

GRADUATE DIPLOMA OF CHURCH PLANTING

AWARD SUMMARY

CRICOS: None

Nomenclature: GradDipChPlant

AQF Level 8 Graduate Diploma

Entry Requirements Satisfactorily completed an AQF 7 award or equivalent in any discipline (or equivalent) from an institution recognised by the Academic Board; OR

qualify for professional or special entry in accordance with the AUCD Enrolment Policy; AND

Satisfactorily completes a pre-enrolment interview with a relevant course advisor.

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 with no score less than 6.5 in all bands of the test.

Enrolment

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

Graduate Profile and Rationale

The Graduate Diploma of Church Planting is designed for those possessing a three-year undergraduate degree in any field who wish to acquire transferable knowledge and skills in Church Planting as part of their continuing professional development for employment and further learning.

The Graduate Diploma of Church Planting focuses on building capacity for people involved in the development of new churches.

Course Outcomes

Knowledge

Graduates will have:

- an advanced level of theoretical and technical knowledge related to the practice of christian mission particular to the development of new churches;
- an advanced 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 church planting within a ministry-related body of knowledge, so that they are able to independently:

- analyse critically, evaluate, and apply information to complete a range of activities in the context of a new church initiative;
- analyse, generate and provide solutions to complex problems to guide the development of new churches;
- 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 autonomy, well-developed judgment, adaptability, and responsibility as leaders in the development of new churches;
- plan and execute an advanced 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 Graduate Diploma of Church Planting may exit with a Graduate Certificate in Church Planting provided they have met the requirements of the award.

Academic regulations for the Graduate Diploma of Church Planting

1 Admission to Candidature

- 1.1 An applicant for admission to candidature into the Graduate Diploma of Church Planting shall:
 - 1.1.1 Satisfactorily completed three-year AQF Level 7 award or equivalent in any discipline (or equivalent) from an institution recognised by the Academic Board; OR
 - 1.1.2 qualify for professional or special entry in accordance with the AUCD Enrolment Policy; AND
 - 1.1.3 Satisfactorily completes a pre-enrolment interview with a relevant course advisor, if required.
- 1.2 This award is a course for professional development where the student may acquire transferable knowledge and skills over a reasonably short period of time. Professional entry into the Graduate Diploma of Church Planting will be considered by the AUCD Director of Student Services on the basis of ten years of experience in a ministry role. The candidate must be able to demonstrate that they have led people or projects even though their role may not have been senior in their organisation.
- 1.3 A candidate for the Graduate Diploma of Church Planting shall be designated as full-time or part-time.
- 1.4 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:
 - 1.4.1 achieving an IELTS (or equivalent) result of 7.0 with no score below 6.5 in all bands of the test
- 1.5 Application for enrolment in the Graduate Diploma of Church Planting is made to the Registrar of the appropriate Member Institution offering the course.

2 Course Structure

- 2.1 The Graduate Diploma of Church Planting requires the completion of 72 credit points (8 units) which shall include:
 - 2.1.1 at least 36 credit points of Specified Electives chosen from Schedule 1; AND
 - 2.1.2 at least 18 credit points of Specified Electives chosen from Schedule 2; AND
 - 2.1.3 at least 9 credit points of Specified Electives from B8100 or T8100 units; AND
 - 2.1.4 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 Graduate Diploma of Church Planting may be taken with a specialisation. A specialisation comprises 4 units (36 cps).
- 2.3 Units coded "A" are not counted towards a specialisation in any discipline or subdiscipline

3 Period of Candidature

- 3.1 The period of candidature for the Graduate Diploma of Church Planting shall normally be 1 years full-time and up to 4 years 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 Graduate Diploma 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 University 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, ~~whose stipulations are severe.~~

6 Credit

- 6.1 Candidates from other institutions or with other awards may seek credit up to a maximum of 36 credit points in the Graduate Diploma of Church Planting.
- 6.2 Credit will be granted in accordance with the AUCD Credit Policy.

7 Progress to Further Awards

- 7.1 Students who satisfactorily complete this award will be eligible to:
- 7.1.1 Be admitted with full credit to the AUCD Master of Church Planting on condition that the Graduate Diploma of Church planting will be surrendered prior to graduation in the further award.
 - 7.1.2 articulate to other AUCD Graduate awards, provided that they meet the entry requirements of that award.

8 Saving Clause

8.1 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
M8134 Developing a Church Plant in Teams
M8193 or M9292 Seminar in Church Planting
M9235 Characteristics of Effective Church Planters
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
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
P9288 Ministry Identity and Practice
P9272 Theory and Practice of Ministry II
S8101 Formation in Christian Leadership
S8103 Personal Transformation

Version	Date and Governance	Changes
1.0	29/07/2025 Academic Board Standing Committee	Approved