COURSE HANDBOOK

ALPHACRUCIS COLLEGE

MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

OVERVIEW

BECOME A THOUGHT LEADER		
The Master of Philosophy (MPH) provides a pathway for graduates of coursework Masters degrees to pursue further independent research. Graduates will find this research to be invaluable part of their career progression in ministry, business or education sectors	Program Director	Associate Professor Matthew Anstey
	Level	AQF Level 9 (Postgraduate)
	Qualification	Master Degree (Higher Degree Research)
	Subjects	12
	IELTS	7.0
	CRICOS Code	089243A
	Accreditation	Self-accreditation
	Course Length	3 years full-time; up to 10 years part-time

The MPhil is a research program designed for graduates with in-depth knowledge and skills, in the field of Theology, Business and/or Education, who want to make an original research contribution to research and research training within academic, church and community settings. Graduates of the MPhil will have systematic and critical understanding, including a working knowledge of recent developments and approaches in the area of specialisation. Specialisation in Theology will include areas such as Systematic Theology, Biblical Studies, History or Ministry. Specialisation in Business will include areas such as Business, Leadership or Communication. Specialisation in Education will include areas such as Education, Educational Leadership and Theological Education. However, it is anticipated that some students may explore cross-disciplinary areas, such as Theology and Economics.

Graduates will demonstrate specialised knowledge and skills in research using methodologies applicable to their discipline. 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 within the field of Theology, Business and/or Education, to be presented in a research thesis which will make an original contribution toward the advancement of learning and/or professional practice within the chosen field.

Students who have successfully completed the Master of Philosophy may progress into Doctor of Philosophy. *(Direct entry into this pathway is not guaranteed.)*

AC GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

Christian Worldview

A knowledge of the Christian story, derived from the Scriptures and tradition of the church. An awareness of the implications of this story for self-identity in the context of local and global communities. This includes a commitment to engage with alternate worldviews, showing appreciation of the values and perspectives of others.

Leadership

The ability to provide effective Christian leadership to individuals, groups and organisations, demonstrated in the capacity to influence and enable others to accomplish worthwhile objectives which contribute to the human good and the kingdom of God. This includes seeking to emulate the example of Jesus Christ in serving and empowering others.

Integrity and Justice

The ability to apply a Christian worldview in the diverse situations and responsibilities of life, and to exercise faith, hope, love and generosity as prevailing attitudes. This includes the active promotion of the gospel, social justice, equality, mutual respect and an ecological ethos.

Communications

The ability to communicate effectively to a range of audiences, in appropriate contexts using high levels of verbal, written and technological skills. This includes visual and media literacy, numeracy, rhetoric and persuasion.

Personal and Social Skills

Demonstrate relational skills that incorporate the flexibility for both independent and collaborative situations. This includes personal and group organizational skills, conflict management and resolution, as well as the ability to value and respect the opinions of others.

Critical and Creative Thinking

A capacity for critical and reflective thinking that is explored not only individually but within a community context. This includes a capacity to be creative and to research, analyse and resolve problems in innovative and prophetic ways.

Professional Knowledge

Use and maintain knowledge about a discipline or field, in terms of theoretical, conceptual and methodological elements, striving continually and independently to secure further knowledge and where appropriate, defined professional skills.

