

# COURSE HANDBOOK

## OVERVIEW

BECOME A THOUGHT LEADER		
The BAS (Honours) will develop graduates who can provide creative solutions, by integrating a Christian worldview and discipline expertise to complex issues such as social and environmental responsibility.	Program Director	Associate Professor Ben Myers
	Level	AQF Level 8
	Qualification	Bachelor (Honours) Degree
	Subjects	3 (80 credit points, including thesis)
	IELTS	7.0
	CRICOS Code	This course is not CRICOS approved.
	Accreditation	Self-accredited
	Course Length	1 year full-time; Up to 2 years part-time

The Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Honours) is designed to provide graduates specialised knowledge within a systematic and coherent body of knowledge that builds on the acquisition and application of knowledge and skills from the graduates' existing discipline or professional area.

This course will develop graduates who will be able to provide creative solutions, by integrating a Christian worldview and discipline expertise, to complex issues such as social and environmental responsibility. Skills in problem solving and communication to transfer complex knowledge and ideas to a variety of audiences are developed alongside high-level specialist knowledge and expertise in the graduates' chosen discipline area.

Graduates will design, implement and communicate a major honours thesis in the selected research field to contribute original knowledge and expertise to peers and the community, and will develop an advanced level of integrative reflection to inform and enhance professional practice

### 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.

# COURSE HANDBOOK

## BACHELOR OF ADVANCED STUDIES (HONOURS)

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

Specification	AQF Level 8	AC Learning Outcomes	AC Graduate Attributes
<b>Knowledge</b>	Graduates of a Bachelor (Honours) Degree will have specialised knowledge within a systematic and coherent body of knowledge that may include the acquisition and application of knowledge and skills in a new or existing discipline or professional area.	<p>Demonstrated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>integrated understanding of key issues, theoretical concepts and practices within the discipline area;</li> <li>knowledge of various approaches used in the discipline area within the Christian worldview framework.</li> </ul>	<p>Christian Worldview</p> <p>Critical and Creative Thinking</p> <p>Professional Knowledge</p>
<b>Skills</b>	<p>Graduates of a Bachelor (Honours) Degree will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>cognitive skills to review, analyse, consolidate and synthesise knowledge and identify and provide solutions to complex problems</li> <li>cognitive skills to think critically and to generate and evaluate complex ideas</li> <li>specialised technical and creative skills in a field of highly skilled and/or professional practice</li> <li>communication skills to demonstrate an understanding of theoretical concepts</li> <li>communication skills to transfer complex knowledge and ideas to a variety of audiences</li> </ul>	<p>Demonstrated ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>critically apply knowledge developed for use in the discipline area;</li> <li>use critical, evidenced based and innovative thinking skills to analyse and synthesise ideas and theories from other disciplines related to the discipline area;</li> <li>design a research question that explores an original and complex issue and propose solutions;</li> <li>communicate effectively ideas and proposed solutions to peers and general audiences;</li> <li>identify and critically evaluate new developments and scholarship in the discipline area;</li> </ul>	<p>Christian Worldview</p> <p>Leadership</p> <p>Integrity and Justice</p> <p>Communication</p> <p>Personal and Social Skills</p> <p>Critical and Creative Thinking</p> <p>Professional Knowledge</p>

# COURSE HANDBOOK

## BACHELOR OF ADVANCED STUDIES (HONOURS)

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

Specification	AQF Level 8	AC Learning Outcomes	AC Graduate Attributes
<b>Application of knowledge and skills</b>	<p>Graduates of a Bachelor (Honours) Degree will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to make high level, independent judgements in a range of technical or management functions in varied specialised contexts</li> <li>to initiate, plan, implement and evaluate broad functions within varied specialised technical and/or creative contexts</li> <li>with responsibility and accountability for personal outputs and all aspects of the work or function of others within broad parameters</li> </ul>	<p>Demonstrated ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>apply the knowledge and skills developed within the selected research field to engage with new questions and find innovative and creative solutions;</li> <li>work independently and responsibly in the selected research field;</li> <li>effectively design, implement and communicate a major honours thesis in the selected research field to contribute original knowledge and expertise to peers and the community;</li> <li>develop an advanced level of integrative reflection which will inform and enhance professional practice.</li> </ul>	<p>Christian Worldview</p> <p>Leadership</p> <p>Integrity and Justice</p> <p>Communication</p> <p>Personal and Social Skills</p> <p>Critical and Creative Thinking</p> <p>Professional Knowledge</p>

### COURSE STRUCTURE

The course structure is based on two semesters (each of 12 weeks duration, plus an exam week), with 40 credit points taught in each semester. It comprises:

- one 20 credit point research methods subject;
- one 40 credit point honours research thesis (15,000 words) in the area of specialisation;
- one 20 credit point methods, theories and practices subject taken from the area of specialisation.

