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This procedure outlines the official steps and prerequisites for both Hari-nama (first initiation) and Brahmana diksha (second initiation with Gayatri-mantra) within ISKCON Netherlands. It is established under the jurisdiction of the Dutch National Council (DNC), in accordance with the policies and guidelines set forth by the Governing Body Commission (GBC) and the ISKCON Law Book, which governs initiation standards across the International Society for Krishna Consciousness.

General Conditions Applicable to Both (first) Hari-nama and (second) Gayatri-mantra Initiation for Aspiring Devotees in ISKCON Netherlands

1. The candidate must chant a minimum of **16 rounds of the Hare Krishna maha-mantra daily** and follow the **four regulative principles** (no illicit sex, no meat-eating, no intoxication, no gambling) for a continuous period of at least **six months**.
2. The candidate must chant and actively render service within ISKCON Netherlands under the authority of the DNC for a minimum period of **one year** and **continue** his/her service for **one year** after being initiated. This applies whether the candidate resides in a temple or outside of one.
3. The candidate must chant the **pranama-mantra of their chosen guru** for a minimum of **six months**. This period falls within the one-year service period.
4. The candidate must have successfully completed the **ISKCON Disciple Course** and answered the **16 initiation questions**. For Gayatri-mantra initiation, successful completion of the **Bhakti Shastri** course is also required. The 16 initiation questions cover topics such as the qualifications of a bona fide spiritual master and the reasons for following their orders and worshipping them like God.
5. For second initiation – The temple or preaching center of that yatra will directly pose the following questions to the candidate:
 - a. What is your personal motivation for seeking second initiation?
 - b. In what specific ways will your service to the yatra or ISKCON community increase as a result?
6. The candidate must have read the GBC document **“Harmonizing Lines of Authority”** and agree with its content.
7. For Gayatri-mantra initiation, there must be a minimum time difference of **12 months** between Hari-nama initiation and Gayatri-mantra initiation.
8. The DNC reserves the right to deviate from the specified time periods in conditions 2 through 7 in individual cases. In all other cases and/or exceptions, the Dutch National Council will make the final decision.

Procedure for Hari-nama (First) Initiation

1. **Candidate's Self-Assessment:** The candidate approaches their direct local authority within ISKCON Netherlands and expresses their readiness for Hari-nama initiation, based on their own assessment.
2. **Assessment Interview:** An evaluation interview takes place between the candidate and the local authority. This involves filling out a questionnaire and bio-data. The candidate will submit a spiritual curriculum vitae to the local authority
3. **Local Authority Decision:** The local authority grants or withholds permission for the candidate to proceed. The local authority informs the Dutch National Council of their decision and the candidate's motivation.
4. **Verification of Conditions:** The local authority ensures that the candidate meets the general conditions outlined above. This may involve verifying active service within the local center for at least one year.
5. **Notification to DNC:** Upon granting or withholding permission, the local authority notifies the Dutch National Council of the candidate's application.
6. **DNC Verification:** The Dutch National Council checks whether all the prerequisites have been fulfilled. This may involve confirming that the candidate has been engaged in favorable devotional service, chanting sixteen rounds, adhering to the four regulative principles, and regularly attending a morning program for the previous twelve months. They may also confirm that the candidate has accepted shelter from the guru for at least six months and has passed the prescribed examination.
7. **Objection Period:** A **one-month** objection period commences from the date of e-mail sent to the Dutch National Council.
8. **Resolution of Objections:** If any objections are raised by the Dutch National Council, the dossier will be referred back to the local authority for review.
9. **DNC Recommendation:** If no objections are raised, the Dutch National Council can then recommend the candidate for Hari-nama initiation by issuing a **recommendation letter to the chosen guru**. Only the Dutch National Council is authorized to issue recommendation letters. The recommendation letter will state that the candidate has fulfilled the necessary qualifications to the best understanding of the Dutch National Council.
10. **Initiation by Guru:** The guru then decides whether to grant Hari-nama initiation. The actual initiation may take place only after a minimum six-month period from when shelter was taken and the local temple president was notified. The candidate receives a devotional name, chanting beads, and neck beads during the initiation ceremony.

Procedure for Gayatri-mantra (Second)

Initiation

1. **Candidate's Self-Assessment:** The candidate approaches their direct local authority within ISKCON Netherlands and expresses their readiness for Gayatri-mantra initiation, based on their own assessment.
2. **Assessment Interview:** An evaluation interview takes place between the candidate and the local authority.
3. **Brahminical Examination:** The candidate must successfully obtain a Bhakti Sastri degree issued by the ISKCON Board of Examinations.
4. **Local Authority Decision:** The local authority grants or withholds permission for the candidate to proceed. The local authority informs the Dutch National Council of their decision and the candidate's motivation.
5. **Verification of Conditions:** The local authority ensures that the candidate meets all the general conditions, including successful completion of the **Bhakti Shastri** course, the **ISKCON Disciple Course**, and having answered the **10 initiation questions**. The candidate must have held their Hari-nama initiation for at least 12 months.
6. **Notification to DNC:** Upon granting and withholding permission, the local authority notifies the Dutch National Council of the candidate's application.
7. **DNC Verification:** The Dutch National Council checks whether all the prerequisites have been fulfilled. This includes verification that the candidate has been steadily engaged in devotional service, chanting sixteen rounds, adhering to the four regulative principles, and regularly attending a morning program for the previous twelve months (having received first initiation more than twelve months prior).
8. **Objection Period:** A **one-month** objection period commences from the date of e-mail sent to the Dutch National Council.
9. **Resolution of Objections:** If any objections are raised by the Dutch National Council, the dossier will be referred back to the local authority for review.
10. **DNC Recommendation:** If no objections are raised, the DNC can then recommend the candidate for Gayatri-mantra initiation by issuing a **recommendation letter to the guru**. The recommendation letter will state that the candidate has fulfilled the necessary qualifications to the best understanding of the DNC.
11. **Initiation by Guru:** The guru then decides whether to grant Gayatri-mantra initiation.

The Dutch National Council plays a central role in the initiation process in ISKCON Netherlands, ensuring adherence to ISKCON law and facilitating the formal acceptance of disciples by qualified gurus. Local ISKCON representatives can forward candidates to the DNC for recommendation. **The DNC's recommendation is a prerequisite for a devotee to receive initiation.**

Sources used

- Excerpts from "Initiation procedure DNC.pdf"
- Excerpts from "Examen_1ste_Initiatie (1).pdf"
- Excerpts from "Harmonizing Iskcon_s lines of authority_NL_versie (1).pdf"
- Excerpts from "ISKCON-Law-Book-Chapter-7 (2).pdf"
- Excerpts from "Initiatie procedure uitgebreid.pdf"
- Excerpts from "Initiation procedure - NL.pdf"
- Excerpts from "Initiation procedure DNC summier.pdf"
- Excerpts from "flowchart TD Initiatie.txt"
- Excerpts from "harmonizing_iskons_lines-1 (1).pdf"