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LEARNING OUTCOMES

Specification	AQF Level 9: Masters Degree (Research)	AC Learning outcomes
Knowledge	Graduates of a Masters Degree (Research) will have: • a body of knowledge that includes the understanding of recent developments in one or more disciplines; • advanced knowledge of research principles and methods applicable to the field of work or learning.	Demonstrated: • critical, creative and systematic understanding of a substantial and complex body of knowledge that makes an original contribution to a particular area in the field of specialisation such as Systematic Theology, Biblical Studies, History, Ministry, Business, Leadership, Communication, Education, Educational Leadership or Theological Education; • advanced knowledge of scholarship and recent developments in the area under consideration; • understanding of advanced research principles and methods, and substantial knowledge of specific research approaches used within the chosen field.
Skills	Graduates of a Masters Degree (Research) will have: • cognitive skills to demonstrate mastery of theoretical knowledge and to reflect critically on theory and its application; • cognitive, technical and creative skills to investigate, analyse and synthesise complex information, problems, concepts and theories and to apply established theories to different bodies of knowledge or practice; • cognitive, technical and creative skills to generate and evaluate complex ideas and concepts at an abstract level; • cognitive and technical skills to design, use and evaluate research and research methods; • communication and technical skills to present a coherent and sustained argument and to disseminate research results to specialist and non-specialist audiences; • technical and communication skills to design, evaluate, implement, analyse, theorise and disseminate research that makes a contribution to knowledge.	Demonstrated ability to: • autonomously engage in critical reflection, analysis and synthesis of the body of theoretical knowledge related to a particular area within the field of Theology, Business and/or Education; • establish, incorporate and apply effective research methodologies to advance existing professional knowledge and/or practice; • design a research question that explores an original and complex issue and propose solutions; • communicate effectively the complexity of the research and its findings to peers and the community; • provide creative responses to the contemporary challenges and new developments in research and scholarship within the chosen field.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Specification	AQF Level 9: Masters Degree (Research)	AC Learning outcomes
Application of knowledge and skills	Graduates of a Masters Degree (Research) will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills: • with creativity and initiative to new situations and/or for further learning; • with high level personal autonomy and accountability; • to plan and execute a substantial piece of research.	Demonstrated ability to: • apply the knowledge and skills developed within the selected research field to engage with new questions and find innovative and creative solutions; • work independently and responsibly in the selected research field; • effectively design, implement and communicate a major thesis in the selected research field to contribute original knowledge and expertise to peers and the community; • develop an advanced level of integrative reflection which will inform and enhance professional practice.

COURSE HANDBOOK

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COURSE STRUCTURE

The course consists of 120 credit points comprising:

- one core research methods unit (20 credit points)
- one subject at 600 level (20 credit point) to be taken from the area of specialisation
- one core 30,000 word research thesis (80 credit points) in area of specialisation

To qualify for award of the degree of Master of Philosophy a candidate shall complete at least 120 credit points.

CONTENT OF THE COURSE OF STUDY		CREDIT POINTS
CORE SUBJECTS	RES601 Research Methods RES603 MPhil Research Thesis	20 80
ELECTIVE SUBJECTS *(20 credit points within the area of specialisation)*	20 credit points, at 600 level or above, to be taken in the discipline of specialisation. This includes the following: BIB601 Methods in Biblical Studies BIB602 Seminar Presentation of Research in Biblical Studies BUS601 Methods in Business Studies COM601 Methods in Communication Studies EDU601 Methods in Education Studies HIS601 Theory and Practice in Christian History HIS602 Producing Christian History HIS603 Pentecostalism in Australasia LEA601 Theory and Practice in Leadership MIN601 Theory and Practice in Pastoral Ministry THE601 Theologians: Method and Meaning THE602 Seminar Presentation of Theological Research	20
RULES OF PROGRESSION	Refer to candidature policy and procedure.	
OTHER PROTOCOLS OF THE COURSE	To be eligible to graduate, students must pass at least 120 credit points	
BRIDGING/ NESTED COURSES	There are no nested awards within the Master of Philosophy. However the Master of Philosophy can be nested into the Doctor of Philosophy.	

For information on the teaching faculty for these subjects, please visit our [website](#).

Career Outcomes

Graduates of the MPhil program are likely to find employment in the church, the business sector, the education sector, as well as in the community sector. Graduate employment opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- Lecturer or trainer
- Academic researcher
- Church pastor
- Community/NFP/NGO worker
- Church administrator
- Education administrator or teacher
- Business professional

ADMISSION CRITERIA

Academic Entry Requirements

Recent Secondary Education
This course of study requires the completion of an AQF Level 7 Bachelor degree or higher by an authorised institution. Recent high school leavers are not eligible for direct entry into this course.

