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# Program Handbook: Doctor of Ministry

## I. Program Details:

- i. Full Title: Doctor of Ministry
- ii. Abbreviated Title: DMin
- iii. AC Faculty Category: Theology
- iv. Campus: Parramatta
- v. AC Program Director: Dr Vangjel Shore
- vi. Course Length: The DMin can be completed in 3 years full-time study or 6 years of part-time study (maximum candidacy 10 years).
- vii. AQF Level: Level 10
- viii. Accreditation period: Review in 2019, accreditation in 28/5/2022

## 2. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

### IELTS

International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) of 7, with a score of not less than 6.5 in any band, or equivalent.

### Academic Entry Requirements

1. Completion of an AQF Level 7 bachelors (honours 1 or 2a) degree in theology or ministry, or equivalent,

OR

2. Completion of an AQF Level 7 Bachelor's degree in theology or ministry, or equivalent, as well as an AQF Level 8 graduate diploma in theology or ministry with a 20 credit point research component and an overall GPA at least 2.8.

OR

3. Completion of an AQF Level 9 or above postgraduate qualification in theology or ministry, or equivalent. This must include at least 60 credit points of Leadership and/or Ministry or equivalent and 40 credit points of Bible and/or Theology or equivalent, with a 20 credit point research component and an overall GPA at least 2.8.

In addition to the above, applicants must have at least 5 years full-time ministry experience, or the equivalent. To demonstrate this, applicants must submit a copy of their CV with a cover letter outlining how they meet this criteria.

### 3. PATHWAYS/ ADMISSION

#### 1. How do I demonstrate the required leadership and/or ministry experience?

An essential entry requirement for the DMin is demonstrated leadership and/or ministry experience. This is because the DMin is guided reflection on your experience and practice; so you must have some experience to reflect upon! Therefore, applicants must have at least 5 years full-time ministry experience, or equivalent. To demonstrate this, applicants must submit a copy of their CV with a cover letter outlining how they meet this criteria. For more information on what is considered appropriate leadership experience, please see <http://ac.edu.au/ppm/professional-entry-criteria-policy/>

#### 2. I have completed a Masters degree (eg MA/ MALead) through a professional entry pathway. Am I eligible for admission to the DMin?

There are four aspects to the entry requirement into the DMin if you have completed a Masters award. They are:

- a. Demonstrated leadership and/or ministry experience
- b. Coursework requirements
- c. Demonstrated research capability
- d. Minimum GPA

##### **a. Demonstrated leadership and/or ministry experience**

As noted above, to be admitted to the DMin, you need to demonstrate that you have at least 5 years full-time experience in leadership and/or ministry.

##### **b. Coursework Requirements:**

Within your Masters award, you need to have completed specific coursework requirements to be eligible to enter the DMin. The coursework requirement is that you have completed at least 6 subjects in leadership and/or ministry, and at least 4 subjects in bible and/or theology. Leadership and ministry subjects at AC are generally those with an LEA, MIN, BUS, EXP or MIS code. Bible and theology subjects are generally those with a THE, BIB, ANL, CON, SPI or HIS code. If you are unsure, please speak to the Program Director.

##### **Coursework Bridging Solution:**

If you have not met the coursework requirements, you can complete these required subjects as part of a Graduate Certificate in Arts (4 subjects) or Graduate Diploma in Arts (8 subjects) program.

### **c. Demonstrated research capability**

In addition to the coursework requirements, you must have demonstrated capability to complete a large independent research project. To demonstrate this, you need to have completed at least a 20 credit point research project or research essay (ie equivalent of 2 subjects).

#### **Research Bridging Solution:**

If you have not met the research requirements you have two options to demonstrate that you are capable of research. The first option is to complete RES601 Research Methods and elect to complete within this subject a 16,000 word research project (instead of the standard 8,000 word research project). In this option, you could then apply to credit this subject into the DMin. The second option is to complete the subject RES501 Research Project (16,000 words). This cannot be credited into the DMin.

### **d. Minimum GPA**

You also need to demonstrate an overall GPA of at least 2.8, that is, an average of high credit in your masters or postgraduate degree.

#### **GPA Solution:**

If you have not met the GPA requirements, please speak to the Program Director to discuss possible pathway options. It may be possible, that if the student achieves above the required GPA for the subject RES601 in the MTh (and has met all other admission requirements) that they may be able to apply to credit this subject into the DMin and transfer to the DMin program.

