



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS

Founder Acarya: His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

ISKCON: KZN - South Zone

Policy

on

*First and Second
Initiation*

Effective January 2017

First (Harinama) initiation

To qualify for first initiation in ISKCON KZN, a devotee must:

1. Chant a minimum of 16 rounds and follow the 4 regulative principles for a period of at least 6 months before applying for initiation.
2. At the end of the six month period, send a letter applying for initiation to the chosen spiritual master as well as to the administration office of the ISKCON-KZN South Zone
(See template for the application for first initiation [Annexure 2])
3. Continue practicing favourably for the next 12 months before any decision on approval is given.
4. During these 12 months after submitting the letter applying for initiation:
 - Continue to consistently chant a minimum of 16 rounds
 - Continue to follow the 4 regulative principles
 - Enrol for and complete the following courses if not done before:
 - o Introduction to ISKCON
(A 90 mins introductory course)
 - o Bhakti Sadacara Certificate
(A 30 hour course based on Vaisnava etiquette and a study of the book *The Science of Science Realisation*)
 - o Aspects of Spiritual Practice
(A 4 hour course based on various vaisnava spiritual practices such as japa, applying vaisnava tilak, offering food and performing arati)
 - o ISKCON Disciples Course
(A 20 hour course based on the qualities of a disciple and a guru and the relationship between the guru and the disciple)
 - Follow/attend a regular morning program at an ISKCON temple, centre, namahatta or at home
 - Develop a deep understanding of ISKCON philosophy and practice under the guidance of an endorsed ISKCON-KZN mentor in order to achieve all milestones described under the different Shiksa levels.
(Shiksa Levels – Annexure 1) (Application for a mentor – Annexure 3)
 - Engage in favourable devotional service
5. Only be involved in religious adherences sanctioned by ISKCON.
6. Only be engaged in behaviour that does not bring any disrepute to ISKCON.
7. After the period of 12 months has elapsed, receive approval from an ISKCON authority (manager of the ISKCON temple/centre in the South zone).

Second (Brahmana) Initiation:***To qualify for second initiation in ISKCON KZN, a devotee must:***

1. Be nominated for being considered for second initiation by an ISKCON authority (spiritual master/manager of the ISKCON temple/centre in the zone nearest to you).
2. Consistently maintain the vows and requirements of first initiation for a minimum of two years after being first initiated.
3. During the TWO years after first initiation:
 - Be engaged in regular devotional service at an ISKCON temple, centre or namahatta
 - Regularly attend programs at an ISKCON temple, centre or namahatta
 - Enrol for and complete the following courses if not done before:
 - o Overview introduction to the book *Bhagavad Gita As It Is* (10-hour course)
 - o Overview introduction to the book *Nectar of Instruction* (3-hour course)
 - o Overview introduction to the book *Sri Isopanisad* (4-hour course)
 - o Overview introduction to the book *Nectar of Devotion* (6-hour course)
 - o ISKCON Disciples Course
(A 20 hour course based on the qualities of a disciple and a guru and the relationship between the guru and the disciple)
4. Practice Krishna Consciousness under the guidance of an endorsed ISKCON KZN mentor.
5. After two years have elapsed, receive approval for second initiation from an ISKCON authority (manager of the ISKCON temple/centre in the South Zone).

What happens after you submit an application for first initiation

1. You will receive acknowledgement within TWO weeks.
2. You will be contacted for an initial meeting with the initiation committee within 3 months of your application.
3. In the meantime you will receive guidance and support from a mentor.
4. A final interview will be scheduled between 10-12 months after receiving your application.
5. By the end of the 12 month period you will receive a result on your application.

If you have not been recommended you can appeal the decision.

If you have been recommended you will be kept informed of the date set by your spiritual master for the initiation ceremony.

Enquiries

Kamala-sundari Dasi

Kamala-sundari@iskcondurban.net or fax to 031-4034429 or phone 031-4033328

Balaram Das

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Bhakti Lata Levels

Level	Min. no. of rounds chanted	Mantras & Prayers to be known	Spiritual Practices, Services And Contributions	Regulative Principles	Education
1	one	Hare Krsna Maha mantra (by memory)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should attend temple and/or Nama Hattā programmes whenever possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must accept that Sri Krsna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended to regularly read from Srila Prabhupada's books (a page or two per day)
2	four	Panca-tattva Maha-mantra (by memory)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fulfills the commitments of Level 1 Should regularly (weekly) attend temple or Nama Hattā programmes (including lecture & kirtan/arati) as far as possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must not eat beef. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend <i>Introduction to ISKCON</i> course
3	four	Srila Prabhupada Pranati (by memory)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fulfills the commitments of Level 2 Should engage in practical devotional service to Lord Krsna at ISKCON festivals such as Janmastami, Rathayatra etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be strictly vegetarian (no meat, fish or eggs) Should be dedicated to personal improvement Should avoid socially immoral acts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended to regularly read from Srila Prabhupada's books (3-4 pages per day)
4	eight	Namo Maha Vadayaya ... Namo Brahmanya-devaya (can be read)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fulfills the commitments of Level 3 Should establish an altar at home with pictures of Srila Prabhupada, the Panca-tattva etc. Should offer food to Krsna whenever possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must not drink alcohol beverages or take intoxicating drugs (not including coffee, tea and cigarettes). Must not engage in major gambling such as going to casinos. No extra-marital sex. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend <i>Aspects of Spiritual Practice</i> course
5	twelve	Sri Vaisnava Pranama (by memory) Mantras for applying Tilaka Tulasi Arati Prayers (can be read)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fulfills the commitments of Level 4 Should bathe before sunrise if possible. Should apply full <i>tilaka</i> (at least water <i>tilaka</i>) after every bath or shower. Should regularly offer food to Krsna 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No onions or garlic. No gambling including horse racing and lotto. Should observe fasting on Ekadasi and festival days as indicated on the Vaisnava calendar. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended to systematically study Srila Prabhupada's biography and books
6	sixteen	Sri Guru Vandana (can be read)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fulfills the commitment of Level 5 Should rise early (4-5 am) for chanting Should know how to offer a simple arati Must take up some committed service in Lord Caitanya's movement Should commit oneself to regularly contribute time and/or money to Krsna's service Should avoid mundane (except educational) cinemas, TV and videos. Should always wear <i>tulasi</i> neck beads. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must not take any intoxication including coffee, tea and cigarettes. Must not eat food which has not been offered to Krishna Must not engage in illicit sex. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain a <i>Bhakti-Sadacara Certificate (Living in Krishna Consciousness)</i>

