

The ISKCON Disciple's Course (IDC)

Introduction

During their 2014 Annual General Meeting, ISKCON's Governing Board Commission resolved that all devotees wishing to receive initiation from an ISKCON guru must first pass the IDC. This was the first time that ISKCON instituted a standard worldwide system to train its new members in the specific duties of initiated disciples.

The IDC was developed by the leading educators in our Society, under the guidance of the Guru Services Committee. Although the Course is designed for new devotees preparing to take initiation in ISKCON, it is also recommended for our leaders, preachers, councillors and educators.

Purpose

The ISKCON Disciple's Course is designed to help you deepen your understanding of

1. *guru-tattva* (the truth about the spiritual master) and
2. *guru-padasraya* (applying his instructions) within the multiple-*guru* culture of ISKCON.

Pre-requisites

1. Chanting 16 rounds and following the 4 regulative principles for at least 6 months.
2. Fully reading Srila Prabhupada-lilamrta (unabridged edition) and successfully completing an essay on your reading.
3. Passing the Founder-Acharya Course

Content

This course focuses on Srila Prabhupada's unique, preeminent (supreme) position as Founder Acharya of ISKCON. During the IDC, students learn about the duties of being a disciple, the different ways of serving the guru, and the importance of respecting all vaishnavas. A section of the Course also discusses how to select a guru. The IDC explores relationships within ISKCON, and how initiation within the Society also means taking up the 'family business:' cultivating and propagating the Holy Name. Topics include:

1. *Guru-tattva* and the *Guru-parampara* System
2. Srila Prabhupada: ISKCON Founder-Acharya and Pre-eminent *Guru*
3. Types of *Gurus*
4. The Relationship between ISKCON *Gurus* and ISKCON Authorities
5. *Gurus* outside of ISKCON
6. *Guru-padasraya*
7. Selecting a *Guru*
8. Following Initiation Vows
9. *Guru-puja* and *Vyasa-puja*
10. Worship of ISKCON *Gurus*
11. *Guru Vapu* and *Vani Seva*
12. *Guru-tyaga*

13. Developing Co-operative Relationships in a Multi-*guru* Environment

The IDC is filled with interactive group work, role-playing, and group skits.

Schedule

The course generally includes 6 3-hour classes over 2 weekends, or it can be adapted for extended public holiday periods like Easter.

Outcomes

Attending and passing the IDC is a pre-requisite for applying for shelter or initiation through Hare Krishna Melbourne.