

**LEARNING RESIDENCY PROGRAM**

**INFORMATION & APPLICATION**

The intent of this information sheet is to provide prospective interns a clear idea of what Ashram life is like. Please read it thoroughly before completing your application. Our Learning Residencies are unique in that they combine spiritual development with hands on experience in the Learning Residency areas.

All applicants will need to include a resume, completed application form and at least two work/character reference letters with their application.

**New to Yasodhara Ashram?**

If you are new to the Ashram we ask all accepted applicants to start with a minimum four-week commitment. After four weeks, we will extend your Learning Residency to the full term date, provided both parties feel there is a good fit between Learning Resident and Ashram.

**What is Yasodhara Ashram?**

The Ashram is a spiritual community that continues to celebrate founder Swami Sivananda Radha’s yogic teachings, which she has adapted for the Western practitioner. Yasodhara Ashram was established at Kootenay Bay in 1963. The Ashram is a registered charity and a thriving retreat and study centre with a diverse offering of yogic practices. Hatha yoga, the physical practice that most people associate with the word "yoga," is only one part of what we do here. Our practices, as well as courses and workshops that are offered throughout the year, are described in greater detail on the Ashram website.

**What is "Karma Yoga"?**

The main spiritual practice here at the Ashram is Karma Yoga, the practice of selfless service. This means the work we do not only contributes to the functioning of the Ashram (cleaning rooms, preparing meals, maintaining the buildings and grounds, growing and preserving food and much more), but is also used as a tool to help us understand who we are in the world, our life's purpose, and what we have to offer. Participants in the Learning Residency program are required to participate in 8 hours/day of Karma Yoga, as well as the morning Hatha Yoga classes, evening Satsang (chanting and prayers) and weekly classes.

**What is the Learning Residency Program?**

The Yasodhara Learning Residency program provides an opportunity for personal exploration and skills development in a well-established spiritual community. Participants will be introduced to the different forms of yoga (for example hatha, karma, kundalini, bhakti and mantra), and learn how they can be practically applied in everyday life situations, both within and outside of the Ashram. Learning Residents will be immersed in their interest areas, gaining valuable hands on experience, which will be transferrable to other work contexts.

This program is designed to give participants the tools needed to build a solid foundation for the present and future both personally and professionally.

As a Learning Resident you will become an important part of the community. Hatha Yoga, evening Satsang, and weekly classes will help strengthen your understanding of the Ashram teachings. Occasionally there will be a half-day workshop to enhance your understanding of the yogic tools used at the Ashram, complementing your Learning Residency work. An important aspect of this program is learning to work within a spiritual community based on the teachings of Swami Radha. Participating in all aspects of the Ashram also helps us support the atmosphere that has been built up over many years of spiritual practices.

**Daily Schedule:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 6:50 – 7:50 | Hatha Yoga class, or occasional chanting |
| 8 - 8:30 | Breakfast |
| 8:30 -12:30 | Karma Yoga (work as spiritual practice) |
| 12:30 -1:30 | Lunch |
| 1:30 - 5:30 | Karma Yoga (work as spiritual practice) |
| 3:30 - 4 | Reflection Break |
| 6 - 6:30 | Dinner |
| 7:30-8:30 | Satsang - Satsang is a Sanskrit word meaning “in the company of the wise”. The community gathers together for devotional singing and talks about experiences on the spiritual path. |

Please note that all meals are eaten in silence to support personal reflection.

**Specific to this community**

**Drugs and alcohol**

Drugs and alcohol are not permitted in this program. Neither drugs nor alcohol are necessary for spiritual growth.

Upon your arrival you will be asked to sign an agreement that you will not use or possess drugs or alcohol. Anyone found possessing or using these will be asked to leave the Ashram within 24 hours. There is a designated smoking area in the parking lot at the south end of the Ashram for people who smoke tobacco.

**Relationships and sex**

The Ashram is a celibate community. At the Ashram you have the opportunity to look inward and develop a solid foundation for yourself. Because our focus is on character building, self-reliance and emotional independence, we do not encourage romantic or exclusive relationships. You are asked to dress modestly, and not to enter other people’s private living spaces for the purpose of socializing.

**Yasodhara Ashram is a ‘Closed Retreat’ community**

Participants in the Yasodhara Learning Residency Program are asked to remain on the Ashram property for the duration of their time in the program apart from the specified days away that are arranged for each person. If it becomes necessary to leave at any time due to unforeseen or extenuating circumstances, Learning Residents are asked to notify the office in writing. It is important for us to know who is on site, in case of fire or emergencies.