Vocational Education and Training
This course of study requires the completion of an AQF Level 7 Bachelor degree or higher by an authorised institution. Applicants with a Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualification are not eligible for this course.

Higher Education
Completion of an AQF Level 8 Bachelors (Honours 1 or 2a) degree in a relevant field, or equivalent. Demonstrated knowledge of research methodology equivalent to RES601 AND methodology in the area of specialisation.

OR

Completion of an AQF Level 9 or above postgraduate qualification in a relevant field, or equivalent. This must include at least a 20 credit point research component and an overall GPA at least 2.8.

Work and Life Experience
In exceptional circumstances the Program Director 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.

For further information about AC's provisional entry criteria, please see:

- *AC's Admissions Requirements*
- *Higher Education Provisional Entry Policy*
- *Admissions Policy*

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English Language Proficiency

If English is not your first language or was not the medium of instruction in your tertiary studies, you are required to demonstrate your proficiency of the English language by achieving a prescribed level in an approved English examination, such as an IELTS test. Your English language proficiency test must be no more than two years old at the time you intend to commence studying at AC.

All students are required to have attained the minimum IELTS results (or equivalent) according to the criteria noted in the table below:

	Overall Band Score	Subtests			
		Reading	Writing	Listening	Speaking
Certificate/Diploma	5.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Undergraduate and Diploma of Arts	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Postgraduate (excluding HDR)	7.0	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5
Higher Degree Research (HDR)	7.5	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
Education Courses	7.5	7.0	7.0	8.0	8.0

Applicants are encouraged to contact the [International Student Office](#) if they are unsure of the equivalence of their English language proficiency test scores.

Essential Requirements

A pre-admission interview for all applicants will be conducted by the Program Director and bridging courses may be required.

In exceptional circumstances the Program Director 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.

Special Admissions Pathways

AC's [Admissions Policy](#) details the special admission pathways for our courses of study. The Special Admission Pathways are evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Program Director. A student's admission requirements may be reconsidered on educational disadvantage grounds, including but not limited to:

- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, where the normal HSC entry path has not been followed;
- socioeconomic reasons (such as low-family income or poor living conditions);
- learning or language difficulties;
- physical disability;
- serious family illness or excessive family responsibility;
- completion of a prescribed program of non-award study (four subjects or 40 credit points) with an overall GPA of 1.8 or better.

For a full list of educational disadvantage grounds, please see AC's [Admissions Policy](#).

ACCESS AND EQUITY

AC is committed to providing a learning environment that is free from discrimination on the basis of income, age, disability, social and ethnic background, location or gender. AC endeavours to increase opportunities for people of all backgrounds to participate in training programs, and implement programs that take into account the specific needs of participants. AC encourages students to inform AC of any disability, medical condition or learning need that may impact on your studies to arrange a study plan that best suits your needs.

HOW TO APPLY

Once you have chosen your course of study, you will need to apply direct to AC. Applications typically close 3 weeks before semester commences.

All AC application forms are completed online. There are different forms depending on the level of study you are applying for and the location of your course.

Further information on How to Apply and access to AC's Application Forms is available on our [website](#).

Credit transfers and recognised prior learning (RPL)

You may be entitled to credit for prior learning, whether formal or informal. Formal learning can include previous study in higher education, vocational education, or adult and community education. Informal learning can include on the job learning or various kinds of work and life experience. Credit can reduce the amount of study needed to complete a degree.

For further information about credit and recognition of prior learning please see AC's [Credit Transfer and Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#) *or contact our* [Student Support](#) *team.*

HOW TO ENROL

Once you have returned a signed copy of your Letter of Offer to accept your place at AC, you will be invited to enrol in your specific subjects in the next academic period. Students are advised to consult their timetable (can be found [here](#)), review their [Academic Advice Sheet](#) and contact their Program Director for tailored academic advice before completing the enrolment form.

