



MASTER OF CHURCH PLANTING

AWARD SUMMARY

CRICOS: None

Nomenclature: MChPlant

AQF Level 9 Masters

Entry Requirements Satisfactorily completed an AQF Level 8 Graduate Certificate in Church Planting from an institution recognised by the Academic Board; OR

Hold, from a university or other tertiary institution, qualifications approved by the AUCD Director of Student Services as equivalent to such an award;

Duration: 1 years full-time or 4 years (maximum) part-time.

Attendance Type: Full-time, part-time.

Delivery Mode: Online, face-to-face, or multi-modal

Structure: 72 credit points (8 units).

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 in all bands of the test, and may be required to attend such English language courses as prescribed by the Australian University College of Divinity.

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 Church Planting focuses on building capacity for people leading the development of new churches. Students may be seeking skills in church planting to enhance their professional work or to engage in effective ministry as a volunteer.

The Master of Church Planting is designed for those who hold an AQF 8 Graduate Certificate in Church Planting, who wish to pursue a further qualification in Church Planting, and acquire transferable knowledge and skills in Church Planting as part of their continuing professional development for employment and further learning.

Course Outcomes

Graduates will have specialised knowledge and skills for further learning in professional practice and research and the ability to apply such knowledge and skills in a church planting context.

Knowledge

Graduates will have:

- an integrated understanding of an advanced body of knowledge related to the practice of Christian mission particular to the development of new churches
- an expert understanding of the principles of inquiry and methods applicable to church planting theory and their application to real-world ministry practice

Skills

Graduates will demonstrate advanced specialised cognitive and technical skills in leadership within a church planting-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 mission and leadership in the context of a new church initiative
- critically and appropriately draw upon established church planting theories to provide solutions for complex problems in the development of a new church
- interpret and transmit transferable church planting-related knowledge, skills and ideas to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Applications of Knowledge and Skills

Graduates will have the ability to:

- apply transferable knowledge and skills in a way that demonstrates initiative, autonomy, well-developed judgment, adaptability, and responsibility as leaders in the development of new churches
- plan and execute a substantial research or field-based project in an area of church planting

The Unit Learning Outcomes of any units taken into the award contribute to the attainment of the Discipline Learning Outcomes and the Generic Learning Outcomes of the AQF level, as well as the Graduate Attributes of the Award.

Exit Points

Students enrolled in the Master of Church Planting may exit with a Graduate Diploma of Church Planting or another AUCD award provided they have met the requirements of the award.

Academic regulations for the (Master of Church Planting)

1 Admission to Candidature

- 1.1 An applicant for admission to candidature into the Master of Church Planting shall:
 - 1.1.1 hold an AQF Level 8 Graduate Certificate in Church Planting from an accredited Australian tertiary institution; OR
 - 1.1.2 ~~4.4.2~~ hold, from a university or other tertiary institution, qualifications approved by the AUCD Director of Student Services as equivalent to such an award;
- 1.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of this regulation the AUCD Director of Student Services may require an applicant to demonstrate fitness for admission as a candidate for this award by carrying out such work and/or sitting for such examinations as the AUCD Director of Student Services may determine.
- 1.3 In exceptional cases an applicant may be admitted as a candidate for a Master of Church planting, if the applicant submits evidence of other academic and professional attainments to the AUCD Director of Student Services.
- 1.4 A Candidate for the award will 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 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:
 - 1.5.1 achieving an IELTS (or equivalent) result of 7.0 in all bands of the test
- 1.6 Application for enrolment in the Master of Church Planting is made to the Registrar of the appropriate Member Institution offering the course.

2 Course Structure

- 2.1 The Master of Church Planting requires the completion of 72 credit points (8 units) which shall include:

- 2.1.1 One Compulsory Unit (9 credit points): ~~from~~ T8140 Theology of Mission; AND
- 2.1.2 at least 18 credit points of Specified Electives chosen from Schedule 1; AND
- 2.1.3 at least 18 credit points of Specified Electives chosen from Schedule 2; AND
- 2.1.4 at least 9 credit points of Specified Electives from B8100 or T8100 units; in addition to T8140 Biblical Theology of Mission; AND
- 2.1.5 one (9 or 18 cps) elective research unit (capstone, independent guided study, research project, or action research project) focused on church planting in a specific field (location or modality).
- 2.1.6 a further 9 credit point Elective from the accredited units of the AUCD at levels 8 or 9 to complete the award if required

2.2 The course must include:

- 2.2.1 at least two 9200-series units.
- 2.2.2 at least a Specialisation in the sub-Discipline of Mission with 54 credit points, which may include units in the Graduate Certificate of entry

2.3 A specialisation comprises 6 units (54 cps) and a sub-specialisation comprises 4 units (36 cps).

2.4 Units from the entry Graduate Certificate, if equivalent to units required for the award, will be included in the forming of a specialisation or sub-specialisation within the Master of Church Planting.

2.5 Units coded "A" are not counted towards a concentration or specialisation in any discipline or subdiscipline.

3 Period of Candidature

3.1 The period of candidature for the Master of Church Planting shall normally be 1 years full-time and up to 4 years (maximum) part-time.

3.2 In certain circumstances the Director of Student Services may grant course extensions.

4 Leave of Absence

4.1 The Director of Student Services may grant leave of absence from the Master of Church Planting. 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 of study 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 Australian University College of Divinity.

6 Credit

- 6.1 A candidate may seek credit up to a maximum of 36 credit points in the Master of Church Planting.
- 6.2 Credit will be granted in accordance with the University College Credit Policy

7 Saving Clause

- 7.1 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the Academic Board of the Australian University College of Divinity 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 Australian University College of Divinity.

SCHEDULES

Schedule 1

M8132 Framework for Church Planting (to be approved)
 M8134 Developing a Church Plant in Teams (to be approved)
 M8193 or M9292 Seminar in Church Planting
 M9235 Characteristics of Effective Church Planters (to be approved)
 M9293 Minor Independent Guided Study in Mission
 P9233 Church Planting Through Neighbourhood Engagement

Schedule 2

M8101 Missiological Hermeneutics and Contextualisation
 M8109 Framework for Discipleship
 M8110 Evangelising Mission Today
 M8160 Gospel, Culture & Communication in Australia & New Zealand
 M8190 Research Methodology in Mission
 P8104 Foundations of Theological Study
 P8105 Foundations of Ethical Professional Practice
 P8139 Community Development: Principles and Practice
 P8145 Dynamics of Church and Ministry
 P8158 Working in a Ministry Team Setting
 P8159 Denominational Distinctives
 P8163 Spiritual Leadership
 P8171 Theory and Practice of Ministry I

P9232 Exegeting the Culture
P9288 Ministry Identity and Practice
P9272 Theory and Practice of Ministry II
S8101 Formation in Christian Leadership
S8103 Personal Transformation
S8105 Transformation in Community

Version	Date and Governance	Changes
1.0	29 July 2025 Academic Board Standing Committee	Approved