

The Future of Online Level One Teacher Training

Version 2

This is NOT a new policy. The vote on this will not change how Level One programs are delivered right now. This is a description of an approach that the Level One Curriculum Committee is considering for an eventual new Online Training policy (which will come to TTEC at a future date for discussion and vote). So the vote on this proposal is simply to give this committee feedback - are they on the right track or not.

Until some new policy is made the existing approach will remain in place, which is that:

- 100% online trainings can only be held due to COVID, and need special permission from Amrit Singh to be held.
- Otherwise, any Level One course can be held 80% online, 20% in person, for any reason

Background

The online training that COVID forced upon us, and the rest of the yoga world, will change how yoga teacher trainings are delivered, even after in-person classes can resume. Our trainers have had a lot of positive feedback about the efficacy of online training, and have learned a lot about how to give the students the best possible experience via online training - including creative ways to create, nurture, and sustain community connections.

KRI wants to maintain high standards - doing our best to ensure that all Level One Instructors are competent to lead Kundalini Yoga classes and represent all of us to the world. KRI wants to maintain a single set of global standards, so that a KRI certificate will mean the same thing in Chile as China, while still allowing as much flexibility and creativity for trainers to adapt to local needs and cultures, to deliver the best possible course that they can. KRI is excited to keep learning new ways to deliver information and transformational experiences online to reach potential students who otherwise would not have been able to attend. KRI recognizes that while guidelines are needed, there very well could be valid exceptions to every single rule one could envision - some unique situation that goes outside of the guidelines while still delivering a high-quality course.

Possible Elements, Components, and Consideration of an Eventual Policy

1. KRI trusts lead trainers to plan and deliver excellent programs
2. We want to avoid setting rigid policies, as we recognize that there are all sorts of unique circumstances and situations
3. We still must have high-quality programs with a consistent set of global minimum standards
4. KRI needs to provide more support for trainers - tools and trainings to help them deliver excellent programs - rather than having too many restrictions based on fears of all the possible ways that things could “go wrong.”

5. To allow maximum flexibility, we would not absolutely prohibit anything (even 100% online). Instead we would set up an application process for courses planned to have more than X% on online. The application would outline very clearly the issues/concerns, and allow the trainer to propose how those will be addressed. The Level One Curriculum Committee would then review these applications and, if needed, work with the trainer to make modifications to get to an acceptable, approved program.
6. Some of the issues and concerns that courses with a high percentage of online content would need to address:
 - a. Which modules would be online vs in-person?
 - b. Recognizing that some portions of the curriculum are more challenging to do online than others, do the trainers delivering the online portions have the experience and training to do so effectively?
 - c. How will students in very high online content programs be integrated into their local sangats? How will they gain an experience of group consciousness?
 - d. Of the online segments, what is live online versus pre-recorded?
 - e. Depending on the expected size of the program, how will students get enough personal attention, contact and support?