KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY
CENTRE FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES AT
RANGJUNG YESHE INSTITUTE

Web Syllabus

Course Code	BSTD 409
Course Title	Independent Research Project
Course Topic	The course topic is determined by the student and their supervisor
Credit	3
Semester, Year	Fall 2026
Course Delivery Mode	Individual meetings of student and supervisor
Prerequisites:	1) For BA students, completion of all required courses BSTD 101, 102, 203, 208 2) For MA Prep students, permission of their academic advisor 3) For everyone: Submission of a course proposal to, and confirmation by the Director of Studies

Course Description

The **Independent Research Project** offers students an opportunity to explore a subject of special interest, particularly one not offered in the regular curriculum. The focus of the research project should be a specific topic rather than general issues in Buddhist Studies.

Research projects are supervised by faculty members or other experts in the field of interest. Supervisors assist in planning projects, but responsibility for the design and execution of the project lies with the student. A written report or research paper of approximately 4,000 words is expected upon completion of the project.

Please note that students are expected to choose a topic for their research and request a faculty member to supervise their projects. Students may ask their academic advisors to assist in identifying a research topic and identifying a suitable supervisor.

The proposal needs to be sent to the Director of Studies by August 15, 2026. Without a confirmed proposal, the student needs to drop the course during orientation and register for another course before classes start.

Course Objectives

By the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

- Develop expertise in the chosen field of research
- Develop interesting and pertinent research questions
- Conduct research, applying various research methods
- Write an academic research article applying the methods and methodologies within the field of Buddhist Studies