

## **The Bhakti Sastri Course (BSC)**

### **Introduction**

Srila Prabhupada wanted all his followers to understand and participate in vaishnava culture and to systematically study the scriptures. In response to the needs of our congregation, Hare Krishna Melbourne has hosted Bhakti Sastri, Bhakti Vaibhava and Bhakti Vedanta Courses for many years. To raise the quality of the Bhakti Sastri Course, we are formalising qualifications for both teachers and students.

### **Content**

This course comprises an in-depth study of

1. Bhagavad-gita,
2. Sri Isopanisad,
3. Nectar of Instruction and
4. Nectar of Devotion.

BSC has been designed for devotees who have been seriously practicing Krishna consciousness for at least a year, and have basic sastric knowledge and understanding.

### **Schedule**

To enable our congregation to study the scriptures in balance with their family and work life, we are also scheduling several Bhakti Sastri Courses to run on different days of the week. The course has a modular design. If you are unable to complete the course in one sequence, you can take separate modules spread over a few years to suite your schedule.

### **Pre-requisites**

To enrol in BSC, you must chant 16 rounds of japa daily and follow the 4 regulative principles. You must be recommended by an ISKCON authority who can certify that you have been engaged favourably in Lord Chaitanya's mission for at least the past twelve months.

Candidates must be connected to a home program such as Bhakti Vriksha, regularly hearing at the Temple, and rendering at least one service at the Temple. They must be supporting the preaching mission through Temple services, book distribution, or regular attendance at Harinama Sankirtana. You also must have passed the Founder-Acharya Course, fully read Srila Prabhupada-lilamrta and completed an essay on your reading.

Candidates must have successfully completed the IDC, successfully completed the GBC's 16 Question Shelter Exam, and have been recommended to seek shelter from an ISKCON-authorized initiating guru. However, it is not a requirement for you to have taken shelter of an initiating guru in order to be admitted into the BSC.

### **Outcomes**

Passing the Bhakti Sastri Course allows you to enrol in the Bhakti Vaibhava Course.