

## Śrīla Prabhupāda, Our Founder-Ācārya Course

### Introduction

Śrīla Prabhupāda wanted all his followers to understand and to participate in vaishnava culture and to systematically study the scriptures. To this end, Hare Krishna Melbourne's Education and Training Team has established a number of Courses to assist our congregation.

What is the Founder-Ācārya Course (FAC)? The Founder-Ācārya course is especially meant for new devotees. Building our relationship with our Founder-Ācārya Śrīla Prabhupāda is the key to deepening our relationships with all his followers including our instructing and initiating spiritual masters, and ultimately with Krishna, the Supreme Personality of Godhead. There are no prerequisites for enrolment in the FAC.

### Purpose

The purpose of this course is to know and understand how Śrīla Prabhupāda is at the centre of our lives and of our Society.

‘Śrīla Prabhupāda did not simply carry the message of Lord Chaitanya and Lord Krishna to us. While that in itself is a glorious task, Śrīla Prabhupāda, as our Founder-Ācārya, created the very foundation, function and vision of ISKCON as a global community aiming for the “respiritualization of the entire human society.”

Śrīla Prabhupāda's role is ongoing. His presence is to be felt in the life of every ISKCON devotee today, and in the lives of devotees many centuries into the future.’ (Bhakti Charu Swami)

### Content

FAC deepens our relationship with our param-guru Śrīla Prabhupāda by providing a glimpse into his life, especially his struggle to establish ISKCON. Coursework is made up of ten lessons that progress through three stages:

1. *sambandha* (deepening our knowledge of Prabhupāda's relationship with us as our Founder-Acharya),
2. *abhidheya* (acting in that relationship by identifying and improving our contribution to his mission) and
3. *prayojana* (deepening our love for him).

### Outcomes

1. By attending Course, devotees become curious to learn more about Śrīla Prabhupāda's mission and his inner mood.
2. Then reading *Srila Prabhupada-lilamrta* - which is also compulsory for all Melbourne initiation candidates - becomes an enlivening experience.
3. Participation in the FAC is essential for anyone who wants to enrol in the ISKCON Disciples Course.
4. The Course educates shelter candidates in the requirements for formal shelter in ISKCON.

5. Attending and passing the FAC is a compulsory prerequisite for all levels of initiation candidates in Melbourne.