

MASTER OF DIVINITY

AWARD SUMMARY

CRICOS: 063710D

Nomenclature: MDiv

AQF Level 9 Masters (Coursework)

Entry Requirements Satisfactory completion of a three-year AQF Level 7 or 8 award in any discipline (or equivalent) from an institution recognised by the Academic Board; AND Satisfactory completion of a pre-enrolment interview with a relevant course advisor.

Duration: 3 years full-time, 9 years (maximum) part-time.

Attendance Type: Full-time, part-time.

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

Structure: 216 credit points (24 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 with no score less than 6.5 in all bands of the test.

Exit Points

A range of exit points are available from the Master of Divinity. These include the Graduate Certificate in Arts, Graduate Diploma of Arts, Master of Arts and Master of Theology. For these to be available, the student must complete units that meet the requirements of the exiting award.

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 Divinity course is designed for two categories of candidates:

- i. those who hold a tertiary qualification in a non-theological discipline, who seek a comprehensive education in theology comparable in breadth and depth to the Bachelor of Theology, including a deeper biblical and theological understanding, spiritual formation, and cultural literacy that will prepare them for ordained or other professional ministry in church, parachurch or non-profit organisations, and other similar vocational settings.
- ii. those who hold a tertiary qualification in a theological discipline who wish to pursue a graduate qualification in theology as part of their continuing ministerial education.

The award provides a systematic and comprehensive study of theological and related disciplines through a structure of specialisations (see Academic Regulations section 2.3).

Graduates will have specialised knowledge and skills for research, and/or professional practice and/or further learning and the ability to apply such knowledge and skills in a theologically-related area.

Course Outcomes

Knowledge

Graduates will have:

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

Skills

Graduates will have expert 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 Divinity

1 Admission to Candidature

1.1 An applicant for admission to candidature into the Master of Divinity shall:

- 1.1.1 Satisfactory completion of a three-year AQF Level 7 or 8 award in any discipline (or equivalent) from an institution recognised by the Academic Board; AND
- 1.1.2 Satisfactorily complete 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 Divinity, 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 Divinity shall be designated as full-time or part-time. A candidate 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 Divinity 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 Divinity is made to the Registrar of the appropriate Member Institution offering the course.

2 Course Structure

2.1 Every student program for the Master of Divinity will consist of 216 credit points.

2.2 Every program will include either two specialisations and one subspecialisation or one specialisation and two subspecialisations:

- 2.2.1 A specialisation in a subdiscipline requires 54 credit points from the subdiscipline, with a minimum of 18 credit points from 9200 series units.
- 2.2.2 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.
- 2.2.3 A subspecialisation in a discipline or subdiscipline requires 36 credit points from the units assigned to the discipline or subdiscipline, including no more than 18 credit points from 8100 series units or up to 36 credit points from 9200 series units.

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

2.4 Overview of Specialisations:

Discipline	Subdisciplines	Specialisations
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 Education	Humanities in the Christian Tradition (discipline) Church History Philosophy Education

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

2.6 Every program will include:

- 2.6.1 a minimum of 72 credit points in 9200 series units;
- 2.6.2 not more than 72 credit points from Philosophy;
- 2.6.3 at least a subspecialisation from Biblical Studies;
- 2.6.4 students completing a specialisation in Biblical Studies must also complete at least 18 cps (2 units) in Biblical

- languages which are in addition to the 54 cps (6 units) required for the specialization;
- 2.6.5 at least a subspecialisation from Systematic Theology;
- 2.6.6 at least one unit in Church History;
- 2.6.7 at least a total of 36 credit points from the following subdisciplines: Christian Spirituality, Pastoral Counselling, Worship & Liturgy, Mission, Pastoral Theology;
- 2.6.8 not more than 108 credit points in Pastoral Theology;
- 2.6.9 at least one 9200 series Generic Research unit;
- 2.6.10 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 Divinity to either the Master of Arts or the Master of Theology cannot exceed this limit in total across both programs.

3 Period of Candidature

- 3.1 The period of candidature for the Master of Divinity shall normally be 3 years (6 Semesters) full-time and up to 9 years (18 Semesters) part-time.
- 3.2 In certain circumstances the Student 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 Divinity. 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 University College's established guidelines for assessment packages.
- 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 108 credit points in the Master of Divinity.
- 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 Divinity.
- 6.3 Credit can be also granted when a candidate holds the University College Bachelor of Theology or equivalent degree up to a maximum of 54 credit points for Bachelor of Theology or equivalent units (where the outcomes, content demand hours and assessment are comparable to those of the University College Bachelor of Theology units) with a grade of at least 70%.

7 Progress to Further Awards

- 7.1 Students who complete the Master of Divinity may articulate into the Master of Philosophy at the University College. Admission into the Master of Philosophy award would require a completed Master of Divinity which includes an 18 credit point Research Project or Essay with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- 7.2 Admission into the University College Doctor of Ministry award would require a Master of Divinity with a GPA of 2.8 or higher including a Research Essay with a GPA of 2.8 or higher and the appropriate ministry experience.
- 7.3 Admission into the University College Doctor of Philosophy or Theology would require a completed Master of Divinity with a GPA of 3.0 or higher including a Research Essay with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

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	14/11/2013 Academic Board	Approved
2.0	4/3/2024 Academic Board	IELTS admission requirements update