Level	Min. no. of rounds chanted	Mantras & Prayers to be known	Spiritual Practices, Services And Contributions	Regulative Principles	Education
7	sixteen	Guru Pranama Mantra (by memory) Nishima Prayers Ten offenses to be avoided while chanting (can read)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has faithfully fulfilled the commitments of Level 6 for at least six months. (ISKCON Law) Must be accepted by the prospective guru. Must receive a recommendation from an ISKCON authority. Should rise early in the morning and follow a programme similar to the temple's as far as possible. May keep a picture of his/her prospective initiating guru on the altar. Should engage in preaching according to one's capacity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should be able to identify the various pictures on the altar of the guru-parampara 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the ISKCON Disciples Course
7	sixteen	Guru Pranama Mantra (by memory) Nishima Prayers Ten offenses to be avoided while chanting (can read)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has faithfully fulfilled the commitments of Level 6 for at least six months. Must be accepted by the prospective guru. Must receive a recommendation from an ISKCON authority. Should rise early in the morning and follow a programme similar to the temples as far as possible. May keep a picture of his/her prospective initiating guru on the altar. Should engage in preaching according to one's capacity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should be able to identify the various pictures on the altar of the guru-parampara 	
8	Sixteen	Trnad Api Sunicena (by memory) Sri Sri Guru-astaka (can be read)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has faithfully fulfilled the commitments of Level 7 for at least twelve months. Must receive a recommendation from an ISKCON authority after applying for first initiation Should follow morning and/or evening programs as far as possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should not have an occupation which is contrary to the regulative principles (for example being a butcher). Grhastas must understand and try to execute the responsibilities of their asrama 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend introductory courses on <i>Bhagavad Gita As It Is, Nectar of Devotion, Nectar of Instruction and Sri Isopanisad and ISKCON Disciples Course</i> (if not done before) Attend the <i>Deity Worship</i> course
9	Sixteen	Prema Dhvani (can be read)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has faithfully fulfilled the commitments of First Initiation for at least 24 months Must receive a recommendation from an ISKCON authority. 		



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APPLICATION FOR HARINAM INITIATION (First Initiation)

The Temple President/Spiritual Master

Please accept my humble obeisances. All glories to Srila Prabhupada.

I humbly apply for permission to take Harinam Initiation from (name of spiritual master) _____. I have been taking shelter of my spiritual master for _____ years and _____ months and wish to accept him as my *diksha* guru. I have chosen my particular spiritual master as my *diksha* guru because ...

I am current chanting _____ rounds daily and have been chanting this number of rounds for _____ years.

Besides the chanting, my spiritual practice at home includes the following:-

Outside of home, I am involved in the following service/s:-

I have undertaken the following courses offered by the Bhaktivedanta College of Education and Culture. (attach copies of certificates for courses attended)

A reference can be obtained from my ISKCON:KZN-South Zone mentor _____ whose contact details are as follows:

Phone (H): _____ Phone (W): _____ Phone (C): _____

A reference can also be obtained from the following devotee _____ under whose supervision I am rendering service and whose contact details are as follows:

Phone (H): _____ Phone (W): _____ Phone (C): _____

My contact details are as follows:

Phone (H): _____ E-mail _____ Phone (C): _____

My address is as follows:

House number: _____ Street Name: _____ Suburb: _____

I have attached a copy of my ID document.

Full Names of Applicant Signature of Applicant Date of Birth Date of application

One copy of this letter must be sent to your spiritual master AND one copy of this letter must be sent to the Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Temple. You may mail to vcd.kks@me.com or Kamala-sundari@iskcondurban.net or fax to 031-4034429 or phone 031-4033328 for queries.



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BHAKTI LATA

SOUTH ZONE

APPLICATION FOR A MENTOR

Firstname/s					
Surname					
Initiated name (if applicable)		Date of 1st Initiation		Spiritual Master	
Residential Address					Code
Postal Address (only if different from residential address)					Code
Date of Birth		Phone(Home)			
Phone(Work)		Fax No			
Cell No.		e-mail address			
For how many years have you been in ISKCON?					
How many rounds of the Maha Mantra are you currently chanting?					
If you are attending any Nama Hatta, please provide name of Nama Hatta leader and contact details		Name:			
		Phone:			
At what level of the Bhakti Lata program (Level 1-8) do you consider yourself to be currently situated at?					
State if you are rendering any service to ISKCON and if so, state the name of the devotee under whom the service is being rendered		Service:			
		Name of devotee:			
What special skills do you possess that you would like to offer in the service of Krishna?					
What other special interests do you have?					

 Signature

 Date

Send registration form to the Sri Sri Radha Radhanath Temple.

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