



Università  
Ca' Foscari  
Venezia

Dipartimento di Studi  
sull'Asia e sull'Africa  
Mediterranea



HUMANITIES &  
SOCIAL CHANGE  
Center at Ca' Foscari  
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# Buddhist Texts Summer School

The Life of the Buddha in Indian Texts: Approaching Pāli and Reading Sanskrit

**8 - 13 July 2019**

## Course description

The course aims to introduce students to the study of Buddhism through a direct approach to the literary Indian sources. As a first approach, what could be better than to start from the very beginning? The underlying theme of the course, indeed, will be the narrations of the life of the founder, that is the one who will be called by his followers with the epithet of Buddha "the Awakened One". The first days of the course are aimed at introducing students to the study and reading of the Pāli language, a Middle Indo-Aryan literary language closely related to pre-classical Sanskrit. The Pāli language is unfortunately still poorly studied (not only in Italy but also abroad), although it gives access to the only Buddhist canon in an Indian language that has come down to us in its entirety, namely the canon of the Theravāda school, called precisely Pāli canon. The objective of the first preparatory linguistic and grammatical lessons, by Dr. Andrea Drocco and Dr. Bryan De Notariis respectively, is to enable students to get introduced to the reading of a Pāli text concerning the life of the Buddha. These readings will be held by Professor Rupert Gethin, an internationally renowned Indologist and a leading scholar in Buddhist studies of the University of Bristol. Finally, Professor Marco Franceschini will read some selected passages from the Padyacūḍāmaṇi "The diadem of verses", a Sanskrit poem that narrates the life of the Buddha from conception to achievement of enlightenment.

## Venue

Ca' Cappello, San Polo 2035, Venice  
Ca' Dolfin, Dorsoduro 3825D, Venice

## Lecturers

**Dr. Bryan De Notariis**

University of Turin

**Dr. Andrea Drocco**

Ca' Foscari University of Venice

**Prof. Marco Franceschini**

University of Bologna

**Prof. Rupert Gethin**

University of Bristol

President of the Pāli Text Society

## Languages

All lessons will be taught in English

## Prerequisites

A prior basic knowledge of the Sanskrit language is required for the participation at the Summer School.

## Info

For any information please contact

**Dr. Andrea Drocco**

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<https://btssv2019.wixsite.com/btssv2019/>

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## Program

The detailed program is available at

<https://btssv2019.wixsite.com/btssv2019/detailed-program>

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