

SENS

School of English
for Engaged Social Service

January 12 - April 5, 2025
Wongsanit Ashram, Thailand



Theme for SENS 2025:

Building Community from the Ground Up
Share the Joy of Learning and Working Together

The INEB Institute

The School of English for Engaged Social Service (SENS) is a project of the Institute for Transformative Learning of the International Network of Engaged Buddhists (The INEB Institute) under the umbrella of the Sathirakoses-Nagapradipa Foundation, registered in Thailand.



For more information:
<http://inebinstitute.org/eng>
Contact: info@inebinstitute.org



มูลนิธิเครือข่ายปัญญาศึกษา
Sathirakoses-Nagapradipa Foundation





● Our Mission

To develop an English language program as a model to be shared:

- of socially conscious language learning
- that allows for rapid, enjoyable, and successful mastery of language skills
- in a rich, cooperative learning environment
- that fosters personal growth and social engagement
- as a contribution to peace, justice, understanding, and sustainability worldwide.



● Term Dates

January 12 - April 5, 2025

January 12 – February 20

- Term 1, beginning Jan. 12th. Students should arrive Jan 10th or 11th.

February 21 – 25

- Students may rest or travel during the five-day midterm break.

February 26 – April 5

- Term 2, culminating in the graduation ceremony on April 5th, 2025.

● Tuition Fees & Living Expenses

6,000 USD or 200,000 Baht*

This fee covers tuition, fieldtrips, Internet access, private tutoring, group excursions, insurance, three healthy meals per day, snacks, and simple but comfortable and safe lodging.**

*Partial and full scholarships are available, based on merit and need.

**Travel from home country to Thailand and visa fees, as well as other costs outside the course dates, are not included in the total \$6,000 fee.

● Home Campus

Wongsanit Ashram
Nakhon Nayok, Thailand



Our students are inspired through SENS to change the world. Change theirs by donating to our scholarship fund! They (and all of us) will be forever grateful. Please visit: <http://inebinstitute.org/donation>

● Who Would Benefit as a Student?

We encourage you to apply if

- Your English is already intermediate level or better.
- You want to use your mind and your skills to work for personal growth and for the good of everyone.
- You love learning, especially in the company of others.
- You are committed to doing the work necessary to learn English well.
- You are adaptable and have lots of energy.



The SENS program seeks students who are committed to working for the larger good, who are able to listen attentively to others, and who can think independently. We extend a special invitation to English and other teachers with an interest in new methods, especially how we combine language skills training with encouragement of personal growth and social and ecological awareness.

We welcome students from any country, regardless of age, occupation, and social or religious status. (But minimum age is 18!) We are happy to accept laypeople as well as those who have chosen a religious vocation. We aim to form a diverse cohort of students who identify with Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, or an indigenous tradition—or who follow secular or other forms of self-cultivation, ethical orientation, and spiritual practice.

We encourage you to apply even if you do not have the funds to pay for the program. Priority given to applications received by October 17th.

Places open for up to 18 students.

● Volunteer Tutor Program

We encourage you to apply if

- Your English is already intermediate level or better.
- You are a native or near native English speaker.
- You like people and are highly conscientious and responsible.
- You would like to learn about leadership, effective listening, meditation, climate justice, Thailand, Buddhism, and transformative teaching methods.
- You want to practice teaching and leading others.

We are seeking volunteer tutors who will assist the primary teachers in the class room and lead small-group and one-on-one conversations outside of class. Some applicants who are English teachers may qualify as tutors. Volunteer tutors will receive free room and board, and free travel on group excursions.



● How to Apply as a Student or Tutor:

Students & English Teacher Participants

- You should download and fill out the application form from <http://inebinstitute.org/apply/>
- Save the completed application as a new file that includes your name and the program in the title of the document. For example: Sam-SENS2023Application
- Send an email with your application attached to director@inebinstitute.org

Tutors

- Tutors should send us a cover letter, a sample of your writing, and a CV, including two unrelated references at director@inebinstitute.org.

For those passing the first selection we will make an appointment with you for an interview online.

Building Community from the Ground up - Share the Joy of Learning and Working Together

War broke out in Europe in 2022, and in the Middle East in 2023. Evidence of the climate crisis continues to mount: heat waves, wildfires, floods, and the extinction of species. The world has become more unequal, and those preaching hatred and the dominance of one group over another have become louder and entered more governments.

In the midst of this can we still live beautiful and meaningful lives? Yes! Never were the possibilities greater. But how will we do that? One step is to live a life that responds meaningfully, that works to resolve these problems rather than merely seeking a place of personal comfort. Another simple but powerful step is to bridge the gaps that exist between us, whether they be generation or wealth gaps, the gaps created by racism, sexism, Islamophobia or by any exclusion of those who live or believe differently.

The wisest among us—spiritual leaders, writers, artists, historians, activists, and others—have seen the underlying unity of all humans and cherished the web of existence that binds us. By joining SENS 2025 you can be part of “Building Community from the Ground Up” for everyone, practicing caring for each other and sustaining life in all its forms. The challenges are at the planetary scale, and this is yet another reason that we need each other. Let us learn together how to accept, and then take on the global situation we face, each in our own way. Let us rediscover the joy of learning and working together. Strengthening our ability to communicate in English, learning to listen with genuine attention, growing in our understanding of the contemporary social and ecological world can be small parts of a bigger solution. This is what we intend in SENS 2025.



● What Participants Say about SENS

Before this program, whenever I wanted to contribute to my society I felt I was useless and not intelligent. Now I feel I can do anything for myself and my society if I trust my intelligence and ability.

Before this program, I didn't feel it's fun to learn English but thanks to you now I really enjoy learning English and other topics. ... Thanks to you, I can say my real feelings and say “No” more often and I'm not afraid of making a mistake. I learned from you about how to care for others, how to study, and how to have a good relationship. You also encouraged me a lot. This is my greatest pleasure, to meet all of you. Thank you so much.

Tomoyo Ikeda ~ Japan

One of the best lessons that I learnt from this program is Co-Counseling. It gave me a safe space to cry as much as I wanted and laugh as well. It is important to heal our memories to see the way forward. Now I am willing to be a good listener to support people who want to share their feelings and painful memories. It is very useful in real life, and I will keep learning to apply it.

When I first came to this program, everyone welcomed me warmly and I started seeing things differently. When I made mistakes, everyone applauded and encouraged me to keep going. When I shared my challenging experiences, everyone listened to me with care and full attention.

Hta Mu ~ Karen State, Myanmar

When I came to SENS as a student, I felt as if I entered a new world. Here we discuss about various topics with freedom of speech: inequality, poverty, the ecological crisis, Co-Counseling, as well as sharing and listening to each other.

Sharing and listening are very important. Because now they are very rare in our world. If we create a comfortable space for sharing it will help both people. When we listen to others as a human, as a friend, we will develop our love and patience. When we share something, we will be free, and we will have more clarity about our problems. So please make space for listening to others. Please use the opportunity.

Maneesh Syamala Soman ~ Kerala, India

One thing I loved was learning English by experiencing and immersing myself in it. I loved the many games and discussions we had in class. In field trips, we also met inspiring leaders in Buddhism and social activists. I loved the reflection assignments after field trips and movies. It gave me the chance to appreciate life and others, and it was effective for reviewing the lessons I could draw.

SENS gave me the peaceful and lovely environment I needed to get out of my apathy towards all the violence, social inequality, and divisions in the world. I faced many fears in a safe and supportive space. I now see more clearly how I am—how all of us are—inter-connected with each other and with these problems!

Dinh Thi Thuy Linh ~ Vietnam