COURSE HANDBOOK

ALPHACRUCIS COLLEGE

GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN ARTS

OVERVIEW

INSPIRED LEARNING FOR INFLUENTIAL LIVING		
The Graduate Diploma in Arts is the next step in academic reflection and practice, designed for those who want to go deeper in their faith	Program Director	Grant Buchanan
	Level	AQF Level 8 (Postgraduate)
	Qualification	Graduate Diploma
	Subjects	8
	IELTS	7.0
	CRICOS Code	084484B
	ASCED Code	091703
	Accreditation	Self-accreditation; Last reviewed in 2018
	Course Length	1 year full-time; up to 6 years part-time

The Graduate Diploma in Arts (GDA) is an eight-subject award for those wishing to explore theology and its application to life, as well as those looking to further their knowledge in a Humanities speciality.

The Graduate Diploma in Arts is a nested award in the Master of Arts. It can be a destination course or exit point, thus allowing flexibility for students who may wish to start with a short postgraduate course before committing to a Master of Arts or for students who need to exit the Master of Arts earlier than intended. Graduates of the Graduate Diploma of Arts demonstrate an ability to apply a body of knowledge in a range of contexts to undertake advanced professional or ministry positions and as a pathway into the Master of Arts.

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.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Specification	AQF Level 8: Graduate Diploma	AC Learning outcomes	AC Graduate Attributes
Knowledge	Graduates of a Graduate Diploma will have: • advanced 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	Demonstrated: • advanced and integrated understanding of key issues and practices within the disciplines.	Christian Worldview Critical and Creative Thinking Professional Knowledge
Skills	Graduates of a Graduate Diploma will have: • cognitive skills to review, analyse, consolidate and synthesise knowledge and identify and provide solutions to complex problems • cognitive skills to think critically and to generate and evaluate complex ideas • specialised technical and creative skills in a field of highly skilled and/or professional practice • communication skills to demonstrate an understanding of theoretical concepts • communication skills to transfer complex knowledge and ideas to a variety of audiences.	Demonstrated ability to: • analyse, synthesise and critically engage the theoretical knowledge in the relevant areas of study; • examine a complex problem or issue using appropriate methodologies and theories from the discipline; • analyse and synthesise ideas and theories from related disciplines; • communicate effectively complex ideas and proposed solutions to peers and general audiences; • identify and critically evaluate new developments of research and scholarship in the selected disciplinary fields.	Christian Worldview Leadership Integrity and Justice Communication Personal and Social Skills Critical and Creative Thinking Professional Knowledge

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Specification	AQF Level 8: Graduate Diploma	AC Learning outcomes	AC Graduate Attributes
Application of knowledge and skills	Graduates of a Graduate Diploma will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills: • to make high level, independent judgements in a range of technical or management functions in varied specialised contexts • to initiate, plan, implement and evaluate broad functions within varied specialised technical and/or creative contexts • with responsibility and accountability for personal outputs and all aspects of the work or function of others within broad parameters	Demonstrated ability to: • articulate new questions or issues and apply the knowledge and skills developed within the selected disciplinary fields to develop appropriate solutions; • design, implement and evaluate broad conceptual frameworks in the selected disciplinary fields; • work independently, responsibly and with the level of professionalism expected of an expert in the selected disciplinary fields.	Christian Worldview Leadership Integrity and Justice Communication Personal and Social Skills Critical and Creative Thinking Professional

COURSE STRUCTURE

The proposed course structure is based on two semesters (each of 13 weeks duration), with four subjects taught in each semester. It comprises:

- 2 compulsory core subjects
- 6 elective subjects

To qualify for award of the degree of Graduate Diploma in Arts 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	RES401 Postgraduate Research and Writing THE401 Christian Worldview	10 10
ELECTIVE SUBJECTS	6 subjects taken from an accredited Level 8 and 9 subjects (400, 500 or 600 level) offered by the College.	2x10
OTHER PROTOCOLS OF THE COURSE	10 credit points per subject with 1 point being 10 hours of study per week. Total hours per subject is 130 hours. No more than 6 subjects at 400 level.	
BRIDGING/ NESTED COURSES	Students may exit early with a Graduate Certificate of Arts. The Graduate Diploma of Arts is a nested course within the Master of Arts.	

For information on the teaching faculty for this subject, please visit our website.

Graduate Pathways

Students who have successfully completed the Graduate Diploma of Arts may progress into the Master of Arts. Graduates are advised to contact the Future Students Team for information on eligibility requirements for further study.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the Graduate Diploma of Arts will demonstrate an ability to apply a body of knowledge in a range of contexts to undertake advanced professional or ministry positions.

Work-Integrated Learning

Work-Integrated Learning may be undertaken through various Professional Practice and Professional Experience subjects at AC. These subjects seek to create a direct linkage between the learning, skills and values engaged in lectures, and the reflection which occurs when these are applied in real-life settings. These work-based training subjects comprise of instruction, academic assessment and a placement in a workplace for each subject.

To qualify for the award of the Graduate Diploma of Arts, a candidate is not required to complete any Professional Practice subjects.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

Academic Entry Requirements

Applicants with Recent Secondary Education

This course of study requires the completion of a higher education qualification by an authorised institution. Applicants with recent high school education only are not eligible for direct entry into this course.

Applicants with Vocational Education and Training Study

This course of study requires the completion of a higher education qualification by an authorised institution. Applicants with a Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualification only are not eligible for direct entry into this course.

Applicants with Higher Education Study

Applicants whose highest level of study enrolment since leaving secondary education is a higher education qualification must demonstrate the completion of an AQF Level 7 Bachelor degree (or higher) by an authorised institution for admission into this course.

Applicants with Work and Life Experience

This course of study requires the completion of a higher education qualification by an authorised institution. Applicants who have not completed formal higher education study are not eligible for direct entry into this course.

For further information about AC's provisional entry criteria, 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.

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;
- disrupted schooling;
- physical disability;
- serious family illness or excessive family responsibility;
- geographical isolation of home and/or school;
- 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.

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 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	Full-Year Intake: 2020	
	Number of students	Percentage of all students
(A) Past higher education study (includes a bridging or enabling course)	<5	<5
(B) Past vocational education and training (VET) study	N/A	N/A
(C) Work and life experience (Admitted on the basis of previous achievement other than the above)	<5	<5
(D) 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
International students	<5	<5
All students	***<5***	***100%***

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.