

The Australian College of Theology Limited
ACN: 127 429 083

INFORMATION FOR INSTITUTIONS SEEKING AFFILIATION WITH
THE AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY LTD

The Australian College of Theology Ltd (ACT) aims to foster and direct the systematic study of theology and other disciplines related to Christian ministry by teaching and research in a manner and at a level commensurate with the practices of Australian universities.

The ACT was established in 1891 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia. For many years, the one program of study was the Licentiate in Theology (Th.L), which was regarded as the basic theological requirement for ordination. It was widely accepted in academic circles as a proven and useful theological qualification for ordained ministry in the Anglican Church. As a consequence of amendments to the Canon governing the Constitution of the ACT, the ACT now offers a wide range of accredited awards, including coursework and research degrees, catering not only for the specialised needs of pastoral and missionary candidates but also for the needs of lay people interested in an understanding of the Christian faith and its implications for contemporary life.

Although the ACT remains constitutionally an Anglican foundation, its affiliated colleges now represent a wide range of denominational and non-denominational bodies, so that in operation it may be seen as an ecumenical consortium. Candidates for the ACT's research and coursework awards are normally required to be citizens of Australia or New Zealand, or persons resident in either country. Some coursework programs may be completed in distance mode. All affiliated colleges teach common coursework curricula.

While all affiliated colleges within the ACT are required to be Christian, the ACT does not impose denominational or religious restrictions in relation to enrolment in any ACT award. However, affiliated colleges are free to require enrolling students to qualify according to any or all of the following criteria: they may be required to give an account of their Christian commitment, and/or to express their willingness to conduct themselves in accordance with the affiliated college's Christian ethos, and/or to affirm its statement of faith, and/or to show evidence of prior experience in Christian leadership.

The ACT is a national, co-operative provider in which the ACT's officers, the members of the ACT Ltd, Board of Directors, the Academic Board and its Standing Committees and confessionally diverse affiliated colleges work together to prepare students enrolled in the ACT's academic awards for Christian ministry, and to promote the study of the Bible and theology in the wider community. The ACT is committed to promoting academic policies, programs and procedures that are commensurate with the best tertiary practice.

The College recognises that Christians today live within a number of intersecting communities and that their education through the College should assist them to fulfil commitments to each of these communities.

First is their commitment to the community of Christians in all its variety. The College supports the view that, while adopting a point of view, students should have an understanding of other perspectives which Christians hold on topics which are taught. One prevailing presupposition is that the Christian world-view is not just a theoretical framework of beliefs but is something which is related to and guides all that we do.

Second is their commitment to the community of scholars. Students should work in accordance with those standards of critical scrutiny and academic freedom which guide this community. This involves looking critically at their own presuppositions as well as those of others.

Third is their obligation as members of our modern day society to understand that society and contribute to its well being.

Fourth is the commitment of students to a vocational or occupational community.

The College and its affiliated institutions are committed to:

- the importance of learning through interaction with teachers and other students so that teaching methods include lectures, class discussions, private research, and student presentations.
- making use of the most appropriate modern technologies in the delivery of each unit of study.
- the goal of student-oriented “life-long” learning and appropriate portability between institutions. Some courses especially those offered at Graduate level are designed so that a student can take subjects at different institutions if necessary.

In accord with the ACT’s Institutional and Course Approval Criteria, any institution seeking approval with the ACT to teach its academic awards must demonstrate to the Board of Directors that it satisfies the terms of the Criteria, including the following:

- its officers, directors and associates who are in a position to influence the management of the college seeking affiliation remain fit and proper persons (see Appendix 1 of the Affiliation Agreement for requirements)
- it is a properly constituted legal entity or is a department or agency of a properly constituted legal entity or is otherwise structured to the satisfaction of the Board with appropriate governance and organisational structures
- it is committed to sign a Repayment Deed of Guarantee with the ACT undertaking to refund tuition fees to students for any incomplete units of study for which fees have been paid should the affiliated college cease to operate and the student not wish to be transferred to another affiliated college and/or to an equivalent award
- it has security of tenure or guaranteed continuity of usage of its premises where the academic program(s) of the ACT will be delivered for the period of the Agreement
- workplace conditions for teaching faculty, administrative staff and students conform to relevant occupational health and safety regulations and other legislative requirements which can be verified by the sighting of recent inspection certificates

- it has a Disaster Recovery Plan
- its key teaching and administrative staff are duly qualified, inducted, evaluated, reviewed and fairly remunerated and that continuity of these positions is assured for the period of the Agreement
- there are in place structures and personnel appropriate to implement the ACT's educational policies and regulations for the award(s) proposed to be taught by it
- its student records and methods of recording are secure
- its teaching staff are adequately qualified and competent to teach the award(s) for which approval is sought
- its delivery methods, IT, classroom and library facilities are adequate for the teaching of the award(s) for which approval is sought

The Audit & Risk Management Committee of the Board of Directors of the ACT Ltd must receive from each institution, before approval is granted to teach an ACT award, a completed Business Plan for Institutions Seeking Affiliation detailing the financial resources in place to deliver the course and to allow the objectives of the course to be delivered over the period of approval. The template for the Plan can be found at Appendix C of the Institutional Approval Criteria.

Any institution that is part of a consortium must demonstrate that a satisfactory Memorandum of Understanding exists between the parties to the consortium.

Attention of institutions seeking affiliation is drawn to the statement of Reconciliation and Dispute Resolution Procedure appended to this document.

Once the Board of Directors is satisfied that the applicant has satisfied the requirements stipulated in the Criteria and has received a positive recommendation from the Audit & Risk Management Committee with respect to the Business Plan, the applicant will be invited to sign an Affiliation Agreement and the Repayment Deed of Guarantee.

Mark Harding
 CEO
 14 December 2009

forms/affiliation agreement/information