

**MASTER OF ARTS (CHRISTIAN STUDIES) (AQF LEVEL 9 MASTER DEGREE [COURSEWORK])**

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| <b>Course Rationale</b>  |
| <p>(i) The course aims to equip graduates with the theological and other understandings and skills needed to apply a Christian perspective and commitment to their life in the world, including their professional and vocational life, and is designed to integrate theological reflection with the particular occupational and/or life interests of students, and</p> <p>(ii) It is expected that graduates from the management, business, legal, education, health and aged-care professions will be among those particularly attracted to the degree.</p>  |
| <b>Admission Requirements</b>  |
| <p><b>Academic Qualifications</b></p> <p>(i) The educational qualification for admission to the Master of Arts (Christian Studies) is an approved three-year non-theological undergraduate degree of a recognised university, or its equivalent. Prospective students will present full academic transcripts to their sponsoring institution.</p> <p>(ii) Although the degree is not primarily intended for those engaged in full time professional ministry it is recognised that some students, having satisfied (i) above, and having completed either the Bachelor of Theology, Bachelor of Ministry, Associate Degree of Theology, Bachelor of Christian Studies or Advanced Diplomas of the ACT may have a special interest in the Master of Arts (Christian Studies) degree. Many who complete theological degrees and diplomas do so with no intention of entering full time professional ministry.</p> <p><b>Language Qualifications for Non-English Speaking Background Applicants (NESB)</b></p> <p>Candidates who (a) have an assessable qualification that was undertaken solely in English in one of a set of prescribed countries OR (b) who have been resident in Australia with English being the language spoken at home and at work for ten (10) or more years are NOT required to provide proof of English Language proficiency for consideration for admission to an ACT course. All other domestic and international candidates MUST provide proof of English Language proficiency for consideration for admission to an ACT course. Such proof will normally be by provision of the results of an IELTS test (Academic Version).</p> <p>For admission to the Master of Arts (Christian Studies), the minimum IELTS result required is 7.0 overall with a minimum of 7.0 in reading and writing, and 6.5 in listening and speaking.</p> <p><b>Mature Age Entry</b></p> <p>There is no mature age entry provision. The Master of Arts (Christian Studies) is a degree for students with a completed three-year non-theological degree or its equivalent. While it is preferable for that study to have been completed within ten years of commencing the degree, the ACT does not wish to prescribe this.</p> <p>If there is doubt or uncertainty about a student's level of qualifications, the Academic Board may require applicants to complete a bridging course prior to admission to the Master of Arts (Christian Studies).</p> <p>Normally, students will be expected to have professional or other equivalent adult life experience.</p> |
| <b>Course Structure</b>  |
| <p>The course is designed in two parts. In total, the award is 64 credit points, over 2 years F/T or P/T equivalent (up to 8 years).</p> <p>The first phase of the Master of Arts (Christian Studies) is the Graduate Diploma of Christian Studies, which consists of 32 credit points over 1 year F/T or P/T equivalent at 500-600 Level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16 cps in core foundational level units at 500 level (OT501, OT502, NT501, NT502, CH501, CH502, CH505)</li> <li>• 12 cps in 600 level units including 8 cps in Theology (TH601-TH604)</li> <li>• a 4 cp project (IN650). This project may be deferred unit if the student wishes to take IN792 (12 credit point project) at the end of the Master of Arts (Christian Studies) program.</li> </ul> <p>Following completion of the Graduate Diploma of Christian Studies (32 cps) phase, a further 32 cps over 1 year F/T or P/T equivalent at 700 Level units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 cps in units chosen from the field of Integrative Studies (IN)</li> <li>• 16 cps elective units from any unit field</li> <li>• Project: IN791 – 8cps. (A student may defer IN650 in the Graduate Diploma phase of the course. If this happens, the student may choose to take IN792 – 12cps project) relating to student's non-theological studies</li> </ul>   |

Guidelines for the Project (IN791/2)**(a) Prerequisites:**

IN791 or IN792 can only be attempted once 48 cps have been satisfactorily completed.

**(b) Objectives:**

The Project allows the opportunity to undertake sustained, in-depth research in the area of the integration of their professional and life interests with particular aspects of the Christian tradition.

Students will pursue in depth a topic of personal and/or vocational interest not studied elsewhere in the degree; to enable students to develop research skills at an advanced level, particularly if articulation to a research degree is anticipated; to enhance the integration of the students' professional and/or life interests with particular aspects of theological and biblical studies.

**(c) Method of Assessment:**

The project IN791 or IN792 will be marked by an external examiner in accordance with section (e) below.

