

## MASTER OF THEOLOGY

### AWARD SUMMARY

**CRICOS: 063709G**

**Nomenclature: MTh**

**AQF Level 9 Masters (Coursework)**

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

**Duration:** 1.5 years full-time, 4.5 years (maximum) part-time.

**Attendance Type:** Full-time, part-time.

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

**Structure:** 108 credit points (12 units), including either a discipline or subdiscipline specialisation of 54 credit points (6 units), or at least 27 credit points (3 units) in two disciplines or subdisciplines).

### 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 Theology. These include the Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies, requiring 36 credit points.

### 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 Theology is a coursework program designed for those who hold at least a Bachelor of Theology (or equivalent) and who wish to pursue theological studies in greater depth and with greater rigour. It includes either a specialisation of 54 cps (6 units) in one discipline or subdiscipline, or at least 27 credit points (3 units) in two or more disciplines or subdisciplines (see Academic Regulations section 2.4), along with the opportunity for a focused research project.

Graduates will have advanced knowledge and skills in relation to theology and its related disciplines, enabling them to undertake research and/or to engage in professional practice, and/or to continue life-long learning.

## **Course Outcomes**

### **Knowledge**

Graduates will have:

- a deep and integrated understanding of an advanced body of knowledge in one or more theologically related disciplines or areas of practice, with a solid grasp of recent developments in those subdisciplines and areas of practice;
- an understanding of research principles and methods applicable to theological investigation and 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;
- apply specialised and creative skills for Christian living and ministry;
- 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 judgement, adaptability, and accountability as a practitioner or learner in relation to one or more theological disciplines, with a view to the building up of the church and the good of the wider community;
- plan and execute a substantial research-based project, and/or piece of independent study in an area of theology.

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

## 1 Admission to Candidature

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

- 1.1.1 Satisfactorily completed a three-year AQF Level 7 or 8 award in the discipline of theology (or equivalent) from an institution recognised by the Academic Board; OR
- 1.1.2 hold, from a university or other tertiary institution, qualifications approved by the Student Support and Administration Committee as equivalent to a three-year AQF level 7 award in the discipline of theology; AND
- 1.1.3 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 Theology, 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 Theology 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 Theology 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 Theology 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 Theology will consist of no fewer than 108 credit points.

2.2 Every program will include:

- 2.2.1 Either a specialisation (54 credit points) in a discipline or subdiscipline; OR
- 2.2.2 At least 27 credit points in two or more disciplines or subdisciplines;
- 2.2.3 At least one 9200 series Generic Research unit;
- 2.2.4 Not more than 90 credit points in one subdiscipline, including a Research Essay, but not including the Research Methodology unit;
- 2.2.5 Not more than 18 credit points in Independent Guided Studies without approval of the Academic Board.

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 Theological Education	Humanities in the Christian Tradition (discipline) Church History Philosophy Theological Education
Theology	Systematic Theology Christian Ethics Worship & Liturgy	Theology (discipline) Systematic Theology Christian Ethics Worship & Liturgy

2.3 A specialisation in a subdiscipline requires 54 credit points from the subdiscipline. A specialisation in a discipline requires 54 credit points from the discipline, with at least 27 credit points in one subdiscipline.

2.4 In addition:

- 2.4.1 Up to 36 credit points (4 units) may be taken from the 8100 series (including 8100 series language units);
- 2.4.2 The 8100-series Research Methodology Unit (9 credit points) may be taken in addition to the 36 credit points from the 8100 series;
- 2.4.3 All other course units will be taken from the 9200-series units in the Schedule of Units of Study;

- 2.4.4 A candidate may take a maximum of 54 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 36 credit points as a Research Essay. Students who transfer from the Master of Theology to either the Master of Divinity or the Master of Arts cannot exceed this limit in total across both programs;
- 2.4.5 A candidate may include 18 credit points in the Research Essay (10,000-12,000 words in length and written in the area of specialisation under supervision) providing the candidate completes an 8100-series Research Methodology Unit (9 credit points) before or concurrently with the Research Project;
- 2.5 Units coded "A" are not counted towards a specialisation in any discipline or subdiscipline.
- 2.6 Candidates who enter the program from a Bachelor of Theology or equivalent cannot enrol in units with content similar to those covered in their previous studies.
- 2.7 Candidates wishing to proceed to the degree of Master of Philosophy must include one 18 credit point research unit, or two 9 credit point research units at Distinction level.

### **3 Period of Candidature**

- 3.1 The period of candidature for the award will normally be 1.5 years (3 semesters) full-time, and up to 4.5 years (9 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 Theology. 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 54 credit points in the Master of Theology.

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 Theology.

## **7 Progress to Further Awards**

7.1 Students who complete the Master of Theology may articulate into the Master of Philosophy at the University College. Admission into the Master of Philosophy award would require a completed Master of Theology 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 Theology 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 Theology 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