

# MASTER OF DIVINITY

## AWARD SUMMARY

**For students residing outside Australia and studying via distance education.**

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 9 years)
Course Structure:	24 units (216 credit points)
Study Mode(s):	<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.
2024 Tuition Fees and Financial Support:	See page 8 for details. FEE-HELP may be available for Australian citizens living abroad (eligibility criteria apply). Visit <a href="http://www.studyassist.gov.au">www.studyassist.gov.au</a> .
How to Apply	Please contact the <a href="#">Registrar</a> for an application interview. See <a href="http://www.sagotc.edu.au/admission/overseas-students">http://www.sagotc.edu.au/admission/overseas-students</a> .

## 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.

The Master of Divinity 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 general advice and basic 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 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 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 SCD.

The 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 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 SCD 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 SCD 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 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 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 36 credit points in a semester or part-time if enrolled in less than 36 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 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:

<b>Discipline</b>	<b>Sub-Disciplines</b>	<b>Specialisations / Sub-specialisations</b>
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, 18 credit points in Research Project units, and 18 credit points as a Research Essay.

## 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 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 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 may 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 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](#) page on the website.
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).

## ASSIGNABLE UNITS FOR THE MDIV DEGREE

### *Compulsory Units*

A8122A New Testament Greek I  
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

X8190A Research Methodology  
X9293A Minor Independent Guided Study (9 credit points) or  
X9294A Major Independent Guided Study (18 credit points) or  
X9296A Minor Research Project (9 credit points) or  
X9297A Major Research Project (18 credit points) or  
X9298A Minor Research Essay (18 credit points) <sup>1</sup>

### *Elective Units*

A8123A New Testament Greek II  
B9226A Interpreting the Psalms  
B9260A Pauline Literature and Theology  
E8100A Principles of Christian Ethics  
H9233A Byzantine Art and Architecture  
H9234A Byzantine Hagiography  
L9220A Eastern Christian Hymnography  
L9291A Iconography: The Art of Seeing  
M8110A Evangelising Mission Today  
P8101A Introduction to Pastoral and Practical Theology  
P9206A Ministry in Complex Situations  
X9293A Minor Independent Guided Study (9 credit points)  
X9294A Major Independent Guided Study (18 credit points)  
X9296A Minor Research Project (9 credit points)  
X9297A Major Research Project (18 credit points)  
X9298A Minor Research Essay (18 credit points)

See 'Sample Program' below.

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<sup>1</sup> Required for progression into a higher research degree following the MDiv. The minor research essay is assessed by two examiners other than the student's supervisor, at least one of whom is external to St Andrew's.

## 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 remained unchanged since 2021.**

Tuition Fees are invoiced each semester as follows:

AUD \$1,440 per unit (9 credit points)  
(up to 4 units, 36 credit points, per semester)

FEE-HELP is available (eligibility criteria apply). Visit [www.studyassist.gov.au](http://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>
<b>A. Full Time Student Scholarship</b>	
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.	25%
<b>B. Orthodox Christian Clergymen</b>	
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.	25%

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"> <li>• A8122 New Testament Greek I</li> <li>• B8110 Introduction to the Old Testament</li> <li>• H8101 Early Church History</li> <li>• T8101 Introducing Theology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A8123 New Testament Greek II</li> <li>• B8150 Introduction to the New Testament</li> <li>• H8132 Byzantium: Empire of New Rome</li> <li>• T8171 Church Fathers: An Introduction</li> </ul>
Year 2 Semester 1	Year 2 Semester 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B9253 Interpreting the Four Gospels</li> <li>• H8133 Byzantium: Resplendence and Twilight</li> <li>• L8101 Introduction to Christian Worship</li> <li>• T9213 Theology of the Trinity<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B9231 Interpreting the Prophets of Israel</li> <li>• H8134 The Orthodox Church: Yesterday and Today</li> <li>• L8195 Studies in Liturgical Rites</li> <li>• Elective Unit (9 credit points)</li> </ul>
Year 3 Semester 1	Year 3 Semester 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• T8128 Ecclesiology<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• T8172 Byzantine Patristic Theology: 4th – 9th Century</li> <li>• Elective Unit (9 credit points)</li> <li>• Elective Unit (9 credit points)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• T8174 Byzantine Patristic Theology: 9th – 15th Century</li> <li>• Elective Unit (9 credit points)</li> <li>• Elective Unit (9 credit points)</li> <li>• Elective Unit (9 credit points)</li> </ul>

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: 12 December 2023

<sup>2</sup> Alternates with T8128 Ecclesiology

<sup>3</sup> Alternates with T9213 Theology of the Trinity