**(d) Guidelines and Process:**

- (i) The topic of the thesis must be approved by the relevant field Moderator, using the required Assessment Procedures Form.
- (ii) Once the topic of the thesis is approved, the student is to prepare a fuller proposal to be submitted to his or her sponsoring institution's course coordinator. The proposal should nominate a topic and include a statement of aim and method. The aim of the thesis must comply with the ethos of the degree. The student must also submit a bibliography of the primary and secondary monographs and articles in the area of his/her professional or vocational or life interest as well as the area of theology or biblical studies or ministerial study under investigation.
- (iii) Institutions are to ensure that adequate resources are available to the student in order that the research to be undertaken is supportable. In cases of inadequacies in the library holdings of the sponsoring institution, the course coordinator is to locate accessible local resources that will remedy the lack.
- (iv) Institutions are to ensure that the student is aware of the academic standard expected of the project.
- (v) Sponsoring institutions are to ensure that students enrolling in the project are adequately supervised by an appropriately qualified member of the faculty once the proposal has been approved by the student's sponsoring institution. A co-supervisor may be drawn from the ranks of adjunct faculty, especially those who might be invited to lecture aspects of subjects taught by the student's sponsoring institution.
- (vi) Any student undertaking human subject research as part of their project must gain approval from the institution's ethics committee before commencing their research. Applications forms can be obtained from their sponsoring college.
- (vii) A completed Notice of Intention to Submit Form must be forwarded to the ACT office 3 weeks prior to the expected submission date of the project, which includes the names, contact details and synopsis of the examiner's qualifications to undertake the examination of the project. Potential examiners should not be approached by the candidate or coordinator before names are submitted. It is the ACT's responsibility to invite and appoint such examiners, though always in consultation with the student's sponsoring college. An abstract, no longer than 300 words, should also accompany the Notice of Intention to Submit form.

**(e) Examination:**

When the project is ready for submission, it must be sent to the ACT along with the following signed certification:

*Candidate*

The following project, of which I have kept a copy, is entirely the work of the undersigned and all sources of ideas and expressions are duly acknowledged in footnotes or endnotes. This project does not incorporate any material previously submitted by me for any other degree or similar award.

*Supervisor*

I consider that this project is in a form suitable for examination and conforms to the requirements of the Australian College of Theology.

**Learning Outcomes**

- skills in biblical exegesis, the practice of hermeneutics or interpretation, and theological reflection in such a way as to bring their theological insights to bear upon the world they face and on their roles and occupations in it,
- ability to integrate and synthesize insights gained from the student's program of study with his or her vocational and/or life interests,
- ability to investigate by means of the project the particular interface of theological study and the world of work and/or life interest of the student;

- demonstrate knowledge and competence in their analysis of texts and ideas, undertake reading at greater depth and breadth than that expected of undergraduates, and show ability to read across viewpoints with understanding and to report these with empathy,
- display an ability to present well-structured and coherent arguments,
- demonstrate ability in all units undertaken to arrive at independent judgments and conclusions, and to engage in constructing their own theological world-view with attention to the deposit of faith and contemporary world-views,
- develop a critical appreciation of the historical context of Christian thought and practice and gain a critical appreciation of relevant cultural issues from a Christian perspective.

#### **Occupational Functions of Graduates**

- (i) graduates of the course will normally continue in their chosen secular professions but will have the understandings and skills to integrate these with their Christian perspective and commitment,
- (ii) depending on the units taken in the course, a graduate might be expected to participate as a member of a church educational or pastoral ministry team under the leadership of a well-qualified practitioner.

#### **Skills, Knowledge, and Attitudes Acquired by Graduates**

- (i) skills in biblical exegesis, the practice of hermeneutics or interpretation, and theological reflection in such a way as to bring their theological insights to bear upon the world they face and on their roles and occupations in it,
- (ii) ability to integrate and synthesize insights gained from the student's program of study with his or her vocational and/or life interests,
- (iii) ability to investigate by means of the project the particular interface of theological study and the world of work and/or life interest of the student;
- (iv) demonstrate knowledge and competence in their analysis of texts and ideas, undertake reading at greater depth and breadth than that expected of undergraduates, and show ability to read across viewpoints with understanding and to report these with empathy,
- (v) display an ability to present well-structured and coherent arguments,
- (vi) demonstrate ability in all units undertaken to arrive at independent judgments and conclusions, and to engage in constructing their own theological world-view with attention to the deposit of faith and contemporary world-views,
- (vii) develop a critical appreciation of the historical context of Christian thought and practice and gain a critical appreciation of relevant cultural issues from a Christian perspective.

#### **Rules**

- (i) Students must not enrol in more than 20 cps in any one semester.
- (ii) 600 level units with specific conditions may be taken when the pre-requisite or co-requisite or required units have been successfully completed and/or any co-requisite unit is taken concurrently.