**YASODHARA ASHRAM**

**LEARNING RESIDENCY APPLICATION**

**Applicant Information**

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Gender \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ (m/d/y) Age\_\_\_\_\_\_

Today’s Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Home Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Province/State\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Post/Zip \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Learning Residency and Intake Dates**

**Please choose one.** You are welcome to apply for more than one Learning Residency, please complete an application for each area of interest.

**Length of stay:** Our Learning Residencies vary in length from **4 – 8 months** depending on the area. Preference will be given to applicants who can match this availability but we will consider other availabilities.

**\_\_\_\_ GARDEN -** **April 4 (preferred), May 2, May 30**

**\_\_\_\_ PRESERVING KITCHEN -** **May 2 (preferred), May 30**

**\_\_\_\_ FOOD SYSTEMS -** **May 2 (preferred), May 30**

**\_\_\_\_ HOSPITALITY - March 7, April 4, May 2, May 30 (intake is also ongoing throughout the year)**

**\_\_\_\_ LANDS & GROUNDSKEEPING -** **April 4, May 2, May 30**

**\_\_\_\_ KITCHEN - April 4, May 2, May 30 (intake is also ongoing throughout the year)**

**\_\_\_\_ INFRASTRUCTURE - March 7, April 4, May 2, May 30 (intake is also ongoing throughout the year)**

While your work will be focused in your chosen area, we often help out in other areas depending on the needs of the Ashram.

Please indicate preferred arrival and departures dates \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Financial Considerations**

The Yasodhara Learning Residency Program is an opportunity for people to contribute to and support a thriving spiritual community while working within your Learning Residency specialty. This program engages you in the practice of Karma Yoga or selfless service. Learning to work with mindfulness, quality and an understanding of symbolism are all skills that are transferable to your work when you leave the Ashram.  In addition you will gain valuable learning related to your Learning Residency area.

Learning Residencies provide room and board, which includes shared accommodation and meals, a value of $1200 per month. Modest stipends are available to those who have a financial need.

Most Learning Residents find they need at least $60/month for telephone, laundry and other sundries.

Please indicate your financial situation:

* I am financially able to cover my living costs, above room and board, during my Learning Residency.
* I am in need of a modest stipend to supplement or cover my costs.

**APPLICATION REVIEW**

**Please attach**

1. Updated resume addressing the experience and qualifications in the Learning Residency area you are applying for
2. Letter of intent including:
   1. your interest the area you have selected
   2. ability and experience
   3. desire for learning /living within this particular community
   4. a brief description of your previous experience with yoga here or elsewhere
3. Completed Health Form (provided below)
4. At least two work/character reference letters are also required in your proposal to participate in the Yasodhara Learning Residency Program.
5. Completed copy of this application form

Your application can be submitted by mail or email. Please keep processing time in mind when submitting your application. Feel free to contact us by phone or email with any questions, or for more information.

**Yasodhara Ashram**

PO Box 9 • Kootenay Bay BC • V0B 1X0 • Canada

[servicelearning@yasodhara.org](mailto:servicelearning@yasodhara.org) • [www.yasodhara.org](http://www.yasodhara.org/)

250.227.9224 or 1.800.661.8711

**Health Information Form**

We are located quite a distance (1.5 hours) from health care and emergency services. Health services can be quite costly for individuals who do not have adequate health insurance coverage. For example, one trip to the hospital in an ambulance costs about $400.00, just for the trip alone.

If you are from outside the country, you will need to provide us a copy of your health insurance policy that is valid for your time in Canada. If from Canada, you will need to have a valid health care card. Otherwise, you will need to purchase emergency travel insurance for your time here. Your acceptance into the program is dependent on this document.

What is the status of your health insurance coverage? Briefly describe the name of your plan, and what coverage it provides.

Do you have funds available to you to cover possible medical related costs that may be incurred while you are here at the Ashram? Please describe how you would be able to access these funds in the case of an emergency.

Do you have any physical conditions that could affect your participation in daily activities? If yes, please describe.

Do you have any emotional or mental conditions that may affect you during your stay? If yes, please describe.

Are you currently under the care of a therapist, counselor or physician? If yes, please describe.

Are you currently taking any medication? If yes, please describe.

Do you smoke?

Are you currently or have you in the past struggled with substance abuse, dependency or addiction? If yes, please provide details including any treatment or recovery program:

Do you have any communicable health conditions that may require extra precautions be taken to protect others with whom you may be living? (E.g., athlete’s foot). If yes, please describe the condition and precautions you take.

What additional support would you need from us to enable you to be here given what you have stated above?