Whirling Dervish Training Application Form

If you are interested in the turning training at the Study Society, Colet House, we ask that you complete this form in full so that we can get a clearer picture of you and your background. In this way we can provide the best possible care and instruction.

Filling out this form does not automatically mean that you will be accepted on a turning training course. First, we read each application carefully and verify that this training is suitable for you. Then we make our selection based on the effort and clarity with which the form is completed.

We want you to be sure that you understand what we require of turning students, and we want to understand what you require of a teacher.

At the Study Society, we honour the 700+ year old Mevlevi Turning lineage, which has been passed directly to us. Although we accept people of varied cultural backgrounds we offer a traditional training which has not been watered down in any way. It is a very 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.

The training itself is offered free of charge in keeping with the dervish tradition. Once you have successfully completed the training you will be expected to become a member of The Study Society (£150 per year) if you wish to continue practicing at Colet House.

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, will challenge you on many levels and thus requires serious commitment.

If this is a concern for you then you need to consider if this training is really suitable for you. Another quality we are looking 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 just for a dance technique then this training is not for you. It is a Sacred Dance.
If accepted we request that you do not blog about your turning training process on Facebook and other social networking sites whilst undergoing this training. It is considered inappropriate and disrespectful to the other turners and to our Sheikh in Turkey. We also ask you to understand that being accepted on this training does not entitle you to teach it yourself once you have completed the course.

Please do not be put off if English is not your first language; the dervish community is a multi-national community of many languages. If necessary just ask a friend to help you fill out the form. Spelling mistakes will not count against you.

Legal Name – if you have another name by which you are known, please add this in brackets:

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Nationality: .................................................................

Religion/Spiritual Belief System: .................................................................

.................................................................

Age: …………………… Sex: ………………

Email:.................................................................

Telephone no: ……………………

Address: .................................................................

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Occupation or Student
Please give details:

Do you already have a spiritual or meditation practice?
Please give details:
Do you attend a regular meditation or spiritual group? Please give details:

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

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

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Why do you want to become a whirling dervish (in more than 100 words please)?
Have you ever whirled before in either another dance form or free-form? Do you do this regularly? Please give details.

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

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

After being accepted on the training, prospective students are expected to behave in a manner that is in keeping with the dignity and etiquette of this 700+ year-old tradition that we have been asked to preserve.

If at any time during your turning life at Colet House your behaviour is deemed to be inappropriate or detrimental to the health and well-being of the group, you will be asked to leave.
Health Declaration

If we invite you to come along for an interview for the whirling dervish training we will demonstrate how you will learn the turning technique. Because of its difficulty, we ask that you fill out this health declaration honestly. You will understand why this is important when we demonstrate the technique at the interview stage. You must have a satisfactory medical history if you are to be accepted for training.

Confidentiality
Please be assured that your answers will be treated as strictly confidential. All the information you give us 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 we would be happy to do so – please contact Helen Oates at the address below. If you prefer not to complete the form, you will need to obtain a letter from your GP saying that you are medically fit to undertake this training.

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
Are you currently taking any medication?

If you answered ‘yes’, for any of the above, please give details .........

Are you able to undertake prolonged physical exercise?

Have you ever undergone any investigative medical procedures?
If ‘yes’, please give details:

Are you a happy person? Please give details:

Have you ever or are currently undergoing psychotherapy?
If yes please give details:

Have you ever undergone psychiatric treatment?
If yes please give details:

Do you have, or have ever had, substance misuse issues or suffered with alcohol or drug dependency?
If yes please give details:
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.
Turning within the Study Society

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 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.

I understand and agree not to post about the turning training process on any social media site 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.

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 their photographs. 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 Colet House.

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.

If at any time during my turning life at Colet House my behavior is deemed inappropriate or detrimental to the health and wellbeing 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. Please tick here if ‘Yes’:  ☐
RELEASE AND WAIVER

Please read the following declaration and sign below:

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.

I hereby release, waive and discharge The Study Society and their trustees, directors, officers, employees and agents (“Releasees”) from any and all liability for injury, loss, damage, obligation, expense or penalty, including legal fees, that I may cause or sustain in connection with my participation with Study Society activities and practise, whether caused by the negligence or carelessness of Releasees or otherwise.

I understand that Releasees do not have medical personnel available at The Study Society and agree that Releasees assume no responsibility for any injury or damage that might arise out of or in connection with my participation with any Study Society activity. By signing below I voluntarily assume all such risks, and assume sole responsibility for any accident or injury to myself and other persons or property arising out of or in connection with participation in Study Society activities.

By signing below I acknowledge and agree to all of the terms, agreements and conditions set out above.

Signed…………………………………………

Dated…………………………………………

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 Colet House when you are invited for your interview.