

MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

AWARD SUMMARY

Abbreviation:	MThSt
AQF Level:	Level 9
Entry Requirements:	A Graduate Diploma of Theological Studies from the Sydney College of Divinity, or equivalent.
Course Duration:	2 years part-time (max. of 3 years)
Course Structure:	8 units (72 credit points)
Study Modes:	<i>On-Campus Weekly Lectures in Sydney</i> Full time may be available. Part time study is available <i>Distance Education (Live Webinars and/or Webinar Recordings)</i> Full time may be available. Part time study is 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) score of 7.0 in all bands of the 'academic format' of the test.
2021 Tuition Fees and Financial Support:	Tuition Fees are invoiced <u>each semester</u> as follows: \$1,440 per unit (9 credit points) \$11,520 yearly indicative fee (72 credit points) Scholarships are available (see below). FEE-HELP is available (eligibility criteria apply). Fees are subject to change from year to year.
How to Apply	Please contact the Registrar for an application interview.

GRADUATE PROFILE AND RATIONALE

The Master of Theological Studies is designed for those who hold a Graduate Diploma of Theological Studies and who wish to pursue a further qualification in the disciplines of Theology or Biblical Studies as part of their continuing education for ministry.

COURSE OUTCOMES

Graduates will have specialised knowledge and skills for research, and/or professional practice and/or further learning and the ability to apply such knowledge and skills in a theologically-related area:

Knowledge

- an integrated understanding of an advanced body of knowledge in the disciplines of Theology and Biblical Studies including recent developments in these two disciplines and/or their practice.
- an understanding of research principles and methods applicable to these theological disciplines and their practice

Skills

- expert, specialised cognitive and technical skills in the two core disciplines of Theology and Biblical Studies, so as to be able independently to:
 - analyse critically, reflect on and synthesise complex information, problems, concepts and theories associated with the two core disciplines of Theology and Biblical Studies
 - research and apply established theories to these two disciplines
 - interpret and transmit knowledge, skills and ideas through coherent and sustained argument to specialist and non-specialist audiences in relation to the disciplines of Theology and Biblical Studies.

Applications of Knowledge and Skills

- the ability to
 - apply knowledge and skills in a way that demonstrates autonomy, expert judgement, adaptability, and accountability as a practitioner and/or learner in relation to the interdependent building of the church and good of the wider community
 - plan and execute a research-based project, and/or piece of scholarship in one of the two core disciplines of Theology and Biblical Studies.

ADMISSION TO CANDIDATURE

1. An applicant for admission to candidature for a degree of Master of Theological Studies shall:
 - a. hold a Graduate Diploma of Theological Studies from the Sydney College of Divinity, or
 - b. hold, from a university or other tertiary institution, qualifications approved by the Student Support and Administration Committee as equivalent to such an award.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of this regulation the Student Support and Administration Committee may require an applicant to demonstrate fitness for admission as a candidate for his degree by carrying out such work and/or sitting for such examinations as the Student Support and Administration Committee may determine.
3. In exceptional cases an applicant may be admitted as a candidate for a Master of Theological Studies if the applicant submits evidence of other academic and professional attainments to the Student Support and Administration Committee.

4. A student is designated as full-time if enrolled in three units (27 credit points) or more in a semester or part-time if enrolled in less than three units (27 credit points) per semester.
5. No candidate for the award may be concurrently enrolled in any other undergraduate or postgraduate course within the Sydney College of Divinity or any other tertiary institution, unless approval has been granted by the Academic Board.
6. Applicants whose entry qualifications were obtained in an institution where English is not the language of instruction normally will be required to demonstrate competency in English by an IELTS (or equivalent) result of 7.0 in all bands of the test and may be required to attend such English language courses as prescribed by the Sydney College of Divinity.
7. Application for admission into the Master of Theological Studies program is made through the Registrar of St Andrew's.
8. Units in the 8500 series and 9600 series may be available to cross-institutional students, non-award students, and auditors after consultation with the Registrar.

COURSE STRUCTURE

1. The Master of Theological Studies requires the completion of 8 units (72 credit points) from 8500 and 9600 series units.
2. The 8 units (72 credit points) will include 4 units from the disciplines of Theology and Biblical Studies.
3. The course may include a specialisation which comprises 54 credit points in either Theology or Biblical Studies with at least two 9600 series units. The Graduate Diploma entry award can be used towards the 54 credit points required for specialisation.
4. The course shall include a Generic (Research) unit in either the disciplines of Theology or Biblical Studies.
5. A candidate may take a maximum of 36 credit points in units listed as Generic (Research) units with a maximum of 18 credit points in Independent Guided Study units, 18 credit points in Research Project units, and 18 credit points as a Research Essay.
6. A candidate may include 18 credit points in the Research Essay (10,000-12,000 words in length and written in the area of specialisation under supervision) providing the candidate completes one 8500 series Research Methodology unit (9 credit points) before or concurrently with the Research Essay.
7. Candidates wishing to proceed to the Sydney College of Divinity degree of Master of Philosophy must complete the 18 credit points Research Essay at distinction level.