### **3. I have completed postgraduate studies in another discipline. Am I eligible for admission to the DMin?**

As noted above, the entry requirements necessitate completion of some theology and leadership studies prior to entry into the DMin. If you have not completed any theology or leadership, you will need to complete these foundational studies before moving into the DMin. This is because the DMin requires theological reflection and integration of professional knowledge in the area of specialisation (ministry and/or leadership). Therefore,

it is essential that you have foundational knowledge of the literature and discipline. For this reason, students entering the DMin must have completed the coursework requirements. The coursework requirements are at least 6 subjects in leadership and/or ministry, and at least 4 subjects in bible and/or theology.

#### **Coursework Bridging Solution:**

If you have not met the coursework requirements, you can complete these required subjects as part of a Graduate Certificate in Arts (4 subjects) or Graduate Diploma in Arts (8 subjects) or Master of Arts (12 subjects) program.

In addition to the coursework requirements, you must demonstrate a proven track record of research. This requires at least a completed 20 credit point research project or research essay (ie equivalent of 2 subjects). The completed research does not need to be in the discipline of leadership or ministry, but simply needs to demonstrate that you are capable of independent research.

#### **Research Bridging Solution:**

If you have not met the research requirements you have two options to demonstrate that you are capable of research. The first option is to complete RES601 Research Methods and elect to complete within this subject a 16,000 word research project (instead of the standard 8,000 word research project). In this option, you could then apply to credit this subject into the DMin and transfer to the DMin program. The second option is to complete the subject RES501 Research Project. This cannot be credited into the DMin.

#### **4. I have completed an undergraduate degree in theology. Am I eligible for admission to the DMin?**

If you have completed an AQF Level 7 Bachelor's degree in theology or ministry, or equivalent, we recommend that you complete the Graduate Diploma in Arts with a 20 credit point research component (ie RES501 Research Project). Your overall GPA for the Graduate Diploma in Arts must be at least 2.8 (that is, a high credit) to be eligible to then enter the DMin. In addition to completing the Graduate Diploma in Arts, you will still need to demonstrate that you have at least 5 years full-time experience in leadership and/or ministry (see above).

#### **Admissions Criteria**

<b>Course of study:</b>	Doctor of Ministry		
<b>Delivery site:</b>	Parramatta, Online		
<b>Student cohort</b>	English language equivalence requirements	Educational and other qualifications, skills, prerequisite occupation(s)	Special or alternative admission arrangements <i>(for example, bridging courses)</i>
Graduate of an undergraduate theology degree	none	<p>Completion of an AQF Level 7 bachelors (honours 1 or 2a) degree in theology or ministry, or equivalent, or</p> <p>Completion of an AQF Level 7 bachelors degree in theology or ministry, or equivalent, as well as an AQF Level 8 graduate diploma in theology or ministry with a 20 credit point research component and an overall GPA at least 2.8.</p> <p>In addition to the above, applicants must have at least 5 years full-time ministry experience, or equivalent. To demonstrate this, applicants must submit a copy of their CV with a cover letter outlining how they meet this criteria.</p>	<p>A pre-admission interview will be conducted by the Research Committee and bridging courses may be required.</p> <p>In exceptional circumstances the Research Committee may recommend that an applicant be admitted who does not have the qualifications specified. In this case, evidence must be supplied to verify that the applicant has equivalent qualifications based on academic and professional attainment and demonstration of an appropriate capacity for the research.</p> <p>A student who does not satisfactorily complete core and elective subjects within the time frame prescribed for confirmation of candidature will not be permitted to continue enrolment.</p>
Graduate of postgraduate theology or leadership degree	none	<p>Completion of an AQF Level 9 or above postgraduate qualification in theology or ministry, or equivalent. This must include at least 60 credit points of Leadership and/or Ministry or equivalent and 40 credit points of Bible and/or Theology or equivalent, with a 20 credit point research component and an overall GPA at least 2.8.</p>	<p>Graduates from a professional entry postgraduate award will be required to complete RES601 AND either BIB601, THE601 or HIS601, with an overall GPA at least 2.8, as a bridging requirement.</p> <p>A pre-admission interview for all applicants will be</p>

		<p>In addition to the above, applicants must have at least 5 years full-time ministry experience, or equivalent. To demonstrate this, applicants must submit a copy of their CV with a cover letter outlining how they meet this criteria.</p>	<p>conducted by the Research Committee and bridging courses may be required.</p> <p>In exceptional circumstances the Research Committee may recommend that an applicant be admitted who does not have the qualifications specified. In this case, evidence must be supplied to verify that the applicant has equivalent qualifications based on academic and professional attainment and demonstration of an appropriate capacity for the research.</p> <p>A student who does not satisfactorily complete core and elective subjects within the time frame prescribed for confirmation of candidature will not be permitted to continue enrolment.</p>
<p>overseas students</p>	<p>International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) of 7.0, with a score of not less than 7.0 in any band, or equivalent</p>	<p>Completion of an AQF Level 7 bachelors (honours 1 or 2a) degree in theology or ministry, or equivalent, or</p> <p>Completion of an AQF Level 7 bachelors degree in theology or ministry, or equivalent, as well as an AQF Level 8 graduate diploma in theology or ministry with a 20 credit point research component and an overall GPA at least 2.8, or</p> <p>Completion of an AQF Level 9 or above postgraduate qualification in theology or ministry, or equivalent. This must include at least 60 credit points of Leadership</p>	<p>A pre-admission interview will be conducted by the Research Committee and bridging courses may be required.</p> <p>In exceptional circumstances the Research Committee may recommend that an applicant be admitted who does not have the qualifications specified. In this case, evidence must be supplied to verify that the applicant has equivalent qualifications based on academic and professional attainment and demonstration of an appropriate capacity for the research.</p>