To qualify for award of the degree of Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Honours) a candidate shall complete at least 80 credit points, including satisfactory completion of the core subjects noted below.

CONTENT OF THE COURSE OF STUDY		CREDIT POINTS
CORE SUBJECTS	RES402 Honours Research Methods	20
	RES403 Honours Research Thesis	40
	XXX406 Advanced Studies in Discipline Area	20
SPECIALISATION	Nil	Nil
ELECTIVES	Nil	Nil
RULES OF PROGRESSION	Nil	
OTHER PROTOCOLS	To be eligible to graduate, students must pass at least 80 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.	

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

### Graduate Pathways

Students who have successfully completed this course may progress into one of AC's higher degree research courses. Graduates are advised to contact the Future Students Team for information on eligibility requirements for further study.

### Career Opportunities

Graduates will be equipped for professional life across a range of sectors and may find employment in church, not-for-profit, commercial or government organisations.

### Work-Integrated Learning

There are no work-integrated learning components to this course.

### ADMISSION CRITERIA

#### Academic Entry Requirements

##### Applicants with Recent Secondary Education

This course requires the completion of previous higher education study.

##### Applicants with Vocational Education and Training Study

This course requires the completion of previous higher education study.

##### Applicants with Higher Education Study

Applicants seeking entry on the basis of a higher education qualification will need to demonstrate the completion of an AQF Level 7 Bachelor degree in a relevant field, or overseas equivalent. This must include an overall GPA at least 2.8.

##### Applicants with Work and Life Experience

This course requires the completion of previous higher education study.

*For further information about AC's Academic entry requirements, please see:*

- [AC's Admissions Requirements](#)
- [Higher Education Provisional Entry Policy](#)
- [Admissions Policy](#)

### English Language Proficiency

Overseas students are required to demonstrate their English proficiency skills. Such students admitted into our programs must attain an overall IELTS (or equivalent) score of 7.0 (with no score below 6.5 in any of the four skills areas). IELTS (or equivalent) is not required for applicants who have undertaken five years of required higher education study (or equivalent) in English from an approved country or who have completed a Certificate IV or higher qualification awarded in English under the Australian Qualification Framework by an authorised institution or registered training organisation.

*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 will be conducted by the Program Director or delegated representative and a bridging program may be required.

In exceptional circumstances the Program Director or delegated representative 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 entry path has not been followed;
- socioeconomic reasons (such as low-family income or poor living conditions);
- learning or language difficulties;
- physical disability.

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

### DIVERSITY 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 the [Student Support Team](#) for tailored academic advice before completing the enrolment form.

Applications for credit transfers or recognised prior learning will be communicated to you once they have been processed.

### STUDENT SERVICES

#### Student Support Team

AC's Student Support Team and Higher Degree Research Support Officer 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
- 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 – 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](mailto:studentsupport@ac.edu.au)

Phone: (02) 8893 9005

<https://www.ac.edu.au/student-services/>

### 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.

*This course will commence delivery in 2021.*

Applicant background	Semester 1, 2020	
	Number of students	Percentage of all students
<b>(A) Past higher education study</b> (includes a bridging or enabling course)	N/A	N/A
<b>(B) Past vocational education and training (VET) study</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>(C) Work and life experience</b> (Admitted on the basis of previous achievement other than the above)	N/A	N/A
<b>(D) Recent secondary education:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Admitted solely on the basis of ATAR (regardless of whether this includes the impact of adjustment factors such as equity or subject bonus points)</li> <li>Admitted where both ATAR and additional criteria were considered (e.g. portfolio, audition, extra test, early offer conditional on minimum ATAR)</li> <li>Admitted on the basis of other criteria only and ATAR was <b>not</b> a factor (e.g. special consideration, audition alone, schools recommendation scheme with no minimum ATAR requirement)</li> </ul>	N/A	N/A
	N/A	N/A
	N/A	N/A
<b>International students</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>All students</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>

Note: "<5" – the number of students is less than 5.

N/A – Students not accepted in this category.

N/P – Not published: the number is hidden to prevent calculation of numbers in cells with less than 5 students.

ATAR-based offers only	ATAR
Highest rank to receive an offer	N/A
Median rank to receive an offer	N/A
Lowest rank to receive an offer	N/A

Note: "<5" – the number of students is less than 5.

Note: This table relates to all students made an offer on the basis of ATAR alone or ATAR in combination with other factors. Students admitted into a course of study based on a Special Admission Pathway or otherwise not based on their ATAR are not included in this table.

## 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.