

## MASTER OF ARTS

### AWARD SUMMARY

CRICOS: 063708J

Nomenclature: MA

### AQF Level 9 Masters (Coursework)

<b>Entry Requirements</b>	Satisfactorily completed a three-year AQF 7 (or equivalent) in the disciplines of Theology or Ministry from an institution recognised by the Academic Board; OR Satisfactorily completed an AQF 8 (or equivalent) in the disciplines of Theology or Ministry from an institution recognised by the Academic Board; AND Satisfactorily completes a pre-enrolment interview with a relevant course advisor.
<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Category 1 (AQF 8 entry)</b> 1 year full-time or 3 years (maximum) part-time. <b>Category 2 (AQF 7 Entry)</b> 1.5 years full-time or 4.5 years part-time.
<b>Attendance Type:</b>	Full-time, part-time.
<b>Delivery Mode:</b>	Online, face-to-face, or multi-modal
<b>Structure:</b>	<b>Category 1:</b> 72 credit points (8 units). <b>Category 2:</b> 108 credit points (12 units). The course may be taken with or without a specialisation. A specialisation in the Master of Arts (1.5 years) comprises 54 credit points in a discipline or sub discipline with at least two 9200-series units. A specialisation in the Master of Arts (1 year), will comprise the University College Graduate Certificate in Arts award, the units of which are used towards the 54 credit points required for the specialisation.

### **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) score of 7.0 with no score less than 6.5 in all bands of the test.

### **Exit Points**

Students enrolled in the Master of Arts may exit with the Graduate Certificate in Arts or Graduate Diploma of Arts provided they have met the requirements of those awards.

### **Enrolment**

Contact the Registrar of the Member Institution with whom you intend to study for enrolment and fee details.

## **Graduate Profile and Rationale**

The Master of Arts course is designed for those who hold a tertiary qualification in a theological discipline who wish to pursue a further qualification in theology as part of their continuing education for ministry. The award provides a study of theological and related disciplines through a structure of specialisations (see Academic Regulations section 2.4).

### **Course Outcomes**

#### **Knowledge**

Graduates will have:

- an integrated understanding of an advanced body of knowledge in one or more theologically-related disciplines or areas of practice, including recent developments in the theological disciplines and/or their practice;
- understanding research principles and methods applicable to these theological disciplines and their practice.

#### **Skills**

Graduates will have cognitive and technical skills in a theologically-related body of knowledge, so that they are able independently to:

- analyse critically, reflect on and synthesise complex information, problems, concepts and theories associated with a theologically-related body of knowledge;
- research and apply established theories to a theologically-related body of knowledge or practice;
- interpret and transmit knowledge, skills and ideas through coherent and sustained argument to specialist and non-specialist audiences in relation to a theologically-related body of knowledge.

#### **Applications of Knowledge and Skills**

Graduates will have the ability to:

- apply knowledge and skills in a way that demonstrates autonomy, expert judgment, adaptability, and accountability as a practitioner and/or learner in relation to the inter-dependent building up of the church and good of the wider community;
- plan and execute a research-based project, and/or piece of scholarship in an area of theology.

## **Academic regulations for the Master of Arts**

### **1 Admission to Candidature**

1.1 An applicant for admission to candidature into the Master of Arts will be classified into one of 2 categories:

- 1.1.1 those who have completed an AQF Level 8 award in the discipline of Theology or Ministry (Category 1); OR
- 1.1.2 those who have completed an AQF Level 7 award in Theology or Ministry from an accredited Australian tertiary institution, or hold, from a university or other tertiary institution, qualifications approved by the Academic Board as equivalent to such an award (Category 2); OR
- 1.1.3 Applicants who hold a Vocational Graduate Diploma (VET accredited) or Vocational Graduate Certificate (VET accredited) may be granted provisional admission into Category 2; AND
- 1.1.4 Satisfactorily completes a pre-enrolment interview with a relevant course advisor.

1.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of this regulation the Student Support and Administration Committee may require an applicant to demonstrate fitness for admission as a candidate for this degree by carrying out such work and/or sitting for such examinations as the Student Support and Administration Committee may determine.

1.3 In exceptional cases an applicant may be admitted as a candidate for a Master of Arts if the applicant submits evidence of other academic and professional attainments to the Student Support and Administration Committee.

1.4 A candidate for the Master of Arts shall be designated as full-time or part-time. A student is designated as a full-time if enrolled in three units (27 credit points) or more in a semester or part-time if enrolled in less than three units (27 credit points) per semester.

1.5 No candidate for the Master of Arts may be concurrently enrolled in any other undergraduate or postgraduate course within the University College or any other tertiary institution unless approval has been granted by the Academic Board.

