

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY

AWARD SUMMARY

Abbreviation:	BTh
AQF Level:	Level 7
Entry Requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) of 65, or its equivalent; or• Mature Age and Special Entry Admissions for those who have reached the age of 21; or• articulation from other Sydney College of Divinity programs.
Course Duration:	3 years full-time or 6 years part-time (max. of 9 years)
Course Structure:	24 units (216 credit points)
Study Modes:	<i>On-Campus Weekly Lectures in Sydney</i> Full time and part time study available <i>Distance Education (Live Webinars and/or Webinar Recordings)</i> Full time and part time study available
English Proficiency:	Applicants whose entry qualifications were obtained in an institution where English is not the language of instruction normally require a minimum International English Language Testing System (IELTS, or equivalent) score of 6.5 with no score less than 6.0 in all bands of the test. A student may be admitted provisionally into the BTh when they have an IELTS result of 6.0 with no score less than 6.0 in all bands of the test.
2021 Tuition Fees and Financial Support:	Tuition Fees are invoiced <u>each semester</u> as follows: \$1,170 per unit (9 credit points) \$9,360 yearly indicate fee (72 credit points) Scholarships are available to most students (see below). FEE-HELP is available (eligibility criteria apply). Fees are subject to change from year to year.
College Dormitory Residency	St Andrew's provides free room and board to single male applicants who are (i) endorsed by their local bishop, and (ii) approved by the Admissions Committee, and (iii) enrolled in full time studies.
How to Apply	Please contact the Registrar for an application interview.

OVERVIEW

The Bachelor of Theology degree is a primary qualification in theology and is the basis for further study at postgraduate level. It is a broad course combining both theological and practical studies. All relevant components and course units of the Bachelor of Theology are normally completed over three years.

Admission into this course is open to all suitably qualified applicants, male and female. After satisfying the requirements of the Bachelor of Theology, students may be eligible to complete the Bachelor of Theology (Honours) program or to complete a postgraduate course of study advised by the Faculty Board.

The Bachelor of Theology also serves as a means of training men for ordination within the Church. However, at all times, applicants striving to discern a priestly vocation are advised that completion of their studies does not constitute a guarantee of ordination in the Orthodox Church. Among other things, applicants considering ordination should keep in mind that the years of education and training at St Andrew's serve as a period of discernment, and that ordination itself is regulated by the canon law of the Eastern Orthodox Church. Application of the relevant canons as well as the establishment and application of any other requirements relating to ordination lies exclusively with the competent ecclesiastical authority. Applicants who have questions concerning their eligibility for ordination should consult with their appropriate ecclesiastical authority. They may also seek further information from the Registrar.

Part-time study is available, although priority of placement is given to prospective full-time students during the admissions process.

RATIONALE

The three year program at St Andrew's has simultaneously an academic, spiritual and practical nature in order to impart to students a thorough knowledge, skills and *phronema* (mentality or attitude) in Orthodox theology and spirituality for multifarious *diakonia* (ministry) in an Australian context.

Given the distinctive theological ethos and character of Eastern Christianity, the aim of the College's educational program is to integrate spirituality, faith and academic excellence. Consequently, St Andrew's is not a secular institution. The mind, the heart and the soul are to be nurtured: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself" (Luke 10:27). At St Andrew's, the lecture room, the library and the study (the places of learning), and the chapel (the place of worship), are all of equal significance. All scholarly endeavours are ultimately a reflection upon the glory and truth of the Holy Trinity and divine revelation. This sacred meditation upon God's Word is to be pursued by both faculty and students within the various theological disciplines within the lecture room with the certainty of academic freedom and dignity.

In the spirit of Orthodox Christianity, educational growth is inseparably bound to the values, spirit and experience of the faith. As such, St Andrew's is concerned with the spiritual and moral development of the students. The theologian is the one who struggles not only to gain a deep understanding of the faith but also lives this faith with all its powers and practical applications.

St Andrew's aspires to promote a student's potential towards excellence. The College is concerned with the advancement of Eastern Orthodox Christian thought and life. Through

research, publications and ecumenical encounters, it seeks to provide sound theological reflection on vital issues facing the Church. It has always envisioned itself to be a place and source of renewal and continuing education for those already engaged in ministry. It is dedicated to the task of helping those aspiring to fulfil their calling in various ministries in the midst of the complexities and responsibilities of this post-modern era. Furthermore, given our own sceptical and secular age, which has attempted to demythologise and trivialise the most fundamental elements of the faith, one aspect of the College's academic thrust is to demonstrate the historical certainty upon which the Church's faith is grounded. In this particular endeavour, St Andrew's does not hesitate to employ contemporary historical and analytical forms of inquiry.

NATURE OF THE PROGRAM

The primary aim of St Andrew's is to train and educate priests, theologians and theologically literate volunteers and co-workers for Greek Orthodox Parishes and Communities throughout Australia, as well as to train and educate those who serve, or will serve, within the jurisdictions of local hierarchs who belong to the Episcopal Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of Oceania.

