COURSE HANDBOOK

ALPHACRUCIS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

OVERVIEW

The Doctor of Ministry program provides a formal mechanism for this reflection. Utilising a cohort structure, students will interact with others on a similar journey of exploring questions and solutions to important topics of our time, while incorporating best practice from practitioners globally.	Program Director	Rev Dr Nigel Pegram
	AQF Level	AQF Level 10 (Higher Degree Research)
	Qualification	Doctoral Degree
	Subjects	3 (240 credit points)
	IELTS	7.0
	Languages of Instruction	English, Korean
	CRICOS Code	084480F
	ASCED Code	091703
	Accreditation	Self-accredited
	Course Length	3 years full-time; Up to 10 years part-time

The Doctor of Ministry is designed for graduates with significant leadership experience in churches, para-church ministries, educational institutions, and secular organisations who want to further enhance their skills for ministry within church, academic and community settings. Graduates of the DMin will have systematic and critical understanding in the discipline of Christian ministry, including innovative leadership models in contemporary contexts and a working knowledge of recent developments and approaches in the area of their specialisation. They will demonstrate specialised knowledge and skills in research using methodologies applicable to their discipline.

Graduates' research will identify, investigate and address an issue in the profession of Christian ministry, to be presented in a research thesis which will make a significant original contribution toward the advancement of learning and/or for professional Christian ministry practice.

Advanced skills in critical thinking, communication and creative problem solving of complex issues are demonstrated through independent, original research and scholarship.

Graduates' research will identify, investigate and address an issue in the profession of Christian ministry, to be presented in a research thesis which will make a significant original contribution toward the advancement of learning and/or for professional Christian ministry practice.

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

Use and maintain knowledge about a discipline or field, in terms of theoretical, conceptual and methodological elements, striving continually and independently to secure further knowledge and where appropriate, defined professional skills.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Specification	AQF Level 10 Doctors Degree	AC Learning outcomes	AC Graduate Attributes
Knowledge	Graduates of a Doctoral Degree will have: • a substantial body of knowledge at the frontier of a field of work or learning, including knowledge that constitutes an original contribution; • substantial knowledge of research principles and methods applicable to the field of work or learning.	Demonstrated: • critical, creative and systematic understanding of a substantial and complex body of knowledge that makes an original contribution to a particular area in the practice of ministry; • advanced knowledge of scholarship and recent developments in the area of under consideration; • understanding of advanced research principles and methods, and substantial knowledge of specific research approaches used in the field of practical ministry.	Christian Worldview Critical and Creative Thinking Professional Knowledge

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Specification	AQF Level 10 Doctors Degree (Professional)	AC Learning outcomes	AC Graduate Attributes
Skills	Graduates of a Doctoral Degree will have: • cognitive skills to demonstrate expert understanding of theoretical knowledge and to reflect critically on that theory and practice • cognitive skills and use of intellectual independence to think critically, evaluate existing knowledge and ideas, undertake systematic investigation and reflect on theory and practice to generate original knowledge • expert technical and creative skills applicable to the field of work or learning • communication skills to explain and critique theoretical propositions, methodologies and conclusions • communication skills to present cogently a complex investigation of originality or original research for external examination against international standards and to communicate results to peers and the community • expert skills to design, implement, analyse, theorise and communicate research that makes a significant and original contribution to knowledge	Demonstrated ability to: • autonomously and analytically engage in critical reflection, synthesis and evaluation of the body of theoretical knowledge related to a particular area of the practice of ministry; • establish, incorporate and apply effective research methodologies to advance existing professional practice; • design a research question that explores an original and complex issue and provide possible solutions to the problem raised; • communicate effectively complex ideas, original knowledge and proposed solutions to peers and general audiences; • provide creative responses to the contemporary challenges and new developments in research and scholarship in the field of practical ministry.	Christian Worldview Leadership Integrity and Justice Communication Personal and Social Skills Critical and Creative Thinking Professional Knowledge

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Specification	AQF Level 10 Doctors Degree (Professional)	AC Learning outcomes	AC Graduate Attributes
	and/or professional practice		
Application of knowledge and skills	Graduates of a Doctoral Degree will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills: • with intellectual independence • with initiative and creativity in new situations and/or for further learning • with full responsibility and accountability for personal outputs • to plan and execute original research with the ongoing capacity to generate new knowledge, including in the context of professional practice	Demonstrated ability to: • articulate new questions or issues and apply the knowledge and skills developed within the selected research field to develop original and appropriate solutions; • work independently, responsibly and with the level of professionalism expected of an expert in the selected research field; • effectively design, implement and communicate a major thesis in the selected research field to contribute original knowledge and expertise to peers and general audiences; • an advanced level of integrative reflection which will inform and enhance their professional ministry practice.	Christian Worldview Leadership Integrity and Justice Communication Personal and Social Skills Critical and Creative Thinking Professional Knowledge

