DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY

AWARD SUMMARY

CRICOS: 063716J
Nomenclature: DTh

AQF Level 10 Doctorate

Entry Requirements	A person may apply for admission to the Doctor of Theology if he or she has obtained or is qualified to obtain a four-year Bachelor degree, or the equivalent, in an appropriate discipline, to at least a Distinction standard. For details see Regulation 4.1 below. In all cases, prior studies should include sufficient preparation to undertake the proposed research in a theological discipline. In exceptional cases, candidates may be admitted on the grounds of academic and/or professional attainments, including publications, in the theological discipline in which they wish to pursue research for the degree. Notwithstanding the provisions above, the University College may require suitability for candidature to be demonstrated by such examination or other work as determined by the University College. The University College will decline to accept an applicant if it cannot offer supervision of the proposed research topic AND Satisfactorily completes a pre-enrolment interview with a relevant course advisor.
Duration:	3-4 years full-time or 6-8 years part-time. Candidacy period is a minimum of 2 years full-time or 4 years part-time.
Attendance Type:	Full-time, part-time.
Delivery Mode:	Online, face-to-face, or multi-modal

Structure:	Research and thesis of 80,000 words 80,000 words (but no more than 85,000 words or less than 75,000 words), including footnotes/endnotes but excluding bibliography and appendices, under the direction of a supervisor; AND compulsory participation in the Thesis Writers' Workshop and Research Seminars, except with the explicit permission of the Research Director in the last stages of thesis writing in appropriate cases. Some thesis topics may require competence in ancient and/or modern foreign languages or other relevant areas of knowledge.

English Proficiency:

Applicants whose entry qualifications were obtained in an institution where English is not the language of instruction normally require a minimum IELTS (or equivalent) overall score of at least 7.0 with no subtest below 6.5.

Enrolment

Contact the Director of Research, Office of the Dean, University College School of Graduate Research for enrolment and fee details.

Graduate Profile and Rationale

The Doctor of Theology meets the specifications for a Doctoral Degree (Research) set by the Australian Qualifications Framework. It provides men and women with the opportunity to pursue advanced study in a theological discipline by research at the highest academic level. It is designed for those who seek to expand their own understanding and develop new knowledge in theology for academic, vocational, professional and/or personal reasons. It also offers research training and experience that would support an academic or professional career involving research.
The Doctor of Theology is undertaken by research and thesis alone. It provides the opportunity for candidates to embark on a significant, extended piece of research, which investigates a theological topic in a systematic, creative and comprehensive manner that is not available in coursework programs. The research will contribute to knowledge in an original way.

Course Outcomes

Knowledge

Graduates will have systematic and critical understanding of a complex body of theological learning and specialized research skills for the advancement of learning in the area. They will have:

- systematic and critical understanding of the chosen theologically related area;
- systematic and critical understanding of the chosen theological research area;
- mastery of a substantial body of material at the frontier of knowledge in the research area;
- expert understanding of theories pertaining to the research area;

- substantial knowledge of research principles and methods applicable to the area.

Skills

Graduates will have expert and specialized cognitive, creative, and technical skills in the research area, so that they are able independently and authoritatively to:

- critically evaluate existing knowledge and ideas pertaining to the research area;
- systematically investigate and integrate other information potentially relevant to that area, including potentially relevant theories;
- demonstrate and apply theoretical understanding of that area;
- develop or adapt research methodologies to extend existing understanding of the area;
- communicate results of research cogently and appropriately to specialist and non-specialist audiences, using the English language;
- competently and effectively for the purpose.

Applications of Knowledge and Skills

As a practitioner or learner in relation to the inter-dependent building up of the church and good of the wider community, graduates will have the ongoing capacity to:

- plan and execute a coherent, significant, and original piece of research with intellectual independence and authority;
- generate significant and original knowledge in the research area;
- contribute expertise to academic discourses in the research area;
- take initiatives, think creatively, and make innovations in new situations and/or undertake further learning;
- assume full responsibility and accountability for personal outputs.