		<p>and/or Ministry or equivalent and 40 credit points of Bible and/or Theology or equivalent, with a 20 credit point research component and an overall GPA at least 2.8.</p> <p>Graduates from a professional entry Masters award will be required to complete RES601 AND either BIB601, THE601 or HIS601, with an overall GPA at least 2.8, as a bridging requirement.</p> <p>In addition to the above, applicants must have at least 5 years full-time ministry experience, or its equivalent. To demonstrate this, applicants must submit a copy of their CV with a cover letter outlining how they meet this criteria.</p>	<p>A student who does not satisfactorily complete core and elective subjects within the time frame prescribed for confirmation of candidature will not be permitted to continue enrolment.</p>
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#### 4. COURSE RATIONALE

The Doctor of Ministry is designed for graduates with significant leadership experience in churches, para-church ministries, educational institutions, and secular organisations who want to further enhance their skills for ministry within church, academic and community settings. Graduates of the DMin will have systematic and critical understanding in the discipline of Christian ministry, including innovative leadership models in contemporary contexts and a working knowledge of recent developments and approaches in the area of their specialisation. They will demonstrate specialised knowledge and skills in research using methodologies applicable to their discipline.

Graduates' research will identify, investigate and address an issue in the profession of Christian ministry, to be presented in a research thesis which will make a significant original contribution toward the advancement of learning and/or for professional Christian ministry practice.

Advanced skills in critical thinking, communication and creative problem solving of complex issues are demonstrated through independent, original research and scholarship.

Graduates' research will identify, investigate and address an issue in the profession of Christian ministry, to be presented in a research thesis which will make a significant original contribution toward the advancement of learning and/or for professional Christian ministry practice. Most of the graduates of the DMin are to be found in ordained service within the church as well as in the community, working out their vocations in community and service industries. Graduate employment opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ Church pastor
- ❖ Lecturer or trainer (in area of specialisation)
- ❖ Community/NFP/NGO worker
- ❖ Church administrator
- ❖ Pastoral educator

### **5. Course Structure:**

The program is coursework based, so there is regular classroom and lecturer interaction. The research component of the program allows students to identify, investigate and address an issue within their own professional life. In this research component, students will develop a body of work (a thesis, which may be one complete essay or an integrated portfolio) that explores issues of relevancy to them and their context. The goal of this thesis component is to not only benefit the student but to also make a contribution to the mission of the Church through its contribution of learning and/or new practice. In this way, students are innovators of new strategies, programs or ways of doing ministry or leadership.

5. Course Structure:

<b>Title of the course of study:</b>	Doctor of Ministry	
<b>Structure of the course of study:</b>	<p>The course consists of 240 credit points comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• one research methods unit (20 credit points) – Core</li> <li>• one subject at 800 level (20 credit point ) to be taken from the area of specialisation</li> <li>• 70,000 research thesis (200 credit points) in area of specialisation – Core</li> </ul> <p>To qualify for award of the degree of Doctor of Ministry a candidate shall complete at least 240 credit points.</p>	
<b>Content of the course of study</b>		<b>Credit points</b>
Core subjects	RES801 Advanced Research Methods	20
	RES802 Research	200
Elective subjects	LEA802 Advanced Studies in Leadership	20
	MIN802 Advanced Studies in Ministry	20
Specialisations	Ministry; Leadership	
Rules of progression	Students must have completed formal and relevant study in research methods before enrolling in RES802 Research	
Other protocols of the course	To be eligible to graduate, students must pass at least 240 credit points.	
Pre-requisites for specific subjects	Pre-requisites are noted on the subject outline. Students must have completed the pre-requisite to enrol in the subject.	

## 6. Subject Outlines

Doctor of Ministry (DMin)	
Subject Code	Subject Name
LEA802	<u>Advanced Studies in Leadership</u>
MIN802	<u>Advanced Studies in Ministry</u>
RES801	<u>Advanced Research Methods</u>
RES802	<u>Research Thesis</u>