COURSE HANDBOOK

ALPHACRUCIS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

MASTER OF THEOLOGY

OVERVIEW

The Master of Theology provides a unique opportunity to train professionally competent scholars, leaders and managers in a wide range of careers. Graduates engage in cutting edge research and critical exploration of contemporary issues.	**Program Director** Dr Nigel Pegram
	AQF Level AQF Level 9 (Postgraduate)
	Qualification Masters Degree (Coursework)
	Subjects 12
	IELTS 7.0
	Languages of Instruction English, Korean
	CRICOS Code 080052C
	ASCED Code 091703
	Accreditation Self-accredited *(last reviewed in 2023)*
	Course Length 1.5 years full-time; up to 7 years part-time

The Master of Theology (MTh) is designed to prepare graduates for ministry and leadership within church, academic and community settings. Graduates of the MTh will have an advanced knowledge of theological studies, including a working knowledge of recent developments and approaches in the area of their discipline specialisation. With an exciting vision to train professionally competent scholars, leaders and managers in a wide range of careers, the MTh provides a unique opportunity to engage in cutting edge research and critical exploration of contemporary issues. Developing specialised skills in fields such as Theology, Biblical Studies and Christian History, students will be trained to communicate complex ideas and propose solutions to a wide audience, as well as design and implement an advanced research thesis. Students also have a selection of electives, which range from Ancient Languages to Marketing, to add to their learning experience. With internationally acclaimed lecturers who bring not only academic expertise but practical experience into the classroom, the MTh will provide an educational experience of holistic formation which prepares students to change the world.

Graduate Pathways

Students who have successfully completed the Master of Theology may progress into postgraduate courses of study at AC.

Career Opportunities

Graduates may find employment in ministry or church-based organisations (e.g., senior pastor of a church); become part of the next generation of leaders of not-for-profit organisations; take up leadership or management positions in schools (e.g., vice-principal), or various management positions in for-profit businesses.

AC GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

Christian Worldview

A knowledge of the Christian story, derived from the Scriptures and tradition of the church. An awareness of the implications of this story for self-identity in the context of local and global communities. This includes a commitment to engage with alternate worldviews, showing appreciation of the values and perspectives of others.

Leadership

The ability to provide effective Christian leadership to individuals, groups and organisations, demonstrated in the capacity to influence and enable others to accomplish worthwhile objectives which contribute to the human good and the kingdom of God. This includes seeking to emulate the example of Jesus Christ in serving and empowering others.

Integrity and Justice

The ability to apply a Christian worldview in the diverse situations and responsibilities of life, and to exercise faith, hope, love and generosity as prevailing attitudes. This includes the active promotion of the gospel, social justice, equality, mutual respect and an ecological ethos.

Communications

The ability to communicate effectively to a range of audiences, in appropriate contexts using high levels of verbal, written and technological skills. This includes visual and media literacy, numeracy, rhetoric and persuasion.

Personal and Social Skills

Demonstrate relational skills that incorporate the flexibility for both independent and collaborative situations. This includes personal and group organizational skills, conflict management and resolution, as well as the ability to value and respect the opinions of others.

Critical and Creative Thinking

A capacity for critical and reflective thinking that is explored not only individually but within a community context. This includes a capacity to be creative and to research, analyse and resolve problems in innovative and prophetic ways.