Graduate Attributes

Doctor of Theology Graduates will:

- Be able to identify, analyse and articulate problems and issues in discourses current in their academic, professional, and social communities;
- Recognize the level of their own understanding;
- Demonstrate creativity and originality of thought in solving problems and dealing with complex and abstract conceptual matters;
- Be able to access information efficiently using the means most appropriate to purpose and context;
- Conduct themselves with academic integrity and rigour and exercise critical thinking in forming judgments;
- Work autonomously and with an open mind;
- Understand the distinction between information and argument and be adept in marshalling information as evidence in argument;
- Adopt and practise responsible values and attitudes as members of academic, professional, and social communities, based in part on their experience as University College research candidates;
- Be able to communicate their thinking coherently and effectively, with appropriate English proficiency, in public debate and printed word;
- Have confidence to engage in public discussions of faith and ethics;
- Appreciate and act on opportunities for lifelong learning and encourage others to recognize learning opportunities for themselves;
- Be willing to assume high-level leadership in their academic, professional and

social communities as needed.

Academic regulations for the Doctor of Theology
(The Academic Regulations below must be read in conjunction with *Essential Information about the Higher Degrees by Research* (HDR))

1 Admission to Candidature

1.1 1 The University College may admit to candidature in the Doctor of Theology those persons who have attained:

1.1.1 A Bachelor (Hons) degree or equivalent with results at Class II, Division 1, from the University College or an equivalent institution; OR

1.1.2 A Graduate Diploma with a GPA of 3+ and one 18 credit point research unit at Distinction level from the Australian University College of Divinity or an equivalent institution; OR

1.1.3 Qualifications deemed by the College to be equivalent to or higher than those above; OR

1.1.4 A substantial body of previously peer-reviewed publications relevant to the field of research.

In all cases, prior studies should include sufficient preparation to undertake the proposed research in a theologically related area.

1.2 In exceptional cases, candidates may be admitted on the grounds of academic and/or professional attainments, including publications, in the theologically related area in which they wish to pursue the research.

1.3 Notwithstanding the provisions above, the University College may require suitability for candidature to be demonstrated by such examination or other work as determined by the University College.

1.4 The College will decline to accept an applicant if it cannot offer supervision in the proposed field of research.

1.5 Applicants must submit together with their application a *Summary of Research Intentions,* sufficient for the Research Committee to determine the general suitability of the topic and availability of appropriate resources and supervision

1.6 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 achieving an IELTS (or equivalent) result of 7.0 with no score below 6.5 in all bands of the test and may be required to attend such English language courses as prescribed by the University College.

1.7 Applicants will be required to show evidence of competence in ancient and/or modern languages, in order to access primary sources and/or significant secondary works relevant to their thesis topic, and competence in any other relevant area of knowledge. Any language or other requirements will be determined at the time of application in consultation with the proposed supervisor.

1.8 Candidates for the Doctor of Theology are admitted provisionally on the basis of approval of the Summary of Research Intentions. Candidates must submit a

formal Thesis Proposal no later than one semester from admission for a full-time candidate or two semesters for a part-time candidate for approval by the Research Committee in order to continue their candidature. This proposal may not be substantially changed after acceptance without application to the Research Committee.

1.9 No candidate for the Doctor of Theology may be concurrently enrolled in any other undergraduate or postgraduate course within the or any other tertiary institution, except in the case that, on the recommendation of the supervisor, a candidate may be directed to undertake one or more individual units of study on a non-award basis in order to attain a competence emerging as appropriate to the most effective pursuance of the Doctor of Theology research.

1.10 Candidates for the University College program are registered with the University College Graduate Research School through the Office of the Dean.

1.11 A candidate for the degree will be designated as full-time or part-time based on time to be given to the research. Typically, full-time candidature requires an average of thirty hours per week and part-time candidature requires an average of fifteen hours per week. These hours should preferably be achieved through regular weekly commitment, but they may be achieved through varying periods of more and less intensive work. Clear progress is expected in each semester of enrolment.

1.12 A candidate enrolled in the Master of Philosophy may apply for transfer to Doctor of Theology candidature, using the Application to Transfer to a Different Research Degree, following satisfactory completion of 20,000 words of the thesis under the direction of the approved principal supervisor and associate supervisor; a record of having met MPhil regulations; and demonstration that the research is of a sufficient scope and depth to sustain a doctoral thesis. The application should be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from the principal supervisor. Applications are determined by the Research Committee. In the event that an application is refused and the student wishes to appeal the decision, the appeal will be referred to the Dean. In the event that the student remains unsatisfied with the outcome, the student may have recourse to formal grievance procedures available through the Dean, as set out in the Student Grievance Policy and Procedures. Period of candidature provisions for the Doctor of Theology degree apply from the time of transfer. Allowance for time already spent in MPhil candidature will be determined by the Research Committee in relation to the stage already reached in the research, but the remaining period of doctoral candidature will be at least two semesters for full-time candidates and at least four semesters for part-time candidates.