Available Units of Study
(see [Timetable](#))

2021, Semester 1

Students who have a completed a Graduate Diploma from another university or tertiary college may need to create a customised study plan in consultation with the Registrar and/or enrol in certain prerequisite units typically undertaken during the Graduate Diploma at St Andrew's. Most units are offered annually.

A8520 Introduction to New Testament Greek
B9629 Wisdom and Poetry in Israel ¹
B9657 Lukan Literature ²
H9631 Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Art and Architecture ³
T8517 Ecclesiology ⁴
T8534 The Triune God and Revelation (in 2022) ⁵
T8596 Studies in Early Byzantine Patristic Theology ⁶
T9686 Cappadocian Legacy ⁷

2021, Semester 2

A8570 New Testament Greek ⁸
B9652 Apocalyptic Literature ⁹
B9668 Gospel According to John ¹⁰
H9632 Byzantine Hagiography ¹¹
T9688 Saint Maximus the Confessor ¹²

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These research units are usually taken towards to end of the Masters program.

X8500 Research Methodology
X9691 Research Project
X9692 Research Project (18 credit points)
X9696 Research Essay (18 credit points)

EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

In conversation with the Academic Director and Registrar, students may wish to also consider participating in the following additional extra-curricular opportunities which aim to complement their theological studies, but which are not accredited for this course:

1. Modern Greek language studies;
2. Byzantine chanting lessons;
3. Pastoral field education (including Introductory Clinical Pastoral Education);
4. Seminars, workshops and conferences, public lectures, bible study, and designated 'College Events' as available.

Please note that not all extra-curricular opportunities are available at all times. Whilst unaccredited, most of these activities are offered to current students without additional fees.

¹ Prerequisite = B8520 Introduction to the Old Testament

² Prerequisite = B8530 Introduction to the New Testament

³ Prerequisite = H8596 Studies in Early Byzantine Church History

⁴ Prerequisite = T8501 Introducing Theology

⁵ Prerequisite = T8501 Introducing Theology

⁶ Prerequisite = T8581 Church Fathers: An Introduction

⁷ Prerequisite = T8581 Church Fathers: An Introduction

⁸ Prerequisite = A8520 Introduction to New Testament Greek

⁹ Prerequisite = B8520 Introduction to the Old Testament

¹⁰ Prerequisite = B8530 Introduction to the New Testament

¹¹ Prerequisite = H8596 Studies in Early Byzantine Church History

¹² Prerequisite = T8581 Church Fathers: An Introduction

PERIOD OF CANDIDATURE

1. The period of candidature for the degree shall normally be two years part time, with a maximum period of up to three years if required.
2. In certain circumstances the Student Support and Administration Committee of the Sydney College of Divinity may grant extensions.

ASSESSMENT

1. Masters students are expected to give evidence of a breadth of research and a depth of understanding beyond that of an undergraduate student. In particular, their work should manifest the higher order skills of:
 - *Analysis* - the ability to break down what is presented into its component parts and indicate the relationship between those parts;
 - *Synthesis* - the ability to re-assemble those component parts into a new whole; and
 - *Evaluation* - the ability to think critically and originally, making judgments based on relevant principles.
2. Academic and non-academic misconduct will be penalised in accordance with the regulations of the Sydney College of Divinity, whose stipulations are severe.

ARTICULATION INTO OTHER AWARDS

1. Students are eligible to articulate to an appropriate higher research degree of the Sydney College of Divinity, such as the Master of Philosophy, provided they have achieved the Master of Theological Studies with a grade point average of 2.8 or better and including the Research Essay at distinction level.
2. As of 2022, students will also be eligible to transfer their credit from the Master of Theological Studies into the Master of Divinity (MDiv) postgraduate coursework program.

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 Master of Theological Studies. The period of leave shall not be counted as part of the period of candidature for the degree.
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 STUDY

A candidate may seek credit up to a maximum of 36 credit points in the Master of Theological Studies. Credit can be granted only from units at graduate level where the outcomes, content, demand hours and assessment are equivalent to that of units in the Sydney College of Divinity award.

DELIVERY OF COURSE 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:

\$1,440 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>
A. Alumni Scholarship The applicant will be (i) a graduate of St Andrew's; (ii) endorsed by their local bishop and parish priest; and (iii) enrolled in at least 18 credit points in each semester.	50%
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 in at least 18 credit points in each semester.	50%

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

Last Updated: 2 December 2020