

Diversity Policy

Cultural Diversity

The European Long Course Center, Dhamma Padhana, welcomes all to our courses. Despite our diverse beginnings and our unique lives, when we come to a Vipassana course we are united by a common cause, a common purpose—to solve the mystery of human suffering.

Non-sectarian Program

Although this is the teaching of Gotama the Buddha, it is presented in a non-sectarian format. The Buddha was not interested in converting people. He found the Path that leads to the end of suffering and his only interest was to share this with others. It is the same today. The cause of suffering lies within each of us and we only need to look inside to find its solution. This works for anyone regardless of their origins or traditions. And that is what is taught here.

Languages

On every course, we have many students whose native language is not English. Course materials are available in 21 languages and most courses are bi-lingual. If English is not your native language efforts are made to provide you with appropriate materials to fully convey all that is taught.

Gender Diversity

People of all sexual orientations and gender identities are welcome to our courses. The campuses at all the meditation centres in this tradition are separated into male and female sides. This extends to the residential accommodations, the walking areas, the dining rooms and the meditation hall. This structure is designed to reduce any tension that may derive from the mixing of genders.

We recognize this doesn't work for everyone and that sometimes members of the LGBTQ community may not feel comfortable on either side of the campus, or having to identify as male or female. If conforming to binary gender separation is a concern for you, please let us know in the section of the application where we ask, "Anything you wish to add to the above information?" We will contact you and together we will try to make a plan that works for you. Your private information is kept confidential for the teacher of the course and for accommodation arrangements only.

Physical Health Needs

A Vipassana course is a rigorous and demanding undertaking, and participants need to be in a good state of both physical and mental health.

Some applicants may have a special requirement because of a health issue, physical limitation, pregnancy or a medical dietary restriction. We are prepared to accept most people with special needs, but we need to know the extent of someone's requirements well in advance of their arrival. If you have a special need, please describe in the section "Anything you wish to add to the above information?" on the application form. This enables us to contact you in advance to discuss your physical requirements.

We can supply back support or chairs for meditation for those who need it.

Confidentiality

Your private information is kept confidential for the teacher of the course and for accommodation arrangements only.

The centre is committed to ensuring that the privacy of all applicants and participants on courses is protected. Any personal data will be handled with care to safeguard student's confidentiality in keeping with our Privacy Policy.