

GRADUATE DIPLOMA OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

AWARD SUMMARY

For students residing outside Australia and studying via distance education.

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>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.
2025 Tuition Fees and Financial Support:	See page 5 for details. FEE-HELP may be available for Australian citizens living abroad (eligibility criteria apply). Visit www.studyassist.gov.au .
How to Apply	Please contact the Registrar for an application interview. See http://www.sagotc.edu.au/admission/overseas-students .

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

Graduates will have:

- 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

Graduates will have cognitive and technical skills specifically in 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

Graduates will have 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

ARTICULATION TO OTHER AWARDS

Students are eligible to articulate to the Master of Theological Studies (MThSt). In this case, they would graduate with the Graduate Diploma and commence the MThSt as a new course. An application for admission into a new course would be required.

Students are also eligible to transfer their credit from the Graduate Diploma into the Master of Divinity (MDiv) program. In this case, they would forego graduating with the Graduate Diploma and simply continue their studies within another course. An application for admission into a new course would not be required. A written request to the Registrar to transfer from one course to another course would suffice.

ADMISSION TO CANDIDATURE

1. An applicant for admission to candidature for a degree of Graduate Diploma of Theological Studies will:
 - (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
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 8100 series and 9200 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 discipline of Biblical Studies (units coded 'B') and the sub-discipline of Systematic Theology (units coded 'T').
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.

Available Units of Study

at St Andrew's:
(see [Timetable](#))

Choose 8 units, including B8110, B8150, T8101 & T8171.

Check [unit descriptions](#) for any applicable prerequisites.

Semester 1 (units repeated annually)

- A8122 New Testament Greek I
- B8110 Introduction to the Old Testament (compulsory)
- H8101 Early Church History
- L8101 Introduction to Christian Worship
- T8101 Introducing Theology (compulsory)

Semester 2 (most units repeated annually)

- A8123 New Testament Greek II (prerequisite = A8122)
- B8150 Introduction to the New Testament (compulsory)
- H8132 Byzantium: Empire of New Rome (prerequisite = H8101)
- L8195 Studies in Liturgical Rites (prerequisite = L8101)
- T8171 Church Fathers: An Introduction (compulsory)
- **T9291 Orthodox Christian Doctrines (in 2025 only)**

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 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).

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:

\$1,512 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.

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. 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.	25%
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.	25%

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

Last Updated: 31 October 2024