2 Course Structure

2.1 All candidates for the Doctor of Theology candidates proceed to the award by research and thesis alone.

2.2 Candidates pursue a program of advanced study and research approved by the Research Committee and submit a thesis embodying the results of the research. The thesis will form an original contribution to research in the area. The thesis is to be 80,000 words (but no more than 85,000 words or less than 75,000 words), including footnotes/endnotes but excluding bibliography and appendices.

2.3 A candidate may not submit as the main content of the thesis any material that has previously been submitted for a degree, unless that material has been significantly reworked in the context of the thesis being submitted.

2.4 Not later than one semester after admission to provisional candidature for full-time candidates and two semesters for part-time candidates, the candidate will submit a formal *Thesis Proposal* for approval by the Research Committee. Following approval, the thesis topic may not be substantially varied except with the permission of the Research Committee.

2.5 The Research Committee appoints a principal supervisor and an associate supervisor to oversee the development of the thesis, and may determine any special arrangements for supervision. Both the principal supervisor and the associate supervisor must hold a doctoral degree and be research active according to the Research Active in the SCD Policy. An exception may be made in the case of the associate supervisor if the Research Committee determines that a professional expert who is suitably qualified but not research active at the time is appropriate to provide guidance for the specific thesis. Normally, the principal supervisor will be a faculty member of the SCD. In some cases, the University College may appoint and employ for the purpose an external supervisor otherwise based in another reputable theological college, university, or comparable institution. The associate supervisor may likewise be internal or external to the University College. Normally at least one of the two supervisors will be a faculty member of the University College.

2.6 As part of the program for the award of the Doctor of Theology the candidate is required to participate in the Research Seminars listed for each year of their candidature, and to present a paper at least once a year for full-time candidates and at least once every second year for part-time candidates. Ongoing enrolment in the award is subject to completing these requirements.

2.7 Candidates in their first year of enrolment must attend a Thesis Writers' Workshop in addition to the Research Seminars, provided that they have not previously attended such a seminar with the University College as part of a previous award. Regardless of such previous attendance, they may be required to attend those parts of the Workshop considered relevant to their current research.

All thesis proposals involving the gathering of personal information from people by surveys, interviews or case studies will be dealt with according to the policies and procedures of the Research Ethics Committee, which makes a recommendation to the Academic Board in consultation with the Research Committee. Ethics clearance is normally sought at the same time as submission of the formal Thesis Proposal. If the need to seek ethics clearance arises subsequently, as the need to gather personal information arises belatedly, the application for ethical clearance should be lodged promptly.

Under no circumstances may those elements of the thesis relying on the gathering of personal information proceed before ethical clearance is granted.

2.8 All candidates are to nominate a 'home library' from amongst the libraries in the teaching bodies of the University College that together constitute the University College Library. The library will receive a research grant in each semester of enrolment to supplement its collection in the topic area of the candidate, as requested by the candidate and approved by the principal supervisor.

3 Period of Candidature

3.1 The period of candidature for the Doctor of Theology is three to four years full-time or six to eight years part-time.

3.2 Two semesters part-time are deemed to be equivalent to one semester full-time and candidature may vary between full-time and part-time for different semesters. A candidate contemplating transfer between full-time and part-time candidature may enrol accordingly for the next semester but is strongly advised to discuss the variation first with the supervisor and Research Director.

3.3 In certain circumstances the Research Committee may grant limited extensions of candidature upon application. The normal upper limits for extension are one semester for full-time candidates and two semesters for part-time candidates.

3.4 For serious reasons the Research Committee may grant a candidate leave of absence from the program. This leave will not normally exceed one semester. The period of leave is not counted in the period of candidature.

3.5 If the candidate discontinues or does not re-enrol, the candidate is required to apply for re-admission to the Doctor of Theology program. The Research Committee will process the application and may specify conditions for enrolment.

3.6 A candidate resuming after permitted leave must be enrolled for not less than one semester for full-time candidates and two semesters for part-time candidates before being permitted to submit a thesis.

4 Monitoring of Candidature

4.1 At the end of each semester the principal supervisor of the thesis and the candidate will report to the Research Committee on the progress of the candidate using the Research Degree Progress Report form, to be signed by both parties, ensuring that, in so doing, each has seen the other's comments. The principal supervisor or the Research Director may also initiate a report on progress at any other time considered appropriate.

