

GRADUATE DIPLOMA OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

AWARD SUMMARY

Abbreviation:	GradDipThSt
AQF Level:	Level 8
Entry Requirements:	A three-year bachelor award (AQF Level 7) or equivalent in any discipline.
Course Duration:	1 year full-time or 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 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) 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) <u>Scholarships are available to most students</u> (see below). <u>FEE-HELP</u> is available (eligibility criteria apply). Fees are subject to change from year to year.
How to Apply	Please contact the <u>Registrar</u> for an application interview.

COURSE OUTCOMES

The Graduate Diploma of Theological Studies is designed for those who hold a three-year undergraduate tertiary qualification in a non-theological discipline and who wish to pursue a graduate qualification in theology and its associated disciplines, specifically those of Theology and Biblical Studies. Students will be able to critically engage Christian thought and traditions, enhance their professional works and give expression to insights for Christian living.

The Graduate Diploma of Theological Studies focuses on introducing students to two core theological disciplines (Theology and Biblical Studies) equipping them with foundational knowledge for further study in these two areas.

Knowledge

- an advanced understanding, within a coherent body of knowledge, specifically in the two core disciplines of Theology and Biblical Studies; this may include the acquisition and application of knowledge and skills in a new or existing discipline or professional area.

Skills

- cognitive and technical skills in the two core disciplines of Theology and Biblical Studies, so as to be able independently to:
 - review, reflect on, and synthesize theological information and identify and provide resources towards complex problems
 - think critically and evaluate complex ideas
 - apply specialised and creative skills for Christian living and ministry
 - research, analyse and communicate theologically related ideas to a variety of audiences

Applications of Knowledge and Skills

- the ability to:
 - make high level, independent and theologically informed judgements
 - plan and evaluate activities and projects within a particular ministry setting
 - identify ways that this body of knowledge relates to Christian living and / or ministry.

ASSESSMENT

Graduate students are expected to give evidence of a breadth 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 recognize the distinctive aspects of a topic, and the inter-relationships between them.
- *Synthesis* - the ability to integrate the various aspects of a topic and see them in the light of the whole.
- *Evaluation* - the ability to think critically and originally, making judgments based on relevant evidence and methods.

ARTICULATION TO OTHER AWARDS

Students are eligible to articulate to the Master of Theological Studies (MThSt). As of 2022, students will also be eligible to transfer their credit from the Graduate Diploma into the Master of Divinity (MDiv) program.

ADMISSION TO CANDIDATURE

1. An applicant for admission to candidature for a degree of Graduate Diploma of Theological Studies shall:
 - a. have qualified for admission to a three-year AQF Level 7 award from an accredited Australian tertiary institution; 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; or
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of this regulation the Student Support and Administration Committee of the Sydney College of Divinity may require an applicant to demonstrate fitness for admission as a candidate for this 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 Graduate Diploma of Theological Studies if the applicant submits evidence of other academic and professional attainments to the Student Support and Administration Committee of the Sydney College of Divinity.
4. A candidate for a Graduate Diploma of Theological Studies 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 of the Sydney College of Divinity.
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 Graduate Diploma 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 Graduate Diploma of Theological Studies requires the completion of 72 credit points (8 units).
2. Four units will be taken from the disciplines of Theology and Biblical Studies.
3. Students who enter the program from a BTh, BMin, MDiv or equivalent course cannot enrol in units with content similar to those covered in their earlier studies.
4. Each unit has a 9 credit point value unless otherwise stated.

Units of Study: 2021, Semester 1
(see [Timetable](#))

- B8520 Introduction to the Old Testament
- H8510 The Early Church
- L8501 Introducing Christian Worship
- T8501 Introducing Theology

2021, Semester 2

- B8530 Introduction to the New Testament
- S8502 Christian Spirituality
- T8581 Church Fathers: An Introduction
- Elective Unit

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.

PERIOD OF CANDIDATURE

1. The period of candidature for the degree shall normally be one year full time and 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.

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 Graduate Diploma 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 Graduate Diploma of Theological Studies. Credit may 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 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>
<p>A. Full Time Student Scholarship The applicant will be (i) an Australian citizen; (ii) endorsed by their local bishop and parish priest; and (iii) enrolled for 36 credit points in any given semester</p>	50%
<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; 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.

Last Updated: 27 November 2020