



Frequently asked questions

What is the work commitment of the program?

Each student will have their own working style, so the amount of time spent on the program will vary from person to person. Each month there will be associated readings and written or self exploration or teaching assignments. You will also have a monthly mentorship session either in person or live online with Aparna.

The program is designed to give you the depth and experience needed to become a well-trained meditation teacher while also working within your busy schedule. As with any program of this nature, you will get out of it what you put into it. Based on input from previous students, we can estimate up to 3 hours per week plus your monthly mentorship.

How can I prepare for the program?

We share in your excitement for the start of the program and appreciate your desire to be prepared.. If you have a meditation practice continue with your daily practice. If you don't, consider joining our weekly meditation classes or intensives to get you started on a practice. Once your application is accepted and deposit paid we will send you a required text list and suggested reading list. You can start to read these texts to get a sense of the program and the training.

Specifically what topics are included in the curriculum of the program?

PLEASE SEE THE DOCUMENT "SPECIFIC MODULES ASND DATES FOR MORE IN DEPTH INFORMATION.

- Mindfulness techniques, including: body scans, mindful movement, concentration, inquiry, open awareness, heart meditations
- Awareness as it relates to our body, feelings, emotions, and states of mind
- The effects of meditation (research and statistics)
- Skills and confidence in giving talks, conducting individual and small group sessions with students, and responding to questions
- Origins of emotional suffering from a perspective of evolutionary psychology and teachings on understanding how to find deep healing, happiness, and freedom in our lives
- Meditations to cultivate forgiveness, compassion, lovingkindness, joy, and peace
- How to apply meditation to address physical pain, emotional challenges, trauma, relational difficulties, and interpersonal conflict
- Trauma sensitive modifications including understanding social context and its relationship to trauma
- Bringing awareness to movement and engaging with a somatic experience of meditation
- Allowing mindfulness and compassion to transform consciousness, leading us to actively engage with healing our earth's environment as well as social injustice, racism, violence, and other expressions of suffering in our world
- Manifesting diverse classes, teaching & teaching leadership
- How to design and promote classes and workshops in order to create a community of dedicated learners
- How to handle ethical issues in teaching and the student-teacher relationship

What can I expect from the mentoring sessions and how do they take place?

The mentorship program consists of a monthly 60 min in person or live online session with Aparna to collectively discuss your personal questions on the program material, practice exercises together as well as put emphasis on your personal growth through addressing your particular life challenges as well as provide you caring feedback to help foster your understanding and growth.. It is a critical part of your training to become a teacher and will provide you with support and community as you move through the program.

Mentoring sessions are scheduled every month based on your and Aparna's schedule allowing everyone flexibility to attend as convenient. These sessions are mandatory.

Why are there personal questions relating to relationships and psychology in the application?

Teaching mindfulness requires self-awareness, emotional intelligence, and interpersonal skills. This does not mean that struggles with difficult emotions, addictions, or relationships are considered a "problem." Life challenges can actually serve our maturing, understanding, and compassion for others. Since people often come to meditation for help with their suffering and struggles, the questions are aimed at gaining a sense of how aware and equipped each candidate will be in responding to the difficulties that arise in their own lives and that they will encounter among their students.

Why do I see the Trauma Sensitive Mindfulness (TSM) meditation teacher training as a separate training even though it looks like it is a part of the 2 year program?

Our TSM meditation training is the 2nd module in the 2nd year of the Meditation Teacher program. We open this module to other wellness facilitators who though interested in learning trauma sensitive mindfulness modifications may not be interested in a 2 year program for teaching

meditation. In other words, the TSM module is a part of our 2 year training program but is also open to those who are interested just in that topic.

What is Inner Alchemy?

The Inner Alchemy school of meditation trainings is an off-shoot or sub-school of Yogasaar that Aparna's started specifically to offer meditation trainings, immersions and intensives. Her meditation cd's also carry the same name.