Professional Knowledge

Maintenance and use of knowledge about a discipline or field, involving theoretical, conceptual and methodological elements. This includes striving continually and independently to secure further knowledge and where appropriate, defined professional skills.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Specifications	Level 9: Masters Degree	AC Learning Outcomes	AC Graduate Attributes
Knowledge	Graduates of a Masters Degree (coursework) Degree will have: • a body of knowledge that includes the understanding of recent developments in a discipline and/or area of professional practice; • knowledge of research principles and methods applicable to a field of work and/or learning.	Graduates will demonstrate: • advanced and integrated understanding of theological studies specific to their discipline; • have an understanding of general research principles and methods, and advanced knowledge of specific research approaches used in the selected disciplinary field.	Christian Worldview Critical and Creative Thinking Professional Knowledge
Skills	Graduates of a Masters Degree (coursework) Degree will have: • cognitive skills to demonstrate mastery of theoretical knowledge and to reflect critically on theory and professional practice or scholarship; • cognitive, technical and creative skills to investigate, analyse and synthesise complex information, problems, concepts and theories and to apply established theories to different bodies of knowledge or practice; • cognitive, technical and creative skills to generate and evaluate complex ideas and concepts at an abstract level; • communication and technical research skills to justify and interpret theoretical propositions, methodologies, conclusions and professional decisions to specialist and non-specialist audiences; • technical and communication skills to design, evaluate, implement, analyse and theorise about developments that contribute to professional practice or scholarship.	Graduates will: • critically evaluate new developments of research and scholarship in the selected disciplinary field; • ability to lead advanced discussion and analysis of contemporaneous topics, issues and challenges impacting on Christian ministry and the Pentecostal community, and create solutions to these challenges. This includes the ability to apply knowledge and skills to new and diverse contexts; • communicate effectively complex ideas and proposed solutions to peers and general audiences.	Christian Worldview Leadership Integrity and Justice Communication Personal and Social Skills Critical and Creative Thinking Professional Knowledge

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LEARNING OUTCOMES

Specifications	Level 9: Masters Degree	AC Learning Outcomes	AC Graduate Attributes
Application of knowledge and skills	Graduates of a Masters Degree (coursework) will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills: • with creativity and initiative to new situations in professional practice and/or for further learning; • with high level personal autonomy and accountability; • to plan and execute a substantial research-based project, capstone experience and/or piece of scholarship	Graduates will: • articulate new questions or issues and apply the knowledge and skills developed within the selected disciplinary field to develop appropriate solutions; • design and implement a major research project in the selected disciplinary field.	Christian Worldview Leadership Communication Personal and Social Skills Critical and Creative Thinking Professional Knowledge

COURSE HANDBOOK

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COURSE STRUCTURE

The course consists of 120 credit points, comprising:

- one 20 credit points core research methods subject (Core);
- one 40 credit point research project (20,000 words) in area of discipline (Core);
- two 20 credit point subjects to be taken from the area of specialisation (Major);
- 20 credit points to be taken from a discipline outside the specialisation (Elective Subjects).

To qualify for award of the degree of Master of Theology a candidate shall accrue an aggregate of at least 120 credit points.

CONTENT OF THE COURSE OF STUDY		CREDIT POINTS
CORE SUBJECTS	RES601 Research Methods RES602 Research Project	20 40
SPECIALISATIONS	**BIBLICAL STUDIES** BIB601 Methods in Biblical Studies BIB602 Seminar Presentation of Research in Biblical Studies **CHRISTIAN HISTORY** HIS601 Theory and Practice in Christian History And one of the following: HIS602 Producing Christian History HIS603 Pentecostalism in Australasia **MINISTRY** MIN601 Theory and Practice in Ministry MIN602 Seminar Presentation of Ministry Research **THEOLOGY** THE601 Theologians: Method and Meaning THE602 Seminar Presentation of Theological Research	2 x 20
ELECTIVE SUBJECTS	20 credit points, at 500 level or above, to be taken from a discipline outside the specialisation or variation by way of permission from the Program Director.	20
RULES OF PROGRESSION	At least 60 credit points must be completed in the area of specialisation at level 500 or above. Minimum of 40 credit points completed at 600 level.	
OTHER PROTOCOLS OF THE COURSE	To be eligible to graduate, students must complete overall 120 credit points.	
Recommended Course Progression *(based on full-time study mode)*	**Year 1**	
	Semester 1 • RES601 Research Methods • BIB/MIN/THE601 Relevant Methods Subject	**Semester 2** • BIB/MIN/THE602 Relevant Seminar Subject • 6xx Elective (or 5xx Elective [x2])
	Year 2	
	Semester 3 • RES602 — Research Project	

For information on the teaching faculty for these subjects, please visit our website.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

Academic Entry Requirements

Applicants with Recent Secondary Education

This course of study requires the completion of a higher education qualification by an authorised institution. Applicants with recent high school education only are not eligible for direct entry into this course.

