotees will engage in elementary teacher training and learn how to give Śāstra classes, equipping them with the skills needed to lead and educate others in the spiritual community.

Through interactive discussions, scriptural study, and practical exercises, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of how to live and teach the ideals of Brahminical culture, ensuring they are well-prepared to guide and inspire others within ISKCON and beyond.



Cooking Unit



Cooking Unit

FACILITATORS

Hamsa Avatar Das, Baliraj Das
Ananda Lila Devi Dasi, Raseshvari Devi Dasi

Course Description: Core Unit

Credit Points: 4

The Cooking unit introduces the basic principles of cooking, where students will gain a wealth of culinary traditions, including cooking theory, kitchen technique, ingredient handling and entail the necessary values when cooking for Krishna. The course offers the students to acquire skills required to; prepare spices, use fresh herbs, grind spices, cut vegetables, cook various rice, dals, subjis, savories, chutneys, sweets and drink preparations as used in Vedic and other culinary styles. As an added feature to the course, students are given opportunities to learn from some of the prominent cooks in Mayapur with relevance to cooking artistry, expertise cuisines and practical skills to apply in the kitchen. The assorted cooking principles taught, would enable the students to plan a balanced menu in accordance with traditional Vaisnava practices and cook Raja Bhoga.



Deity

Dressing

Unit





Deity Dressing

Facilitators

Kurma Chaitanya Das

Krishna Kanta Das

Course Description

This course is designed to teach the art of creating structured turbans and dressing 3-4 feet Radha Krishna deities for day darshan. Expert instructors will guide the students through principles of art theory and practice suitable even for those who come from non-artistic background

10 credit points

Introduction to Art Theory and Turban Making

- Overview of art theory principles (balance, proportion, unity, harmony, emphasis, movement, rhythm, and variety)
- Application of art theory to turban making
- Introduction to four different turban structures
- Practical demonstration of turban making and deity dressing

Practice Turban Making and Deity Dressing

- Hands-on training in each of the four turban structures
- Practical guidance on pinning turban pieces, jewelry, and flowers
- Daily practice dressing 4-foot Radha Krishna Deities under instructor guidance
- Focus on technical aspects of deity dressing, including pinning cloth and garlands

Intensive Practice

- Focus on speed and precision in turban making and deity dressing
- Timed practice sessions to build efficiency and accuracy

Assessment

- Practical assessment: fully dress Radha Krishna in 90 minutes
- Theory assessment: written test on art theory and turban making principles

Bonus Decorative Eye Painting Class

- Learn the art of decorative eye painting
- Practical guidance and hands-on experience



Deity Dress Designing



Dress Designing Syllabus

FACILITATOR: Ananda Lila Devi Dasi

Course Description: Elective Unit

Credit points: 2

Many temples have difficulty finding suitable dresses for their Deities. In this unit, the students will learn about the variations in design, colours, materials, and the embroidery technique with pearls, silk thread, beads, etc.

The Dress Design unit will introduce the elements and principles of art, illustrations, and their usage in deity outfit designing. The course offers to aid students' familiarity with colour theory and different fabric qualities and their consequent preferred characteristics in accordance with the outfit design. As an added feature to the course, students are given the opportunity to go on a guided tour of Radha Madhava's sewing room, providing them with an experience of real workshop exposure. The principles and techniques thus taught would enable them to represent an illustration of Radha Krishna deity outfit design.



Festivals Unit



Festivals Unit



FACILITATORS:

Ananda Lila Devi Dasi

Krishna Kanta Das

Course Description

4 credit points

This comprehensive course delves into the role and significance of Gauḍīya Vaiṣṇava festivals, guiding students through the intricacies of planning, arranging, and observing these important events. Students will explore the needs and benefits of festival observance, focusing on both major and minor celebrations within the tradition. The course will cover the key elements that contribute to a successful festival, including a detailed look at activities that can enhance the experience for both devotees and the public.

Participants will learn to determine festival dates using the Gaurābda Calendar and gain practical skills in organizing and observing festivals at their temples. Special focus will be given to the observance of Āvirbhāva-Tirobhāva (appearance and disappearance days of prominent Vaiṣṇavas) and Chandan Yatra, including practical training in deity care and applying chandan. The course also offers an overview of abhiṣeka (deity bathing ceremonies), ensuring students are well-equipped to lead and inspire through festival observances. Practical assignments and discussions will deepen their understanding and ability to execute these cultural and spiritual celebrations.



Jewellery Making Unit

Jewellery Making Unit



FACILITATORS

Hariballabhi Devi Dasi

Course Description

2 credit points

This hands-on course introduces students to the art of beadwork, focusing on creating a variety of jewelry pieces. Starting with an introduction to different beads, materials, and techniques, students will learn to select appropriate colors and shapes to craft stringed necklaces and their variations. The course progresses to more complex structures, including 4-bead and 6-bead designs, which are used to create intricate bracelets and necklaces.

Advanced sessions will cover 8-bead structures for crafting earrings and circular designs for waistbelts, incorporating various techniques. Additionally, students will explore the creation of specialized items like anklets, damini (forehead ornaments), turban hangings, and ties for jewelry. Practical assignments will allow students to apply their skills and submit their completed projects for evaluation. This course offers a comprehensive journey into the world of beadwork, suitable for both beginners and those looking to refine their craft.



