

# MASTER OF ARTS

## AWARD SUMMARY

Abbreviation:	MA
Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF):	Level 9
Entry Requirements:	<i>Category 1:</i> an AQF Level 8 award in the discipline of theology; or <i>Category 2:</i> a three-year bachelor award (AQF Level 7) in the discipline of theology.
Duration:	<i>Category 1:</i> Up to 3 years part-time. <i>Category 2:</i> Up to 4½ years part-time.
Admission:	Annual admission intake only. Applications should be received by early December of the year prior to admission. Please check the website for 'Important Dates'.
Mode:	Part-time.
Structure:	<i>Category 1:</i> 8 units (72 credit points) <i>Category 2:</i> 12 units (108 credit points)
	The course may be taken with or without a specialisation. A specialisation in the MA comprises 54 credit points in a Discipline with at least two 9600 level units.
	For <i>Category 2</i> candidates, the MA has nested within it the Graduate Certificate in Arts (GradCertA) and the Graduate Diploma of Arts (GradDipA):
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GradCertA requires 4 units (36 credit points)</li><li>• GradDipA requires 8 units (72 credit points)</li></ul>
Enrolment Options:	<i>On-Campus Weekly Lectures:</i> part-time study available <i>Distance Education (Online):</i> part-time study available
Exit Points:	<i>Category 1</i> candidates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Graduate Diploma of Arts (36 credit points);</li><li>• Master of Arts (72 credit points)</li></ul> <i>Category 2</i> candidates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Graduate Certificate in Arts (36 credit points);</li><li>• Graduate Diploma of Arts (72 credit points);</li><li>• Master of Arts (108 credit points)</li></ul>

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 7.0 in all bands of the ‘academic format’ of the test.
Tuition Fees and Financial Support:	Tuition Fees are invoiced <u>each semester</u> as follows: \$1350 for the first unit (9 credit points) in a given semester \$550 for each subsequent unit taken in a given semester (up to four course units, 36 credit points, per semester) Scholarships are available (see pages 5 & 6) FEE-HELP is available (conditions apply)
Available Units (2017)	<p><i>Semester 1</i></p> <p>B8520A Introduction to the Old Testament C8546A Pastoral Counselling in Ministry H8510A The Early Church H9631A Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Art and Architecture L8501A Introducing Christian Worship T8500A Research Methodology T8501A Introducing Theology* <small>compulsory</small> T9686A The Cappadocian Legacy Research Project or Research Essay (after consultation)</p> <p><i>Semester 2</i></p> <p>A8520A Introduction to New Testament Greek B8530A Introduction to the New Testament E8594A Introduction to Christian Ethics [Special Intensive Classes by Visiting Professor, 28-31 August 2017] H8530A Byzantine Studies H9632A Byzantine Hagiography L8596A Studies in Liturgical Rites T8581A Church Fathers: An Introduction T8534A The Triune God and Revelation T9682A The Alexandrian Legacy Research Project or Research Essay (after consultation)</p>

## 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, as they acquire:

### *Knowledge*

- an integrated understanding of an advanced body of knowledge in one or more theologically related disciplines or areas of practice, including recent developments in the theological disciplines and/or their practice
- understanding of research principles and methods applicable to these theological disciplines and their practice

### *Skills*

- expert, specialized cognitive and technical skills in a theologically-related body of knowledge, so that they are able independently to:

- analyse critically, reflect on and synthesize complex information, problems, concepts and theories associated with a theologically-related body of knowledge
- research and apply established theories to a theologically-related body of knowledge or practice
- interpret and transmit knowledge, skills and ideas through coherent and sustained argument to specialist and non-specialist audiences in relation to a theologically-related body of knowledge

*Applications of Knowledge and Skills*

- the ability to
  - apply knowledge and skills in a way that demonstrates autonomy, expert judgment, adaptability, and accountability as a practitioner and/or learner in relation to the inter-dependent building up of the church and good of the wider community.
  - plan and execute a research-based project, and/or piece of scholarship in an area of theology.