Applicants with Vocational Education and Training Study

This course of study requires the completion of a higher education qualification by an authorised institution. Applicants with a Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualification only are not eligible for direct entry into this course.

Applicants with Higher Education Study

Applicants whose highest level of study since leaving secondary education is a higher education qualification must demonstrate the completion of an AQF Level 7 Bachelor degree (or higher) in the field of Ministry or Theology by an authorised institution with a credit average or higher for admission into this course.

Applicants with Work and Life Experience

This course of study requires the completion of a higher education qualification by an authorised institution. Applicants who have not completed formal higher education study are not eligible for direct entry into this course.

For further information about AC's provisional entry criteria, please see:
- *AC's Admissions Requirements*
- *Higher Education Provisional Entry Policy*
- *Admissions Policy*

Other Requirements

Applicants may be required to attend a pre-admission interview with the Director of Postgraduate Studies to discuss specialisation and determine suitability for the course, including the capacity of the applicant to undertake a 40-credit point research project.

English Language Proficiency

Overseas students are required to demonstrate their English proficiency skills. Such students admitted into our programs must attain an overall IELTS (or equivalent) score of 7.0 (with no score below 6.5 in any of the four skills areas). IELTS (or equivalent) is not required for applicants who have undertaken five years of required higher education study (or equivalent) in English from an approved country or who have completed a Certificate IV or higher qualification awarded in English under the Australian Qualification Framework by an authorised institution or registered training organisation.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the [International Student Office](#) if they are unsure of the equivalence of their English language proficiency test scores.

Special Admissions Pathways

AC's [Admissions Policy](#) details the special admission pathways for our courses of study. The Special Admission Pathways are evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Program Director. A student's admission requirements may be reconsidered on educational disadvantage grounds, including but not limited to:

- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, where the normal HSC entry path has not been followed;
- socioeconomic reasons (such as low-family income or poor living conditions);
- learning or language difficulties;
- disrupted schooling;
- physical disability;
- serious family illness or excessive family responsibility;
- geographical isolation of home and/or school;
- completion of a prescribed program of non-award study (four subjects or 40 credit points) with an overall GPA of 1.8 or better.

For a full list of educational disadvantage grounds, please see AC's [Admissions Policy](#).

DIVERSITY AND EQUITY

AC is committed to providing a learning environment that is free from discrimination on the basis of income, age, disability, social and ethnic background, location or gender. AC endeavours to increase opportunities for people of all backgrounds to participate in training programs, and implement programs that take into account the specific needs of participants. AC encourages students to inform AC of any disability, medical condition or learning need that may impact on your studies to arrange a study plan that best suits your needs.

HOW TO APPLY

Once you have chosen your course of study, you will need to apply direct to AC. Applications typically close 3 weeks before semester commences.

All AC application forms are completed online. There are different forms depending on the level of study you are applying for and the location of your course.

Further information on How to Apply and access to AC's Application Forms is available on our [website](#).

Credit transfers and recognised prior learning (RPL)

You may be entitled to credit for prior learning, whether formal or informal. Formal learning can include previous study in higher education, vocational education, or adult and community education. Informal learning can include on the job learning or various kinds of work and life experience. Credit can reduce the amount of study needed to complete a degree.

For further information about credit and recognition of prior learning please see AC's [Credit Transfer and Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#) *or contact our* [Student Support](#) *team.*

HOW TO ENROL

Once you have returned a signed copy of your Letter of Offer to accept your place at AC, you will be invited to enrol in your specific subjects in the next academic period. Students are advised to consult their timetable (can be found [here](#)), review their [Academic Advice Sheet](#) and contact the [Student Support Team](#) for tailored academic advice before completing the enrolment form.

Applications for credit transfers or recognised prior learning will be communicated to you once they have been processed.

STUDENT SERVICES

Student Support Team

AC's Student Support Team exists to ensure you get from Orientation Day to Graduation Day with a smile on your face!