Ladies Samskaras Unit Syllabus

Ladies Samskaras Unit– SYLLABUS



FACILITATOR

Radha Sundari devi dasi

Course Description

The Ladies Samskaras Class will provide an introduction to and appreciation of the exalted position of Vedic Samskaras in Gaudiya Vaisnava society, as delineated by Gopal Bhatta Goswami, Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura, and Srila Prabhupada. Students will also learn to plan and execute the dasa-vidha-samskaras in accordance with traditional Vaisnava practices.

Beginning with an introduction to the concept of samskaras, students will learn to distinguish between mundane rites of passage and their Vedic counterparts, establishing a strong foundation in their spiritual and cultural significance. The course covers key samskaras in detail, including the Vivaha-samskara (marriage ceremony) and Garbhadhana-samskara (conception ceremony), with a focus on the teachings of Srila Prabhupada and practical guidance for execution.

Students will also study the samskaras associated with pregnancy and childhood, gaining insight into their importance and procedures as outlined in the scriptures. Practical aspects of coordinating and performing samskaras are unraveled, equipping students with the skills to carry out these ceremonies. Additional sessions include the art of rangoli, a final exam, and a Suci/Muci class with practicum, ensuring a well-rounded understanding of Vedic samskaras and their application in everyday life.



Men Samskaras Unit



Men Samskaras Unit – SYLLABUS



FACILITATOR: Ananda Tirtha Das

Course Description

4 credit points

This course provides an in-depth study of the major saṁskāras (sacred rites of passage) within the Gaudiya Vaishnava tradition, with a focus on both theoretical understanding and practical application. Students will explore the history and significance of these rites, starting with an introduction to saṁskāras and the basics of mantra recitation. The course covers key saṁskāras, including Garbhadhana (conception) and Vivaha (marriage), guided by the teachings of Srila Prabhupada.

Practical sessions include building yajna kundas (sacrificial fire pits) and performing initiation yajnas, with students engaging in hands-on learning through multiple yajna performances. The course emphasizes mastering the art of mantra recitation and the practical execution of these ceremonies. Discussions, debates, and a comprehensive overview of saṁskāras enrich the learning experience. Assessments include a written exam and a practical yajna performance in pairs, ensuring students are fully equipped to perform these sacred rites.



TULASI CARE AND WORSHIP



Tulasi Care and Worship

FACILITATOR: Hari Ballabhi Devi Dasi



Course Description

2 credit points

The "Tulasi Devi Care and Worship" course provides an in-depth exploration of Tulasi Devi's significance and the essential practices for her care and worship. Over the span of the entire diploma program, students will engage in a four-month period dedicated to growing and caring for their personalized Tulasi plant. The course covers the scriptural basis and devotional importance of Tulasi Devi, emphasizing both theoretical knowledge and practical skills. Students will learn about the appropriate methods for cultivating Tulasi, including soil preparation, watering, light requirements, and pest management. Additionally, the course addresses the correct uses of Tulasi leaves, manjaris, wood, and branches in devotional service, including making Tulasi garlands. Throughout this period, students will apply their knowledge to the ongoing care of their Tulasi plants, gaining firsthand experience in maintaining and honoring this sacred deity. By the end of the course, students will be equipped with a deep understanding of Tulasi Devi's worship and practical skills for her care.



ASTROLOGY UNIT



Astrology

FACILITATOR: His Holiness Bhanu Swami Maharaja



Course Description

The "Astrology" unit at Mayapur Academy offers a concise yet comprehensive introduction to the fundamentals of astrology within the context of Vaisnava practices. This short course provides students with essential knowledge on selecting auspicious times for various saṁskāras (sacred rites) and other Vaisnava activities. The curriculum covers the principles of determining favourable timings for significant events, including the naming of children and understanding the Vaiṣṇava calendar. Students will explore the zodiac and its relevance to spiritual practices, gaining insights into how astrological considerations can enhance devotional life.



Gayatri



FACILITATOR: His Grace Bimla Prasad Das

Course Description

The "Gayatri Initiation Training" course at Mayapur Academy is a comprehensive twelve-lesson program designed for second initiates or those awaiting their second initiation in ISKCON. Spanning five sessions, this course provides an in-depth exploration of Gayatri mantras within the Gaudiya Vaishnavism tradition. The initial sessions establish a foundation by introducing the significance of Gayatri and its relevance in ISKCON, including Srila Prabhupada's vision for Gayatri initiations. Students will learn about the role of Gayatri in relation to the Hare Krsna maha-mantra, the distinctions between Krsna mantra and Krsna nama, and the various mantras within the Gaudiya tradition. The course also covers the sacred thread, techniques to improve Gayatri japa chanting, and current procedures for Gayatri initiation. Emphasis is placed on cultivating brahminical qualities and attitudes, aiming to create learned brahmana-vaishnavas who contribute effectively to society. The final lessons foster a deep appreciation for Gayatri mantras, encouraging further study and research in line with Srila Prabhupada's teachings and the broader Gaudiya Vaishnava tradition.

Contact Information



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Mayapur
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