It should be noted that an emphasis on the discipline of 'Theology' is due to the significance which Orthodoxy places upon the Church Fathers and their understanding of Holy Scripture. As an essential and universal dimension of Orthodox theological endeavour, Patristic Theology constitutes an additional field in the discipline of 'Theology', owing to its interrelationship and interaction with Systematic Theology. In this offering, St Andrew's becomes distinctive among member institutions of the SCD.

The three year program at St Andrew's includes both academic and practical components in order to give students a thorough training in Eastern Orthodox theology and the skills needed for a contemporary pastoral ministry in Australia. In addition, St Andrew's is intended to be a centre of ecumenical scholarship and interaction.

COURSE OUTCOMES

Graduates will have:

Knowledge

- A broad and coherent body of knowledge with depth in the underlying principles and concepts in Theology, Biblical Studies and one other discipline or area of practice, that will form the basis for independent lifelong learning.

Skills

- Cognitive and technical skills in a theologically related body of knowledge, so that they are able independently to:
 - review, reflect on, and synthesize theological information and identify and provide solutions to complex problems.
 - think critically and generate and evaluate complex ideas.
 - demonstrate an understanding of theoretical theological concepts.
 - communicate theologically related knowledge, skills and ideas clearly and coherently.

Applications of Knowledge and Skills

- the ability to
 - demonstrate a broad understanding of knowledge by applying it creatively in Christian living and ministry.
 - make high level, independent judgments in a range of ministry settings.

- initiate, plan, and implement activities and projects within a range of ministry settings.

COURSE STRUCTURE

1. Completion of 216 credit points (i.e. 24 units) including three sub-major sequences:
 - a. Biblical Studies
 - b. Theology
 - c. Church History
2. Two of these sub-majors shall be extended to a major, namely Biblical Studies and Theology.
3. A sub-major is also available in the discipline of Christian Life & Ministry (including the sub-disciplines of Worship and Liturgy, and Pastoral Theology).
4. A major in a sub-discipline requires 54 credit points from the sub-discipline, with not more than 18 credit points from 7100 series units and at least 9 credit points from 7300 series units. Under certain provisions (see clause 7 below), up to 36 credit points from 8500 and 9600 series units may be included.
5. A major in a discipline requires 54 credit points from the discipline, with at least 27 credit points in one sub-discipline, with not more than 18 credit points from 7100 series units and at least 9 credit points from 7300 series units. Under certain provisions (see clause 7 below), up to 36 credit points from 8500 and 9600 series units may be included.
6. A sub-major requires 36 credit points from units assigned to the major including no more than 18 credit points from 7100 series units and with at least one 7200 series unit.
7. Candidates who have completed 108 credit points towards the Bachelor of Theology may select up to 36 credit points from the Schedule of 8500 and 9600 series units. Within these units, a candidate can only select up to 18 credit points of 9600 series units provided they have already completed at least a sub-major in that sub-discipline with a Grade Point Average of at least 2.0.

INTERNAL REQUIREMENTS

1. For students with Greek heritage, or those affiliated with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, six semesters of Modern Greek language studies unless evidence of strong competency or prior tertiary study in this field warrant exemption. Any request for exemption is subject to the approval of the Faculty Board.
2. Six semesters of Byzantine chant unless evidence of strong competency or prior tertiary study in this field warrant exemption. Any request for exemption is subject to the approval of the Faculty Board.
3. Field education as prescribed.
4. Participation in daily chapel services, other liturgical services and any occasional events as instructed.
5. Assignment to a parish for Sunday morning services as instructed.
6. Participation in a student retreat and other group excursions and pilgrimages as instructed.
7. Participation in seminars, workshops and conferences, public lectures, bible study, and designated 'College Events' as instructed.
8. Part-time students, or students who have been admitted into the Bachelor of Theology with advance standing from either the Diploma of Christian Studies or the Associate Degree in Christian Thought and Practice, are required to fulfil the aforementioned internal requirements according to a tailored schedule in order to complete their candidature requirements.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

1. The Student Support and Administration Committee of the Sydney College of Divinity, at the recommendation of St Andrew's, may grant leave of absence from the Bachelor of Theology. The period of leave shall not be counted as part of the period of candidature for the Bachelor.
2. The period of leave shall normally be one semester after which a candidate may apply for a further period of one semester or else be required to complete their candidature.

CREDIT FOR PREVIOUS OR CONCURRENT STUDY

1. Credit may be granted in units for comparable work completed or concurrently being undertaken at an approved level at any recognised tertiary institution, to a maximum of 144 credit points. Applications for credit must include an authorised transcript of the studies undertaken and the official description of units completed at the other institutions.
2. Credit is determined by the Student Administration Committee of the SCD and is subject to its final approval.
3. Receipt of credit for previous or concurrent study does not normally exempt a student from completing the compulsory requirements of St Andrew's unless such exemption is approved by the Faculty Board.