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:

- 1.6.1 achieving an IELTS (or equivalent) result of 7.0 with no score below 6.5 in all bands of the test.

1.7 Application for enrolment in the Master of Arts is made to the Registrar of the appropriate Member Institution offering the course.

## 2 Course Structure

2.1 The Master of Arts requires candidates to complete credit points as follows:

- 2.1.1 Those in Category 1 are required to complete 72 credit points in units whose content is not similar to those covered in their previous studies.
- 2.1.2 Those in Category 2 are required to complete 108 credit points in units whose content is not similar to those covered in their previous studies.

2.2 All course units will be taken from the University College Schedule of units of study coded within the 8100 and 9200 series.

2.3 The course may be taken with or without a specialisation.

- 2.3.1 A specialisation in the Master of Arts comprises 54 credit points in a discipline or subdiscipline, with at least two 9200-series units.
- 2.3.2 A specialisation in a discipline requires 54 credit points from the discipline, with at least 27 credit points in one subdiscipline, with a minimum of 18 credit points from 9200 series units.
- 2.3.3 A specialisation in a subdiscipline requires 54 credit points from the subdiscipline, with a minimum of 18 credit points from 9200 series units.
- 2.3.4 Units coded "A" are not counted towards a Concentration or Specialisation in any discipline or subdiscipline.

2.4 Overview of Specialisations:

<b>Discipline</b>	<b>Subdisciplines</b>	<b>Specialisations</b>
Biblical Studies		Biblical Studies
Christian Life & Ministry	Christian Spirituality Mission Pastoral Counselling Pastoral Theology	Christian Life & Ministry (discipline) Christian Spirituality Mission Pastoral Counselling Pastoral Theology
Humanities in the Christian Tradition	Church History Philosophy Theological Education	Humanities in the Christian Tradition (discipline) Church History Philosophy Theological Education

2.5 All course units will be taken from 8100 and 9200 series units in the University College Schedule of Units of Study.

2.6 The course will include at least one Generic Research unit.

- 2.7 A candidate may take a maximum of 36 credit points in units listed as Generic (Research) units in the Schedule of Units of Study with a maximum of 18 credit points in Independent Guided Study units, 18 credit points in Research Project units, and 18 credit points as a Research Essay. Students who transfer from the Master of Arts to the Master of Divinity cannot exceed this limit in total across both programs.
- 2.8 A candidate whose admission or provisional admission has been granted on the basis of a Vocational Graduate Diploma or Graduate Certificate must complete the unit A8100 Critical Academic Skills in Theological Education during the first enrolment period.
- 2.9 Candidates wishing to proceed to the degree of Master of Philosophy must include one 18 credit point research unit at Distinction level.

### **3 Period of Candidature**

- 3.1 The period of candidature for the Master of Arts shall normally be:
- 3.1.1 Category 1: One year (2 semesters) full-time, or up to 3 years (6 semesters) part-time.
  - 3.1.2 Category 2: 1.5 years (3 semesters) full-time, or up to 4.5 years (9 semesters) part-time.
- 3.2 In certain circumstances the Student Support and Support and Administration Committee may grant course extensions.

### **4 Leave of Absence**

- 4.1 The Student Support and Administration Committee may grant leave of absence from the Master of Arts. The period of leave shall not be counted as part of the period of candidature for the award.
- 4.2 The period of leave shall normally be one semester after which a candidate may apply for a further period of one semester or will be required to complete candidature.

### **5 Assessment**

- 5.1 The assessment of units shall be in the manner approved by the Academic Board in line with the College's established guidelines for assessment packages at the postgraduate level.
- 5.2 Students may be required by the Academic Board to present themselves for oral examination.
- 5.3 Academic and non-academic misconduct will be penalised in accordance with the Policies and Regulations of the University College, whose stipulations are severe.

### **6 Credit**

- 6.1 A candidate may seek credit up to a maximum of 54 credit points in the 12 unit Master of Arts (1.5 years), and 36 credit points in the 8 unit Master of Arts (1 year).

6.2 Credit will be granted for units that are from an equivalent award or institution and have outcomes, content, demand hours, and assessment equivalent to that of units in the Master of Arts.

## 7 Progress to Further Awards

7.1 All units satisfactorily completed in the Master of Arts may be credited towards a University College Master of Arts award, on condition that a completed Master of Arts will be surrendered prior to graduation in that award.

## 8 Saving Clause

8.1 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	02/12/2013 Academic Board	Approved
2.0	02/03/2021 Academic Board	Review, no changes
3.0	04/03/2024 Academic Board	IELTS admission criteria changes