COURSE HANDBOOK

ALPHACRUCIS
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

COURSE STRUCTURE

This structure applies to candidates who commence from 2021	

The course consists of 240 credit points comprising:

- one core research methods unit (20 credit points)
- one subject at 800 level (20 credit point) to be taken from the area of specialisation
- one core research thesis or research portfolio (50,000 words or equivalent) (200 credit points) in area of specialisation

To qualify for award of the degree of Doctor of Ministry a candidate shall complete at least 240 credit points.

CONTENT OF THE COURSE OF STUDY		CREDIT POINTS
CORE SUBJECTS	RES801 Survey of Research Methods RES802 Research Thesis	20 200
SPECIALISATION	XXX806 Advanced Research in Discipline Area	20
RULES OF PROGRESSION	Refer to candidature policy and procedure.	
OTHER PROTOCOLS	To be eligible to graduate, students must pass at least 120 credit points	
PRE-REQUISITES FOR SPECIFIC SUBJECTS	Pre-requisites are noted on the subject outline. Students must have completed the pre-requisite to enrol in the subject.	

For information on the teaching faculty for this subject, please visit our [website](#).

Career Opportunities

Graduates' research will identify, investigate and address an issue in the profession of Christian ministry, to be presented in a research thesis which will make a significant original contribution toward the advancement of learning and/or for professional Christian ministry practice. Most of the graduates of the DMin are to be found in ordained service within the church as well as in the community, working out their vocations in community and service industries. Graduate employment opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- Church pastor
- Lecturer or trainer (in area of specialisation)
- Community/NFP/NGO worker
- Church administrator
- Pastoral educator

ADMISSION CRITERIA

Academic Entry Requirements

Applicants with Recent Secondary Education

This course of study requires the completion of higher education study at an authorised institution. Recent secondary education graduates are not eligible for direct entry into this course.

Applicants with Vocational Education and Training Study

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

Applicants with Higher Education Study

Completion of an AQF Level 8 or above postgraduate qualification in theology or ministry (with research component), or equivalent with GPA at least 2.8.

OR

Graduates with an AQF Level 9 postgraduate qualification outside the field of theology or ministry must have completed at least 6 subjects in leadership and/or ministry, at least 4 subjects in bible and/or theology, at least a 20-credit point research project or research essay.

Applicants with Work and Life Experience

In exceptional circumstances, the Program Director may recommend that an applicant be admitted who does not have the qualifications specified. In this case, evidence must be supplied to verify that the applicant has equivalent qualifications based on academic and professional attainment and demonstration of an appropriate capacity for the research.

For further information about AC's Academic entry requirements, please see:

- *DMN Academic Entry Requirements FAQ's*
- *AC's Admissions Requirements*
- *Higher Education Provisional Entry Policy*
- *Admissions Policy*

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

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 7.0 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.

Essential Requirements

Applicants must have at least 5 years' full-time leadership and/or ministry experience, or equivalent. To demonstrate this, applicants must submit a copy of their CV with a cover letter outlining how they meet these criteria.

International Students must demonstrate knowledge of research methodology equivalent to RES601 and methodology in the area of specialisation.

A pre-admission interview for all applicants will be conducted by the Program Director or Dean of Faculty. Bridging courses, such as RES601 Research Methods, may be required.

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 entry path has not been followed;
- socioeconomic reasons (such as low-family income or poor living conditions);
- learning or language difficulties;
- physical disability;
- 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](#).

ALPHACRUCIS
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

ACADEMIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FAQ'S

1. How do I demonstrate the required leadership and/or ministry experience?

An essential entry requirement for the DMin is demonstrated leadership and/or ministry experience. This is because the DMin is guided reflection on your experience and practice; so you must have some experience to reflect upon! Therefore, applicants must have at least 5 years' full-time ministry experience, or equivalent. To demonstrate this, applicants must submit a copy of their CV with a cover letter outlining how they meet these criteria. For more information on what is considered appropriate leadership experience, please see *http://ac.edu.au/ppm/professional-entry-criteria-policy/*

2. I have completed a Master degree (e.g. MA/ MALead) through a professional entry pathway. Am I eligible for admission to the DMin?