5 Termination of Candidature

5.1 If the *Research Degree Progress Report* describes the candidate's progress as unsatisfactory and there is no advance within a semester, the Research Committee will ask the candidate to show cause why candidature should not be terminated. Unsatisfactory progress occurs when there is no evidence that

production of the thesis has been advanced by identifiable further research, constructive meetings of the candidate with the supervisor, or written drafts, and where there are insufficient grounds for special consideration.

5.2 Any show-cause submission by the candidate will be considered by the Research Committee and the Committee's recommendation will be forwarded to the Academic Board. The Committee may recommend the termination of candidature, continuation of candidature, or imposition of conditions on continuation of candidature.

5.3 If the candidate does not show cause, the Research Committee will recommend termination of candidature to the Academic Board.

5.4 Persons whose candidature has been terminated may have recourse to the appeals procedures set out in the *Handbook* under *General Academic Regulation*s. The decision of the Appeals Committee is final.

5.5 Academic and non-academic misconduct will be penalised in accordance with the Policies and Regulations of the University College, whose stipulations are severe.

6 Examination of Thesis

6.1 The candidate will submit to the Office of the Dean three copies of an electronic PDF version of the thesis embodying the results of the candidate's research. The length of the thesis will conform to the prescribed requirements. The thesis must be written and presented in accordance with the current guidelines for the preparation of a thesis.

6.2 The thesis must be the candidate's own work, with no hint of plagiarism, must be written in English, and must reach a satisfactory standard of literary presentation.

6.3 Approximately three months before the expected date of submission the candidate should notify the Research Office that submission is expected using the Intention to Submit form including comment from the principal supervisor. Before a candidate may submit a thesis, the principal supervisor must sign a Certification of Thesis, to be submitted with the thesis, stating that the thesis conforms to the requirements of the regulations. If the supervisor does not so certify, the Research Committee will determine whether the thesis is to be submitted after having considered written submissions from the principal supervisor, the associate supervisor and the candidate.

6.4 The Research Committee appoints three expert examiners, all external to the University College, at least two of international standing, and may appoint additional examiners. Examiners will be expected to report in writing two months from the receipt of the thesis. An examiner will normally be replaced if the report is not received within three months.

6.5 The examiners will report in writing and make a recommendation that the thesis be placed in one of the five categories:

6.5.1 that the award be granted

6.5.2 that minor amendments be made to the thesis to the satisfaction of the Research Committee

6.5.3 that major amendments be made to the thesis to the satisfaction of the Research Committee

6.5.4 that a significantly revised thesis be re-submitted for examination

6.5.5 that the award not be granted.

6.6 In the event of a disagreement arising amongst examiners, the Research Committee may appoint a fourth examiner or may make a recommendation to the Academic Board of the College.

6.7 The Research Committee may recommend that the candidate undergo an oral or written examination requested by the examiners or initiated by the Research Committee.

6.8 In the case of 6.5 (6.5.2), (6.5.3) or (6.5.4), the Research Committee will determine the time to be allowed for completion or re-submission. In both cases, the candidate will re-enrol for the specified period.

6.9 In the event of a re-submission, the Research Committee may appoint the same examiners or may appoint one or more different examiners. The same examination process will apply except that examiners will be asked to make a recommendation in one of three categories:

6.9.1 that the award be granted

6.9.2 that minor amendments be made to the thesis to the satisfaction of the Research Committee

6.9.3 that the award not be granted.

7 Examiners Reports

7.1 Candidates will be given a copy of the examiners' reports at the completion of the examination process. Examiners' names will be included unless a written request to the contrary has been received by the Office of the Dean.

8 Submission of Completed Thesis

8.1 When any corrections as determined by the Research Committee in light of the examiners' reports have been completed, one electronic PDF version of the thesis is to be submitted to the Office of the Dean.

8.2 The thesis will be available for consultation and electronic distribution forthwith. In exceptional cases the Research Committee, on application of the candidate, may determine that the thesis will not be available until after the expiry of a period, normally no longer than a year. The candidate holds copyright in the thesis and it is expected that any use made of it will be appropriately acknowledged by the user.

9 Saving Clause

9.1 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the Academic Board of the University College may, in any case in which it may deem it appropriate to do so, vary, dispense with, or suspend any requirement or prescription by these regulations, and report forthwith to the Council of the University College.

Version	Date and Governance	Changes
1.0	27/2/2014 Academic Board	Approved
3.0	5/3/2024	IELTS admissions update
4.0	6/5/2024	Changes to remove print

		submission of theses
5.0	30/6/2025	Addition of Minimum Candidacy Period