

MASTER OF DIVINITY

AWARD SUMMARY

- **For students residing outside Australia and studying via distance education.**
- **For international students seeking to study full-time in Australia.**

Abbreviation:	MDiv
CRICOS Course Code:	063710D
AQF Level:	Level 9 Masters Degree (Extended)
Entry Requirements:	A three-year bachelor award (AQF Level 7) or equivalent in any discipline.
Course Duration:	3 years full-time or part-time equivalent (max. of 12 years)
Course Structure:	24 units (216 credit points)
Study Modes:	<i>On-Campus Weekly Lectures in Sydney</i> Full time study only (compliance with student visa rules) For study in Australia, visit the Overseas Students page. <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.
2026 Tuition Fees and Financial Support:	\$1,590.00 per unit (incl. AUCD capitation fee \$640.00) FEE-HELP available (criteria apply). Visit studyassist.gov.au . See page 9 for details.
How to Apply	Please contact the Registrar for an application interview. See sagotc.edu.au/admission/overseas-students .

OVERVIEW

The Master of Divinity is designed for those who hold a tertiary qualification in a non-theological discipline and who seek a comprehensive education in theology comparable in breadth and depth to the Bachelor of Theology, including a deeper biblical and theological understanding, spiritual formation, and cultural literacy that will prepare them for ordained or other professional ministries in church, para-church or non-profit organisations, and other similar vocational settings.

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

RATIONALE

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).

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 Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, and, more broadly, within the jurisdictions of local canonical 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 AUCD.

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

Graduates will have:

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

Skills

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

- analyse critically, reflect on and synthesise 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

Graduates will have 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. An applicant for admission to candidature for the Master of Divinity will:
 - (a) have completed an AQF Level 7 bachelor 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 the requirements set out in the paragraph above; or
 - (c) hold an AUCD Graduate Diploma of Arts or Graduate Diploma of Theological Studies; to receive the award the student is required to complete a further 144 credit points (16 units), and surrender the Graduate Diploma upon graduation; or
 - (d) hold an AUCD Master of Arts (72 / 108 credit points) or Master of Theological Studies (72 credit points); to receive the award the student is required to complete a further 108 or 144 credit points accordingly, and surrender the MA or MThSt upon graduation.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of this regulation, the Student Support and Administration Committee of the Australian University 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 Master of Divinity, if the applicant submits evidence of other academic and professional attainments to the Student Support and Administration Committee.
4. A Candidate for the award will be designated as full-time or part-time. A student is designated as a full-time if enrolled in 27 credit points or more in a semester or part-time if enrolled in less than 27 credit points per semester.
5. No candidate for the award may be concurrently enrolled in any other undergraduate or postgraduate course within the Australian University College of Divinity or any other tertiary institution, unless approval has been granted by the Academic Board of the Australian University College of Divinity.
6. Applicants whose entry qualifications were obtained in an institution where English is not the language of instruction will normally be required to demonstrate competency in English by an IELTS Academic (or equivalent) result of 7.0 in all bands of the test.
7. Application for admission to the Master of Divinity program is made to the Registrar of St Andrew's.

COURSE STRUCTURE

1. Every program for the award will consist of no fewer than 216 credit points.
2. Every program will include either two specialisations and one sub-specialisation, or one specialisation and two sub-specialisations.
 - (a) a specialisation in a requires 54 credit points from units assigned to the specialisation, with a minimum of 18 credit points from 9200 series units,
 - (b) a specialisation in a sub-discipline requires 54 credit points from the subdiscipline, with a minimum of 18 credit points from 9200 series units.
 - (c) a specialisation in a discipline requires 54 credit points from the discipline, with at least 27 credit points in one sub-discipline, with a minimum of 18 credit points from 9200 series units.
 - (d) a sub-specialisation in a discipline or subdiscipline requires 36 credit points from the units assigned to the discipline or subdiscipline, including no more than 18 credit points from 8100 series units or up to 36 credit points from 9200 series units.
 - (e) units coded 'A' are not counted towards a specialisation in any discipline or sub-discipline.

3. Overview of Specialisations:

Discipline	Sub-Disciplines	Specialisations / Sub-specialisations
Biblical Studies	Biblical Studies ('B')	Biblical Studies
Theology	Systematic Theology ('T') Christian Ethics ('E') Worship and Liturgy ('L')	Theology (discipline) Systematic Theology Worship & Liturgy
Humanities in the Christian Tradition	Church History ('H')	Humanities in the Christian Tradition (discipline) Church History
Christian Life and Ministry	Mission ('M') Christian Spirituality ('S') Pastoral Theology ('P')	Christian Life & Ministry (discipline) Pastoral Theology

4. All course units will be taken from 8100 and 9200 series units.
5. Every program will include:
 - (a) a minimum of 72 credit points in 9200 series units
 - (b) not more than 72 credit points from Philosophy
 - (c) at least a sub-specialisation from Biblical Studies (units coded 'B')
 - (d) students completing a specialisation in Biblical Studies must also complete at least 18 credit pts (2 units) in Biblical languages (units coded 'A') which are in addition to the 54 credit pts (6 units) required for the specialisation
 - (e) at least a sub-specialisation from Systematic Theology (units coded 'T')
 - (f) at least one unit in Church History (units coded 'H')
 - (g) at least a total of 36 credit points from the following sub-disciplines: Christian Ethics ('E'), Christian Spirituality ('S'), Worship and Liturgy ('L'), Pastoral Theology ('P')
 - (h) not more than 108 credit points in Pastoral Theology
 - (i) at least one 9200 series Generic Research unit
 - (j) a candidate may take up to a maximum of 36 credit points in units listed as Generic (Research) units in the Schedule of Units of Study with a maximum of 18 credit points in Independent Guided Study units, and 18 credit points in Research Project units.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