There are four aspects to the entry requirement into the DMin if you have completed a Masters award. They are:

a. Demonstrated leadership and/or ministry experience

As noted above, to be admitted to the DMin, you need to demonstrate that you have at least 5 years' full-time experience in leadership and/or ministry.

b. Coursework Requirements

Within your Masters award, you need to have completed specific coursework requirements to be eligible to enter the DMin. The coursework requirement is that you have completed at least 6 subjects in leadership and/or ministry, and at least 4 subjects in bible and/or theology. Leadership and ministry subjects at AC are generally those with an LEA, MIN, BUS, EXP or MIS code. Bible and theology subjects are generally those with a THE, BIB, ANL, CON, SPI or HIS code. If you are unsure, please speak to the Program Director. Coursework Bridging Solution: If you have not met the coursework requirements, you can complete these required subjects as part of a Graduate Certificate in Arts (4 subjects) or Graduate Diploma in Arts (8 subjects) program.

c. Demonstrated research capability

In addition to the coursework requirements, you must have demonstrated capability to complete a large independent research project. To demonstrate this, you need to have completed at least a 20 credit point research project or research essay (ie equivalent of 2 subjects). Research Bridging Solution: If you have not met the research requirements you have two options to demonstrate that you are capable of research. The first option is to complete RES601 Research Methods and elect to complete within this subject a 16,000-word research project (instead of the standard 8,000 word research project). In this option, you could then apply to credit this subject into the DMin. The second option is to complete the subject RES501 Research Project (16,000 words). This cannot be credited into the DMin.

d. Minimum GPA

You also need to demonstrate an overall GPA of at least 2.8, that is, an average of high credit in your masters or postgraduate degree. GPA Solution: If you have not met the GPA requirements, please speak to the

Program Director to discuss possible pathway options. It may be possible, that if the student achieves above the required GPA for the subject RES601 in the MTh (and has met all other admission requirements) that they may be able to apply to credit this subject into the DMin and transfer to the DMin program.

3. I have completed postgraduate studies in another discipline. Am I eligible for admission to the DMin?

As noted above, the entry requirements necessitate completion of some theology and leadership studies prior to entry into the DMin. If you have not completed any theology or leadership, you will need to complete these foundational studies before moving into the DMin. This is because the DMin requires theological reflection and integration of professional knowledge in the area of specialisation (ministry and/or leadership). Therefore, it is essential that you have foundational knowledge of the literature and discipline. For this reason, students entering the DMin must have completed the coursework requirements. The coursework requirements are at least 6 subjects in leadership and/or ministry, and at least 4 subjects in bible and/or theology.

e. Coursework Bridging Solution:

If you have not met the coursework requirements, you can complete these required subjects as part of a Graduate Certificate in Arts (4 subjects) or Graduate Diploma in Arts (8 subjects) or Master of Arts (12 subjects) program. In addition to the coursework requirements, you must demonstrate a proven track record of research. This requires at least a completed 20 credit point research project or research essay (ie equivalent of 2 subjects). The completed research does not need to be in the discipline of leadership or ministry, but simply needs to demonstrate that you are capable of independent research.

f. Research Bridging Solution:

If you have not met the research requirements you have two options to demonstrate that you are capable of research. The first option is to complete RES601 Research Methods and elect to complete within this subject a 16,000 word research project (instead of the standard 8,000 word research project). In this option, you could then apply to credit this subject into the DMin and transfer to the DMin program. The second option is to complete the subject RES501 Research Project. This cannot be credited into the DMin.

4. I have completed an undergraduate degree in theology. Am I eligible for admission to the DMin?

If you have completed an AQF Level 7 Bachelors degree in theology or ministry, or equivalent, we recommend that you complete the Graduate Diploma in Arts with a 20 credit point research component (i.e. RES501 Research Project). Your overall GPA for the Graduate Diploma in Arts must be at least 2.8 (that is, a high credit) to be eligible to then enter the DMin. In addition to completing the Graduate Diploma in Arts, you will still need to demonstrate that you have at least 5 years' full-time experience in leadership and/or ministry (see above). For more information on the entry requirements to the DMin, please contact the Program Director, Pastor Daryl Potts.

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](#)), 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/current-students/student-support/

Not available at all campuses

COURSE HANDBOOK

ALPHACRUCIS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

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: 2024	
	Number of new students	**Percentage of all new students**
(A) Past higher education study (includes a bridging or enabling course)	N/A	N/A
(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	N/A	N/A
All students	***N/A***	***N/A***

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.

COURSE HANDBOOK

ALPHACRUCIS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

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.