

Selection of Outside Teachers

This policy provides guidance to the Retreat Committee for selection of outside teachers. This policy does not apply to DZIMC lay leaders/teachers. For those individuals see the policy titled Community Leadership.

Process

1. Any member of the DZ community may suggest a teacher to the Retreat Committee.
2. The Retreat Committee researches the teacher's background to determine whether the teacher meets the criteria listed below.
3. If the Retreat Committee agrees the teacher meets criteria, then an invitation may be extended.
4. If the proposed teacher does not meet this criteria, they may co-teach with a teacher who does meet criteria.
5. If the proposed teacher does not meet this criteria, they may be invited if the DZ Dharma Leaders agree by consensus.

Criteria

A. Non-residential retreats

1. 5+ years training in the Theravadan tradition and,
2. 1+ years experience leading Theravadan retreats

B. Residential retreats

Proposed teacher must meet any one of the following criteria:

1. Is an established teacher at a recognized Theravadan retreat center*, or
2. Is a graduate of a teacher training or mentoring program associated with a recognized Theravadan retreat center*, or
3. Is recommended by another recognized Theravadan teacher [e.g., Santikaro by Leigh Brasington, Amita by Michael Freeman, Adam Stonebreaker by John Travis], or
4. Meets all the following criteria:
 - a. 10+ years training in the Theravadan tradition, and
 - b. 3+ years experience leading residential Theravadan retreats of the same length or longer as that proposed at a recognized retreat center, and
 - c. Authorized to teach by (received transmission from) a recognized, established teacher in the Theravadan tradition

*Examples of recognized Theravadan retreat centers include: Spirit Rock, Insight Meditation Society, Insight Retreat Center, Cloud Mountain Retreat Center, Barre Center for Buddhist Studies, Sacramento Insight Meditation

Adopted by DZIMC Board Resolution on January 19, 2025.