

# MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

## AWARD SUMMARY

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

Abbreviation:	MThSt
AQF Level:	Level 9
Entry Requirements:	A Graduate Diploma of Theological Studies from the Sydney College of Divinity, or equivalent.
Course Duration:	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 may be available, subject to timetable. Part time study is 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 6 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> .

## GRADUATE PROFILE AND RATIONALE

The Master of Theological Studies is designed for those who hold a Graduate Diploma of Theological Studies and who wish to pursue a further qualification in the discipline of Biblical Studies and the subdiscipline of Systematic Theology as part of their continuing education for ministry.

## 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 Systematic Theology and Biblical Studies including recent developments in theory and practice
- an understanding of research principles and methods applicable to Systematic Theology and Biblical Studies and their practice

### *Skills*

Graduates will have specialised cognitive and technical skills specifically in Theology and Biblical Studies, so as to be able independently to:

- analyse critically, reflect on and synthesise complex information, problems, concepts and theories associated with theology and Biblical studies
- research and apply established theories to theology and Biblical studies
- apply specialised and creative skills for Christian living and ministry
- interpret and transmit knowledge, skills and ideas through coherent and sustained argument to specialist and non-specialist audiences in relation to Theology and Biblical Studies

### *Applications of Knowledge and Skills*

Graduates will have the ability to:

- apply knowledge and skills in a way that demonstrates autonomy, expert judgement, adaptability, and accountability as a practitioner and/or learner in relation to the interdependent building of the church and good of the wider community
- plan and execute a research-based project, and/or piece of scholarship in either the discipline of Biblical Studies or the subdiscipline of Systematic Theology

## ADMISSION TO CANDIDATURE

1. An applicant for admission to candidature for a degree of Master of Theological Studies shall:
  - (a) hold a Graduate Diploma of Theological Studies from the Sydney College of Divinity, 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 may require an applicant to demonstrate fitness for admission as a candidate for his 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 Theological Studies if the applicant submits evidence of other academic and professional attainments to the Student Support and Administration Committee.
4. A student is designated as 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 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 Master of Theological Studies requires the completion of 8 units (72 credit points) from 8100 and 9200 series units.
2. The 8 units (72 credit points) will include 4 units (36 credit points) from the discipline of Biblical Studies and the subdiscipline of Systematic Theology.
3. The course may include a specialisation that comprises 54 credit points in either Biblical Studies or Systematic Theology with at least two 9200 series units. The Graduate Diploma of Theological Studies entry award can be used towards the 54 credit points required for specialisation.
4. Units coded 'A' are not counted towards a specialisation in any discipline or subdiscipline.
5. The course will include a Generic (Research) unit in either the discipline of Biblical Studies or the subdiscipline of Systematic Theology.
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.
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 one 8100 series Research Methodology unit (9 credit points) before or concurrently with the Research Essay.
8. Candidates wishing to proceed to the Sydney College of Divinity degree of Master of Philosophy (MPhil) must complete the 18 credit points Research Essay at distinction level.
9. Each unit has a 9 credit point value unless otherwise stated.

Available Units of Study at St Andrew's  
(see [Timetable](#))

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

Students who have completed a Graduate Diploma from another university or tertiary college may need to create a customised study plan in consultation with the Registrar and/or enrol in certain prerequisite units typically undertaken during the Graduate Diploma at St Andrew's.

Most units are offered annually.

These generic (research) units are usually taken towards the latter part of the Masters program, by arrangement with the Registrar and Supervisor.

2024, Semester 1

- A8122 New Testament Greek I
- B9226 Interpreting the Psalms
- B9253 Interpreting the Four Gospels
- B9270 Unlocking John
- H8110 Early Church History
- H8133 Byzantium: Resplendence and Twilight
- H9233 Byzantine Art and Architecture
- L8101 Introduction to Christian Worship
- P8101 Introduction to Pastoral and Practical Theology
- P8165 CPE in Mental Health Ministry (18 credit points) via Zoom only (places limited) [year-long]
- T9270 Byzantine Patristic Theology: 4th – 9th Century

2024, Semester 2

- A8123 New Testament Greek II
- B9231 Interpreting the Prophets of Israel
- B9260 Pauline Literature and Theology
- H8132 Byzantium: Empire of New Rome
- H8134 The Orthodox Church: Yesterday and Today
- H9234 Byzantine Hagiography
- L8195 Studies in Liturgical Rites
- *P8165 CPE in Mental Health Ministry via Zoom (cont.)*
- T8171 Church Fathers: An Introduction
- T9271 Byzantine Patristic Theology: 9th – 15th Century
- **T9291 Orthodox Christian Doctrines (in 2025 only)**
- 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)

## PERIOD OF CANDIDATURE

1. The period of candidature for the degree shall normally be 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.

## ASSESSMENT

1. 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.
2. Academic and non-academic misconduct will be penalised in accordance with the regulations of the Sydney College of Divinity, whose stipulations are severe.

## ARTICULATION INTO OTHER AWARDS

Students are eligible to articulate to an appropriate higher research degree of the Sydney College of Divinity, such as the Master of Philosophy (MPhil), provided they have achieved the Master of Theological Studies with a recommended grade point average of 2.8 or better and including the Research Essay at distinction level.

## 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 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 Master of Theological Studies. 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. 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.

- 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](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:

### *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. 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: 30 November 2024