

Whirling Dervish Training Application Form

If you are interested in the Turning Training at The Study Society, we ask that you complete this form so that we can gain an understanding of you and your background. This will allow us to provide the best possible care and instruction.

Filling out this form does not automatically mean that you will be accepted onto the Turning Training course. First, we read each application carefully and verify that the Training is suitable for each applicant. We then short-list the applications based on the effort and clarity with which the form is completed and invite applicants in for an interview.

We want to be transparent about our level of expectations from each applicant, thus allowing you to you clearly understand what we require from students during the Turning Training. The form also gives us an opportunity to understand what you require from the teacher during the Training. The training is a deep routed journey between the student and teacher.

At The Study Society, we honour the lineages which have been passed on to us; the Mevlevi Turning, the Mantra Meditation and the Advaita Philosophy which are all taught here. Although we accept people from diverse cultural backgrounds, we offer a traditional Training, which has not been diluted in any way. It is very much a disciplined training and practice.

New Turning students are accepted on the basis of available space and the level of commitment expressed in the application form in addition to the Tuesday practice sessions.

DISCIPLINE

We look for students who are currently searching for, or are actively engaged in, a spiritual and/or physical discipline such as yoga, martial arts, dance, or meditation. The key word here is discipline. The Turning Training is very intense and will challenge you on many levels and thus requires discipline.

If this is a concern, then you need to consider if this Training is really suitable for you. The second quality we are look for is a willingness and openness to be corrected during both your Turning Training and beyond. Your technique will continue to be refined throughout your Turning life.

The Whirling Dervish movement is not just a dance technique, it is a dance-meditation. We turn in a ceremony; it is NOT a performance. If you are looking for just a dance technique, this is not for you. This tradition has an entire philosophy behind it: it is a Sacred Dance.

Please do not be put off if English is not your first language; the Dervish Community is a multi-national community of many languages. Ask a friend to help you fill out the form; spelling mistakes will not count against you.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Legal Name: (If you have another name by which you are known, please add this in brackets)

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Nationality:

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Religion/Spiritual Belief System:

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Age: **Sex:** M/F?

Email:

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Telephone no:

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Address:

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APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Occupation or Student?

Please give details:

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Do you already have a spiritual or meditation practice?

Please give details:

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Do you attend a regular meditation or spiritual group?

Please give details:

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Do you undertake a regular physical discipline such as yoga, martial arts, dance, or an activity that includes aerobic exercise? Please give details:

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Have you ever whirled before in either another dance form or free-form? Do you do this regularly? Please give details.

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What do you plan to do after your training is finished?

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Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

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HEALTH DECLARATION

If you are invited for an interview for the Whirling Dervish Training, please note there will be a demonstration of how you will learn the specific Turning technique. Because of its difficulty, we ask that you fill out this health declaration honestly. You will understand why this is so important when we demonstrate the technique at the interview stage. You must have a satisfactory medical history if you are to be accepted onto the Training.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Please be assured that your answers will be treated in strict confidence. Any information you disclose on this form will be held securely. It will not be shown or given to anybody other than your tutor and qualified medical personnel within the Society - with whom your tutor may need to consult.

If you would like to discuss the medical form before you fill it in, please contact Helen Oates at the address listed at the bottom of this application.

Legal Name:

Address:

Contact Telephone No.:

Doctor's contact details:

Date of Birth:

Email address:

Do you currently suffer from or have you ever suffered from any of the following conditions?

High/Low blood pressure	yes/no
Heart condition	yes/no
Asthma/other breathing conditions	yes/no
Diabetes	yes/no
Epilepsy	yes/no
Neck/shoulder/arm or wrist injuries	yes/no
Spinal issues or back problems	yes/no
Hip/leg/knee/ankle/foot problems	yes/no
Osteoporosis or arthritis	yes/no
Hepatitis A/B or C	yes/no
HIV or Aids	yes/no
Fatigue or immunity issues	yes/no
Hormonal issues	yes/no
Depression	yes/no
Are you currently taking any medication?	yes/no

If you answered 'yes', for any of the above, please give details

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Are you able to undertake prolonged physical exercise? yes/no

Have you ever undergone any investigative medical procedures? yes/no
If 'yes', please give details:

Would you consider yourself a happy person? Please give details:

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Have you ever or are currently undergoing psychotherapy? yes/no
If yes please give details:

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Have you ever undergone psychiatric treatment? yes/no
If yes please give details:

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**Do you have, or have ever had, substance misuse issues
or suffered with alcohol or drug dependency?** yes/no
If yes please give details:

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Women only

Are you pregnant or trying to get pregnant? yes/no

Are you currently undergoing or have recently undergone IVF?

yes/no

If 'yes' please give details:

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All Applicants

Please give details of any other medical conditions:

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Please note: If any changes to the information above should arise between completing this application form and the first lesson of the Turning Training it is your responsibility to inform the Turning teacher BEFORE the Training commences.