1. The Student Support and Administration Committee of the Australian University College of Divinity, at the recommendation of St Andrew's, may grant leave of absence from the Master of Divinity. The period of leave shall not be counted as part of the period of candidature for the MDiv.
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 AUCD 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 may also be fulfilled if a student undertakes an equivalent unit at another member institution of the AUCD 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 Master of Divinity may exit with one of the following awards provided they have met the requirements of these awards:

- Graduate Diploma of Arts
- Graduate Diploma of Theological Studies
- Master of Arts
- Master of Theological Studies

DELIVERY OF UNITS

1. Units are offered by weekly lectures during each semester. Please consult the [Timetable](#).
2. Units are offered via distance education (online) within the parameters of the two regular semesters.
3. Distance education is available either in real-time (through Zoom video conferencing) or asynchronously (by accessing video/audio recordings within 24hrs after the lecture).

COLLEGE DORMITORY RESIDENCY

St Andrew's may provide 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 encompassing all program requirements. A limited number of rooms are available.

ASSIGNABLE UNITS FOR THE MDIV DEGREE

Compulsory Units

B8110A Introduction to the Old Testament
B8150A Introduction to the New Testament
B9231A Interpreting the Prophets of Israel
B9253A Interpreting the Four Gospels
H8110A Early Church History
H8132A Byzantium: Empire of New Rome
H8133A Byzantium: Resplendence and Twilight
H8134A The Orthodox Church: Yesterday and Today
L8101A Introduction to Christian Worship
L8195A Studies in Liturgical Rites
T8101A Introducing Theology
T8128A Ecclesiology
T8171A Church Fathers: An Introduction
T9213A Theology of the Trinity
T9270A Byzantine Patristic Theology 4th – 9th Century
T9271A Byzantine Patristic Theology 9th – 15th Century

One (1) year-long unit of study, example:

P8165A Clinical Pastoral Education 1 (18 credit points) or
X9294A Major Independent Guided Study (18 credit points) or
X9297A Major Research Project (18 credit points)

Elective Units

A8122A New Testament Greek I
A8123A New Testament Greek II
B9226A Interpreting the Psalms
B9260A Pauline Literature and Theology
H9233A Byzantine Art and Architecture
H9234A Byzantine Hagiography
L9220A Eastern Christian Hymnography
L9291A Iconography: The Art of Seeing
P8101A Introduction to Pastoral and Practical Theology
P8165A Clinical Pastoral Education 1 (18 credit points)
P9206A Ministry in Complex Situations
W8105A The Philosophy of the Ancient Greek Tradition
W8106A Analytical Foundations of Ancient Greek Philosophy
X8190A Research Methodology
X9293A Minor Independent Guided Study
X9294A Major Independent Guided Study (18 credit points)
X9296A Minor Research Project
X9297A Major Research Project (18 credit points)
X9298A Minor Research Essay (18 credit points)

See 'Sample Program' below.

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 have changed minimally since 2021.**

Tuition Fees are invoiced each semester as follows:

\$1,590 per unit (9 credit points) Up to 4 units, 36 credit points, per semester.
\$12,720 yearly indicative fee (72 credit points)
\$38,160 indicative total course cost (216 credit points)

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:

Scholarship Category

Scholarship Coverage

A. Full Time Student Scholarship

The applicant be enrolled in 36 credit points during the semester and maintain a Grade Point Average of at least 2.0 (65%+) in each semester. 33%

B. Orthodox Christian Clergymen

The applicant will be (i) a person whose application for admission has been approved by the College's Admissions Committee; (ii) an ordained clergyman; (iii) endorsed in writing by their local bishop or their bishop's designate on his behalf; (iv) enrolled for a minimum of 18 credit points during the semester; and (v) a student who maintains a Grade Point Average of at least 2.0 (65%+) in each semester. 33%

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

SAMPLE PROGRAM (FULL TIME STUDENT)

Year 1 Semester 1	Year 1 Semester 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B8110 Introduction to the Old Testament • H8101 Early Church History • L8101 Introduction to Christian Worship • T8101 Introducing Theology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B8150 Introduction to the New Testament • H8132 Byzantium: Empire of New Rome • L8195 Studies in Liturgical Rites • T8171 Church Fathers: An Introduction
Year 2 Semester 1	Year 2 Semester 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B9253 Interpreting the Four Gospels • H8133 Byzantium: Resplendence and Twilight • T9213 Theology of the Trinity* • Elective Unit (9 credit points) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B9231 Interpreting the Prophets of Israel • H8134 The Orthodox Church: Yesterday and Today • Elective Unit (9 credit points) • Elective Unit (9 credit points)
Year 3 Semester 1	Year 3 Semester 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T8128 Ecclesiology† • T8172 Byzantine Patristic Theology: 4th – 9th Century • Elective Unit (9 credit points) • Elective Unit (9 credit points) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T8174 Byzantine Patristic Theology: 9th – 15th Century • Elective Unit (9 credit points) • Elective Unit (9 credit points) • Elective Unit (9 credit points)

Elective units are listed in the [Timetable](#) page on the website and may vary from year to year. These may include generic unit(s) in an available discipline, and/or cross-institutional study at another tertiary college or university (with permission from the Faculty Board).

Last Updated: 31 October 2025

ENDNOTES:

* Alternates with T8128 Ecclesiology

† Alternates with T9213 Theology of the Trinity