## **ADMISSION TO CANDIDATURE**

1. Applicants for admission to candidature for a degree of Master of Arts will be classified into one of two categories:
  - a. those who have completed an AQF Level 8 award in the discipline of theology (Category 1), or
  - b. those who have completed a three-year AQF Level 7 award in the discipline of theology, or qualifications approved by the Student Support and Administration Committee as equivalent to such an award (Category 2).
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 a degree of Master 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 degree of Master if the applicant submits evidence of other academic and professional attainments to the Student Support and Administration Committee.
4. A candidate for the award shall be designated as full-time or part-time. A student is designated as a 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 Arts program is made through the Registrar of St Andrew's.
8. Units at 8500 level and 9600 level may be available to cross-institutional students, non-award students, and auditors after consultation with the Registrar.

## **COURSE STRUCTURE**

1. The Master of Arts degree requires candidates to complete credit points as follows:
  - a. those in Category 1 are required to complete one year of study (72 credit points) in units whose content is not similar to those covered in their previous studies;
  - b. those in Category 2 are required to complete one-and-a-half years of study (108 credit points) in units whose content is not similar to those covered in their previous studies.
2. The course may be taken with or without a specialisation. A specialisation in the MA comprises 54 credit points in a sub-discipline with at least two 9600 level units.
3. All course units shall normally be taken from 8500 and 9600 level units.
4. The course shall include *T8501A Introducing Theology* [marked \* above under 'Available Units'].
5. The course shall include a Generic (Research) unit and/or a Capstone unit and/or a Research Project and/or a Research Essay.
6. 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. Students who transfer from the MA to the MTh cannot exceed this limit in total across both programs.
7. 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 an 8500 level Research Methodology Unit (9 credit points) before or concurrently with the Research Essay.
8. A candidate whose admission or provisional admission has been granted on the basis of a Vocational Graduate Diploma or Graduate Certificate must complete the unit *A8501 Critical Thinking and Writing* during the first enrolment period.
9. Candidates wishing to proceed to the degree of Master of Philosophy must include one 18 credit point Research Essay or two 9 credit point research units at Distinction level.

## **ASSESSMENT**

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.

## **ARTICULATION INTO OTHER AWARDS**

1. Students are eligible to articulate to an appropriate higher research degree of the Sydney College of Divinity provided they have achieved the Master of Arts with a grade point average of 2.8 or better and including the Research Essay at distinction level.
2. A Master of Arts from the Sydney College of Divinity with a particular specialisation can be considered an entry point into the Master of Theology on the following conditions: (a) The specialisation in the Master of Theology must be the same as the specialisation undertaken in the Master of Arts; (b) In order to undertake coursework units listed as 'Available Units' for the Master of Theology the student must have met the pre-requisites for those coursework units.

## **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 Arts. 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.

## **ASSESSMENT**

1. The assessment of course units shall be in the manner approved by the Academic Board of the Sydney College of Divinity in line with its established guidelines for assessment packages at Masters level.
2. Students may be required by the Academic Board of the Sydney College of Divinity to present themselves for oral examination.
3. Academic and non-academic misconduct will be penalised severely in accordance with the regulations of the Sydney College of Divinity.

## **CREDIT FOR PREVIOUS STUDY**

A candidate may seek credit up to a maximum of 54 credit points in the Master of Arts. 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. Students are advised that whilst units are available via weekly evening lectures and/or units delivered through distance education, completion of the entire Master of Arts program may require enrolment in up to four units offered through a variety of generic modes, or through another member institution within the Sydney College of Divinity, or undertaken at a recognised tertiary institution.
2. Units are offered primarily by weekly evening lectures on campus during each semester. Please consult the 'Timetable' page on the website.
3. Units are also offered via distance education (online) mode within the parameters of the two regular semesters. Online 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. 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:

\$1350 for the first unit (9 credit points) in a given semester  
\$550 for each subsequent unit taken in a given semester  
(up to four course units, 36 credit points, per semester)

FEE-HELP is available (conditions apply). Visit [www.studyassist.gov.au](http://www.studyassist.gov.au).

*For a clergyman and/or their spouse*

Orthodox Christian clergymen serving within the jurisdictions of local hierarchs who belong to the Episcopal Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of Oceania may undertake the Master of Arts and pay only \$675 for the first unit (9 credit points) in a given semester, followed by \$550 for each subsequent unit taken in a given semester. Such clergymen must provide a reference letter from their local hierarch if they are not under the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia. The wife of such a clergyman may also access this same scholarship.