

Buddhist offerings in Hospital Chaplaincy

By Professor of Buddhist Philosophy
Dr Khenpo Ngawang Jorden

Multi-Faith Centre (N35)
1.05, Nathan Campus
Griffith University
170 Kessels Rd,
Nathan, Brisbane

Inquiries: 07 3735 7052

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About Dr Khenpo Ngawang JORDEN

Dr Jorden holds the title “Khenpo” (Abbot) for his skill and experience as a Professor of Buddhist Philosophy. The title “Khenpo” has at least three meanings in Tibetan Buddhism:

- a scholar who has completed an extensive course of study in sutra and tantra;
- a senior Lama who can perform ordinations; and
- the head of a monastery.

The Khenpos have been the main channels for keeping the purity of Buddha's teachings alive from generation to generation within the Tibetan monastic tradition, acting as a kind of university tradition. It is extremely rare for monks or Lamas to qualify as a Khenpo; it is bestowed in recognition of special qualities such as profound knowledge and extraordinary skill in helping to teach others. (“Ngawang” –pronounced “ ngag-dbang” – is a Tibetan honorific meaning “powerful voice.”)

Dr Jorden holds a PhD from Harvard's Department of Sanskrit and Indian Studies, a Master of Theological Studies from Harvard’s Divinity School, a Kachupa (“Holder of the Ten Scriptures”) degree and a Loppon degree (Acharya or “Master of Arts”) in the Buddhist Sakya tradition.

After teaching in America for 20 years, primarily at the University of Chicago, he returned to Nepal in 2008 to take up his present duties as Professor, Abbot, Principal and Director of the International Buddhist Academy in Kathmandu.

While in America, he gained considerable experience as a hospital chaplain and his talk will focus on the Buddhism and its role in Hospital Chaplaincy.

Dr Jorden was invited to Queensland by the Rongton Buddhist Centre at Newmarket in Brisbane. This presentation is being hosted jointly by the Griffith University Multi-Faith Centre and the Multifaith Academy for Chaplaincy and Community Ministries.