

Dharma Realm Buddhist University Reopens Campus With Largest, Most Diverse Student Cohort to Date

法界佛教大學校園重開，迎來多元化最大班

By DRBU News

法界佛教大學訊



As the pandemic continues to plague the world, Dharma Realm Buddhist University (DRBU) remains a resilient place of inspiration for the world in these times of uncertainty. This fall, DRBU is reopening to welcome the new and returning students coming to campus, including the largest incoming MA cohort of sixteen and Translation Program cohort of nine, and two young students joining the BA. Geographically, the students come from around the world: Singapore, Malaysia, China, Canada, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and various parts of the US.

DRBU will implement enhanced health and safety measures to ensure the well-being of students, faculty, and those living in the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. DRBU requires vaccinations for all students, faculty, and staff, while continuing to enforce masking and social distancing throughout the campus public spaces,

全球疫情持續延燒，在這不確定的年代中，法界佛教大學（法大）成為世界上一個啟迪人心、充滿活力的地方。今年秋季班，法大校園重開，迎接新舊學生，包括（新學程）最大的碩士班，計有16名碩士生；翻譯研習碩士班有9名學生；大學部則有兩位新生加入。就地理分佈而言，這些學生來自全球各地：新加坡、馬來西亞、中國、加拿大、尼泊爾、斯里蘭卡、以及全美多州。

法大將加強健康安全措施，以確保全校師生乃至萬佛聖城住眾的平安。因應地方疫情以及公共衛生法令，法大要求所有教職員與學生都必須注射疫苗；在校園各角落、教室內、所有設施，大家都必須戴口罩，保持安全

classrooms, and facilities, responsive to the changing local pandemic conditions and public health mandates. Through a partnership with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), DRBU will also offer regular on-campus rapid antigen testing.

“The strength of the community at DRBU is derived from the level of care integrated into everything we do,” says President Susan Rounds. “The new COVID safety protocols will protect the short-term and long-term health of those on campus, while enabling students to experience the spiritual environment and community that DRBU is known for.”

DRBU estimates having a total of fifty students this year, the largest and the most diverse student body to date. Among them, 12% are monastics, and 27% are international, with sixty years apart between the youngest and the oldest. This year, the new students’ backgrounds range from medical doctor to theater artist, from new spiritual seekers to monastics, from a Native American and Black community activist to graduates from St. John’s College, a renowned Great Books institution. Different causes and conditions brought them to DRBU.

Some students came because they read a sutra; some came because of their parents’ affinity with the Venerable Master Hsuan Hua; some want to go deeper with the teachings of the texts even after fifty years of practice; some came because of their love for languages in Buddhist texts translation; some came because they see the disconnection in the world and want to cultivate meaningful relationships.

Wayne Chen, the Director of Admissions and Financial Aid, said, “DRBU is growing. The students this year all have overcome many obstacles in order to come. DRBU attracts many students who ask deeper human questions. It brings me tremendous joy to welcome them to campus to continue their personal and spiritual journeys at DRBU.”

In nature, diversity makes an ecosystem more resilient; in DRBU, diversity further strengthens the resilience of this expanding community. Despite the many constraints that the pandemic has put on our individual and collective lives, it cannot stop the present and future DRBU students from coming together to delve deeply into the timeless ancient wisdom, pursue the highest human potential, and explore “freedom in the deepest sense.” ❀

距離。法大也和加州衛生廳合作，在校園內定期提供快速新冠篩檢。

法大校長蘇珊·朗思指出：「法大這個大家庭的力量，來自我們在所做的每件事情上都融入了高度的關懷。新的防疫規定不僅保護校園內所有人的短期和長期健康，也讓學生得以體驗法大著名的性靈環境和社區。」

法大估計今秋總計有50名學生，是（新學程）學生人數最多也最多元化的一年。學生當中，12%為出家眾，27%為國際學生，年紀最輕和年紀最長的學生相差60歲；他們的背景有醫生、劇場藝術家、性靈探索新手、僧眾、美國原住民與非洲裔社區活動人士、還有以「巨作制度」聞名的聖約翰學院畢業生。不同的因緣，將這些不同背景的人帶來法大。

有的學生來法大求學，是因為讀了一部佛經；有的是因為父母和宣公上人的因緣；有些人在修行50年之後，希望更深入經藏；有些人則是因為喜愛佛經翻譯；還有些人來上法大，是因為看到這個世界的脫節，希望修行出有意義的連結和關係。

法大招生與獎助學金部門主任陳頌明說：「法大正在成長中。今年入學的學生都是克服了许多障礙才能前來。法大吸引了許多能夠提出深刻人性問題的學生。我非常高興能夠歡迎這些學生來到校園，在法大繼續他們的個人和性靈旅程。」

在自然界，多元化使生態系統更有活力；在法大，學生的多元化進一步強化我們這個正在擴充中的大家庭的活力。縱使疫情為我們的個人生活和團體生活造成許多限制，但無法阻止現在和未來的法大學生聚在一起，共同研究歷久彌新的古老智慧，追尋人類最高的潛能，並探索「最深刻意義的自由」。❀