EXTERNAL STUDIES

The requirements of specific units in majors and sub-majors can also be fulfilled if a student undertakes an equivalent unit at another member institution of the SCD or at a university or recognised tertiary institution via cross-institutional study after consultation with the Registrar and subject to Faculty Board approval.

EXIT POINTS

Students enrolled in the Bachelor of Theology may exit with a Diploma of Christian Studies (DipChSt) or an Associate Degree in Christian Thought and Practice (AssocDegChThPr) provided they have met the requirements of these awards.

DELIVERY OF UNITS

1. Units are offered by weekly lectures on campus in Redfern during each semester. Please consult the [Timetable](#) page on the website.
2. Units are also offered via distance education (online) within the parameters of the two regular semesters.
3. Distance education is delivered via live weekly webinars using Zoom™ (synchronous learning) and/or webinar recordings (asynchronous learning).
4. Some distance education units normally include a compulsory on-campus residential component and all students studying via distance education must account for the need to travel to the Redfern campus on certain key dates throughout the year unless otherwise stipulated. Please consult the [Distance Education](#) page on the website for more information, and well as the Academic Calendar.

TUITION FEES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

St Andrew's is committed to admitting the most able and dedicated students to its courses, regardless of their financial means or background. Most students are eligible for financial support as outlined below.

Tuition Fees are invoiced each semester as follows:

\$1,170 per unit (9 credit points) in a given semester
(up to 4 units, 36 credit points, per semester)

FEE-HELP is available (eligibility criteria apply). Visit www.studyassist.gov.au.

Scholarship assistance with regards to tuition fees is available to persons enrolled in a course through St Andrew's and who meet the following descriptions:

<i>Scholarship Category</i>	<i>Scholarship Coverage</i>
<p>A. Full Time Student Scholarship The applicant will be (i) an Australian citizen; (ii) endorsed by their local bishop and parish priest; (iii) in residence within the College dormitory [with free room and board]; (iv) undertaking the internal requirements stipulated above; and (v) enrolled in 36 credit points in a given semester.</p>	66%
<p>B. Orthodox Christian Clergymen The applicant will be (i) a clergyman serving within the jurisdictions of local hierarchs who belong to the Episcopal Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of Oceania; (ii) endorsed by their local bishop; and (iii) enrolled for 18 or 27 credit points in any given semester.</p>	50%
<p>C. Clergy Family Scholarship The applicant will be (i) the wife or child of a clergyman noted above in [B]; (ii) endorsed by their local bishop; and (iii) enrolled for 18 or 27 credit points in any given semester.</p>	50%
<p>D. Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Scholarship The applicant will be (i) an Australian citizen; (ii) an employee of a school or health care facility operating under the auspices of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia; and (iii) enrolled for 18 or 27 credit points in any given semester.</p>	25%
<p>E. Church Volunteer Scholarship The applicant will (i) be a volunteer in a parish within the jurisdictions of local hierarchs who belong to the Episcopal Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of Oceania (e.g. Parish Committee, Ladies Auxiliary, Chaplaincy Volunteers, Chanters, Scripture Teachers, Sunday School Teachers); (ii) present a reference letter from their parish priest describing their volunteer role; and (iii) be enrolled for 18 or 27 credit points in any given semester.</p>	33%

A student's scholarship eligibility is reviewed each semester or annually. Scholarship provisions are subject to change from year to year.

SAMPLE PROGRAM (FULL TIME STUDENT)

Year 1

<p>Semester 1</p> <p>Introduction to New Testament Greek Introduction to the Old Testament History of the Early Church Introduction to Theology <i>Byzantine Music / Modern Greek</i> <i>Field Education / Seminars</i></p>	<p>Semester 2</p> <p>New Testament Greek (cont.) Introduction to the New Testament Byzantium: Empire of New Rome Introduction to Christian Spirituality <i>Byzantine Music / Modern Greek</i> <i>Field Education / Seminars</i></p>
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Year 2

<p>Semester 1</p> <p>The Four Gospels Introduction to Christian Worship Intro to Pastoral Theology and Ministry The Church <i>Byzantine Music / Modern Greek</i> <i>Field Education / Seminars</i></p>	<p>Semester 2</p> <p>Prophetic Literature Liturgical Rites Early Church Fathers Elective Unit <i>Byzantine Music / Modern Greek</i> <i>Field Education / Seminars</i></p>
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Year 3

<p>Semester 1</p> <p>Psalms Byzantium: Resplendence and Twilight The Self-Revealing God Early Byzantine Patristic Theology <i>Byzantine Music / Modern Greek</i> <i>Field Education / Seminars</i></p>	<p>Semester 2</p> <p>Pauline Literature Later Byzantine Patristic Theology Modern Orthodox Christian History Elective Unit <i>Byzantine Music / Modern Greek</i> <i>Field Education / Seminars</i></p>
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Elective units are listed in the [Timetable](#) page on the website and may vary from year to year. These may include Clinical Pastoral Education, supervised ministry, eligible postgraduate unit(s), generic unit(s) in an available discipline, and/or cross-institutional study at another tertiary college or university (with permission from the Faculty Board).

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