It may be necessary to discuss any concerns with your General Practitioner before beginning the training or at a later stage during the training.

REFERENCES

Please give the names, email addresses and phone number of two references we can contact. One of whom is either a meditation/yoga teacher, spiritual guide or somebody who knows you well.

Reference 1

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Reference 2

Name:

Email:

Phone:

DISCLAIMER

Turning training and Turning within The Study Society

Turning Training

The following agreement is to be acknowledged by all trainees and turners. This is a condition for attending The Study Society and continuing to participate in all Turning activities.

- I. I understand and accept that any breach of any provision of this policy will be grounds for termination of my Turning practice at The Study Society.
- II. I understand and agree not to post about the Turning Training process on any social media sites including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube or other social media sites, or to create my own personal blog or other form of online comment in relation to the Turning Training process. I understand that this is inappropriate and disrespectful to the other Turners, and to our Sheikh in Turkey.
- III. I understand and agree that I am not permitted to take photographs or film any Turning activity either within the Turning Training, or outside of it, without the explicit permission of Philip Jacobs, Helen Oates or their designated successors. If permission to take photographs or film the Turners is given, I understand and agree to obtain signed consent from all those whom I will be either filming or taking photographs of. I will not film or take photographs without this signed consent being in place. I will not film or photograph any person who is not willing to give their consent or who has not signed the consent form. If agreement is given, a consent form must clearly indicate to what purpose the filming / photography is taking place and where it will be shown or displayed. The consent forms once completed must be given to Helen Oates for safe keeping at The Study Society.
- IV. I understand and agree that once I have completed my training as a Turner I will not set up an alternative establishment and teach the Turning myself as this training is unique to The Study Society and our Sheikh in Turkey.

We also remind you that the period of your Turning Training is only the very start of your Turning journey and you will be expected to continue to receive instruction from your Turning teacher and the practice takers for the rest of your Turning life.

Sheikh Resuhi Baykara who originally brought the Turning to The Study Society in 1963 said that no one could consider themselves a Dervish until they had turned continually for seven years. So this first period of Turning is seen as probationary.

We also ask that you show due respect to the Sheikh, your Turning teacher. The semazenbashi (dance masters) and the practice takers. This is an important part of the etiquette of this ancient tradition. It is also important to understand that permission to turn in each ceremony is at the discretion of the Sheikh and is not to be regarded as a "right". There may be occasions where it is inappropriate for a particular Turner to be granted permission to turn at a specific time. This can be particularly relevant when deeply buried psychological issues come to the surface as is common with this and similar techniques, and an independent course of psychotherapy may be the most appropriate course of action.

If at any time during my Turning life at The Study Society my behaviour is deemed inappropriate or detrimental to the health and well-being of the group I understand I will be asked to leave. I agree to the above guidelines for undertaking the Turning Training and give permission for my personal details to be used for information and communications updates from the teachers and management of The Study Society.

Once you have successfully completed the training you will be expected to become a Member of The Study Society if you wish to continue practising at The Study Society.

I declare that I have informed The Study Society about any medical conditions that I currently suffer from. I understand that the training is very physically demanding. Furthermore, I undertake to let the Study Society know about any problems that I may have in the future, including changes to existing conditions. I agree to follow the advice given by the person carrying out the training and to consult my GP if necessary.

By signing below I acknowledge, understand and agree to all of the terms and conditions set out in this application and health declaration.

Print Full

Name.....

Signature.....

Date.....

HARD COPY REQUEST

Please send your completed form by email to:
office@studysociety.org
or by post to:

Helen Oates
The Study Society
Colet House
151 Talgarth Road
London
W14 9DA

If you send the form by email, you will need to bring a signed hard copy to The Study Society when you are invited for your interview.

“Wherever you are, and whatever you do, be in love.” Rumi