Academic Support

- Tailored academic guidance
- Assessment variation to accommodate disabilities, medical conditions and/or learning needs
- Exam reader/writers
- One-on-one tutoring and small group workshops for face-to-face and distances students
- Physical libraries
- Access to online journal databases
- Access to eBook resources
- Resources are also provided online for self-development

Non-Academic Support

- Pastoral Care
- Chaplains
- Professional counselling
- Careers guidance
- On–campus childcare*
- Extra-curricular and community services
- SRC – The Student Representative Council
- Recreation areas

Student Life

All students can take part in:

- mission trips and community service projects
- weekly chapel services
- lunches and gatherings on campus
- opportunities to hear or present research
- masterclasses to take your skills and knowledge to the next level
- social events both on and away from campus
- exchange programs with other colleges and universities around the world

…and much, much more! To find out what is happening near you or to get specific details just contact the Student Support Team:

Email: studentsupport@ac.edu.au
Phone: (02) 8893 9005
https://www.ac.edu.au/student-services/

Not available at all campuses

STUDENT PROFILE

The table below gives an indication of the likely peer cohort for new students at AC. It provides data on students that commenced study and passed the census date in the most relevant recent intake period for which data are available, including those admitted through all offer rounds and international students studying in Australia.

Applicant background	Reporting Year: 2022	
	Number of new students	**Percentage of all new students**
(A) Past higher education study (includes a bridging or enabling course)	12	100%
(B) Past vocational education and training (VET) study	N/A	N/A
(C) Work and life experience (Admitted on the basis of previous achievement other than the above)	N/A	N/A
(D) Recent secondary education: • Admitted solely on the basis of ATAR (*regardless of whether this includes the impact of adjustment factors such as equity or subject bonus points*)	N/A	N/A
• Admitted where both ATAR and additional criteria were considered (*e.g. portfolio, audition, extra test, early offer conditional on minimum ATAR*)	N/A	N/A
• Admitted on the basis of other criteria only and ATAR was **not** a factor (*e.g. special consideration, audition alone, schools recommendation scheme with no minimum ATAR requirement*)	N/A	N/A
International students	<5	NP
All students	*12*	*100%*

Note: "<5" – the number of students is less than 5.

N/A – Students not accepted in this category.

N/P – Not published: the number is hidden to prevent calculation of numbers in cells with less than 5 students.

ATAR-based offers only	ATAR
Highest rank to receive an offer	N/A
Median rank to receive an offer	N/A
Lowest rank to receive an offer	N/A

Note: "<5" – the number of students is less than 5.

Note: This table relates to all students made an offer on the basis of ATAR alone or ATAR in combination with other factors. Students admitted into a course of study based on a Special Admission Pathway or otherwise not based on their ATAR are not included in this table.

WHERE TO GET FURTHER INFORMATION

ac.edu.au

AC's website is the best place to discover what's happening at AC and explore our courses, campuses and support services. If you are not yet an AC student, our Future Students team are here to help find the right course for you!

Moodle

Once you begin your studies at AC, you will use Moodle as your Learning Management System (LMS) to access all your subject content, the AC Academic Handbook, Study Skills and Textbook Information. New Students can also use Moodle to view our Induction Videos.

International Students

Nothing beats the experience of being part of our community and participating in our classroom discussions! Alternatively, for students who decide to study from their home country, AC brings education to you by offering many subjects and degrees by distance education allowing you to study from anywhere in the world. Flexible delivery means that you will have access to our e-Learning platform which provides resources, podcasts, online forums and tutor assistance that allows you to complete your studies from your home country.

Further information about International Students, including the application process, international recognition of AC courses of study and FAQ's, is available on our website.

Alternatively, our Future Students team are available to answer any questions you may have about your requirements as an onshore or offshore International Students at AC.

QILT

Thinking about higher education institutions and study areas? Wish you could ask someone about their experience? The QILT website helps you compare official study experience and employment outcomes data from Australian higher education institutions.

TEQSA National Register

The purpose of the TEQSA National Register is to be the authoritative source of information on the status of registered higher education providers in Australia.

Complaints and Grievances

If you are unsatisfied with the outcome of your application, AC's Complaint and Grievance Resolution Policy outlines the procedure for resolving a complaint or grievance.