Any credit transfers or recognition of prior learning will also be applied at this time.

STUDENT SERVICES

Student Support Team

AC's Student Support Team exists to ensure you get from Orientation Day to Graduation Day with a smile on your face!

Academic Support

- Tailored academic guidance
- Assessment variation to accommodate disabilities, medical conditions and/or learning needs
- Exam reader/writers
- One-on-one tutoring and small group workshops for face-to-face and distances students
- Physical libraries
- Access to online journal databases
- Access to eBook resources
- Resources are also provided online for self-development

Non-Academic Support

- Pastoral Care
- Chaplains
- Professional counselling
- Careers guidance
- On –campus childcare*
- Extra-curricular and community services
- SRC – The Student Representative Council
- Recreation areas

Student Life

All students can take part in:

- mission trips and community service projects
- weekly chapel services
- lunches and gatherings on campus
- opportunities to hear or present research
- masterclasses to take your skills and knowledge to the next level
- social events both on and away from campus
- exchange programs with other colleges and universities around the world

…and much, much more! To find out what is happening near you or to get specific details just contact the Student Support Team:

Email: studentsupport@ac.edu.au
Phone: (02) 8893 9005
https://www.ac.edu.au/student-services/

*Not available at all campuses

STUDENT PROFILE

The table below gives an indication of the likely peer cohort for new students at AC. It provides data on students that commenced study and passed the census date in the most relevant recent intake period for which data are available, including those admitted through all offer rounds and international students studying in Australia.

Applicant background	Number of students in the previous period	Percentage of all students in the previous year
(A) Past higher education study (includes a bridging or enabling course)	N/P	N/P
(B) Past vocational education and training (VET) study	N/A	N/A
(C) Recent secondary education: • Admitted solely on the basis of ATAR (*regardless of whether this includes the impact of adjustment factors such as equity or subject bonus points*)	N/A	N/A
• Admitted where both ATAR and additional criteria were considered (*e.g. portfolio, audition, extra test, early offer conditional on minimum ATAR*)	N/A	N/A
• Admitted on the basis of other criteria only and ATAR was ***not*** a factor (*e.g. special consideration, audition alone, schools recommendation scheme with no minimum ATAR requirement*)	N/A	N/A
(D) Work and life experience Admitted on the basis of previous achievement other than the above)	N/A	N/A
International students	N/P	N/P
All students	N/P	N/P

Note: N/P – Not published

          N/A – Not applicable

WHERE TO GET FURTHER INFORMATION

ac.edu.au

AC's website is the best place to discover what's happening at AC and explore our courses, campuses and support services. If you are not yet an AC student, our Future Students team are here to help find the right course for you!

Moodle

Once you begin your studies at AC, you will use Moodle as your Learning Management System (LMS) to access all your subject content, the AC Academic Handbook, Study Skills and Textbook Information. New Students can also use Moodle to view our Induction Videos.

International Students

Nothing beats the experience of being part of our community and participating in our classroom discussions! Alternatively, for students who decide to study from their home country, AC brings education to you by offering many subjects and degrees by distance education allowing you to study from anywhere in the world. Flexible delivery means that you will have access to our e-Learning platform which provides resources, podcasts, online forums and tutor assistance that allows you to complete your studies from your home country.

Further information about International Students, including the application process, international recognition of AC courses of study and FAQ's, is available on our website.

Alternatively, our Future Students team are available to answer any questions you may have about your requirements as an onshore or offshore International Students at AC.

QILT

Thinking about higher education institutions and study areas? Wish you could ask someone about their experience? The QILT website helps you compare official study experience and employment outcomes data from Australian higher education institutions.

TEQSA National Register

The purpose of the TEQSA National Register is to be the authoritative source of information on the status of registered higher education providers in Australia.

Complaints and Grievances

If you are unsatisfied with the outcome of your application, AC's Complaint and Grievance Resolution Policy outlines the procedure for resolving a complaint or grievance.