



ST ATHANASIUS  
COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY  
OF DIVINITY

# St Athanasius College Prospectus 2021



# Who is SAC

Welcome to St Athanasius College (SAC).

Founded in 2001, and accredited in 2011 as a member college of the collegial University of Divinity, SAC is a Coptic Orthodox theological college that offers units in theology, biblical studies, ancient languages, missiology, philosophy, religious education, ethics, counselling, and Coptic Studies, and many of the units are taught from an Orthodox perspective.

SAC embraces all those who wish to learn about Christian heritage and Orthodox teachings as either full-time or part-time students. We offer undergraduate and postgraduate study options both on-campus and online, as well as HDR awards.

The College supports local and international students as they journey towards a deeper understanding of Orthodox Christianity and spirituality, helping them grow in their faith as they prepare for diverse fields of ministry. Christian fellowship, liturgical worship and learning are at the heart of our community. SAC provides a supportive learning environment nurturing spiritual growth and cultivating the gifts of each individual. The College equips students with the ministry skills and confidence

to serve in the priesthood and religious life, as well as prepares lay people to serve in various roles in mission and ministry such as religious educators, youth leaders, and counsellors.

Classes are delivered at both our Donvale campus, located at 100 Park Road, Donvale, as well as at our city campus that is conveniently located at 285 La Trobe Street in Melbourne's CBD. Residential facilities are available at our Donvale campus for full-time and part-time students to help them more fully participate in liturgy, prayer and community life.

Our College is named after St Athanasius, who was the 20th patriarch of Alexandria, and is known as the great pillar of Orthodoxy and defender of the Scriptural doctrine of Christ. We follow in the footsteps of St Athanasius by preserving the Gospel truth now and for future generations.

We invite you to become part of our SAC community.



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# FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It was first in the sea-side port of Alexandria that Greek philosophy met Christian thought and it can be argued that it was there that theology bore its first fruits. Theological enquiry, the search for God's truth and purity of Dogma are values dear to the heart of the Coptic Orthodox Church. St Athanasius College brings this yearning for the knowledge of God to Melbourne and the whole world. We are firm in our belief that to know God is to love God and to love God is to serve Him. With this perspective in mind, we welcome all students from all walks of life to engage with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and therein discover Him.



Our student cohort consists of high school graduates, university students, university graduates, Sunday School teachers, youth leaders, ministry workers, professionals, parents, and seminarians; basically all people who want to deepen their spiritual understanding of theology. To our students, SAC becomes the vehicle through which they engage with theological studies in its many disciplines and are spiritually formed in the warm, supportive, yet academically rigorous environment. As a member college of the University of Divinity, SAC offers and adheres to the finest academic standards and is at the forefront of delivering Theological Education in a variety of modes; face to face, online, intensive and mixed mode.

St Athanasius College was established in 2000 and continued to grow, becoming a member college of the University of Divinity in 2011. The continuous growth of the College and its nurturing is credit to its founder His Grace Bishop Suriel. The College is firmly established building on past hard-won achievements. The College operates out of the Diocese of Melbourne Headquarters in Donvale and has expanded in 2017 with the opening of a second campus in La Trobe Street in the Melbourne CBD. This new campus, provides a state-of-the-art learning and teaching environment and a hub for specialist research studies in Orthodox Christianity. St Athanasius College offers undergraduate courses (Diploma, Advanced Diploma and Bachelor), as well as postgraduate courses (Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma, Masters by coursework) and Higher Degree Research programs (Masters by Research, Master of Philosophy, and PhD).

To accompany our coursework offering, SAC faculty is engaged in a variety of research activities both here in Melbourne and overseas. Publication of research, as well as conference participation by SAC faculty and students, contributes to and promotes the body of knowledge that can further God's Kingdom.

We welcome both returning and prospective students to St Athanasius College and invite you to journey with us in discovering the wonders of God and thereby equip yourself for His great work.

**Fr Dr Daniel Ghabrial**  
Principal

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# WHO'S TEACHING AT SAC IN 2021?

## Dr Lisa Agaiby

Lisa has a Ph.D. from Macquarie University, Sydney, and a Ph.D. from the University of Göttingen, Germany. A lecturer and research co-ordinator at St Athanasius College, her areas of interest include Christianity in Late Antiquity, Early Egyptian Monasticism, Coptic Archaeology, and Christian-Arabic Studies.



## Dr Amir Malek

A medical practitioner by profession, Amir has been involved with the College since its inception and teaches courses in Old and New Testament. He has a Master of Theology from the Australian Catholic University, and has recently submitted his doctoral thesis undertaken at the University of Divinity. His areas of interest include the Pentateuch and Christian-Arabic Studies.



## Fr Dr Gregorios Awad

Fr Gregorios has a Ph.D. from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, and a Ph.D. from Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany. He lectures in Church History, Dogmatic and Systematic Theology, and Coptic Language. His areas of interest include Christian-Arabic Studies and Liturgy. Fr Gregorios is a priest in the Coptic Orthodox Church.

## Rev Dr Peter Dobson

An ordained minister in the Wesleyan Church, Peter is St Athanasius College's registrar, and has a wealth of diverse administrative experience. He has a Doctor of Ministry from the Australian College of Theology, and at SAC, Peter lectures in Organisational Leadership and Management.



## Professor John McDowell

John has a Ph.D. from Cambridge University and is Professor of Theology, Philosophy and Moral Theology. Prior to his appointment at SAC, he was formerly the Director of Research and Professor of Theology at the University of Divinity. A prolific writer and researcher, he also has a range of research interests, but it was a love of the Church Fathers that led him to first study theology at the University of Aberdeen.

## Mr Shady Nessim

Shady received his M. Theol. from the University of Divinity, where his Master's thesis focused on the Coptic Theotokia and its patristic influences. A High School teacher in Humanities, Shady is also an accredited associate lecturer at the University and tutors at SAC in Coptic Language and in the theory of Iconography.



## Mr Ashraf Gerges

Ashraf has a Masters degree in Coptic Iconography from the Higher Institute of Coptic Studies in Cairo, and was the assistant to the renowned authority on Coptic Iconography, the late Dr Isaac Fanous, both in iconography and in teaching Coptic Iconography at the Higher Institute of Coptic Studies in Cairo. At SAC, Ashraf teaches the practical applications of writing Coptic icons.

## Fr Dr Jacob Joseph

After having attained a Ph.D. from the University of Divinity, Fr Jacob joined SAC becoming our first lecturer in Orthodox Mission Theology. His interest in mission is among the youth and the socially marginalised. Fr Jacob is a priest in the Malankara Archdiocese of the Syrian Orthodox Church in Australia.



## Rev. Dr Nebojsa Tumara

Fr Nebojsa lectures in Old Testament Studies, Comparative Religions, Theology and Film, as well as Hebrew and Syriac languages. He has a Master of Theology from St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, New York, a Master of Arts in Biblical Studies from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, and a Ph.D. from The University of Belgrade, Serbia. Fr Nebojsa is a priest in the Serbian Orthodox Church.



## CAMPUSES

### CITY CAMPUS

The City Campus located in Eporo Tower at 285 La Trobe Street, is located just metres away from Melbourne Central Train Station. Opened in late 2017, it has four lecture theatres, a library, a church, a dining hall, and student lounge.

### DONVALE CAMPUS

The Donvale Campus located at 100 Park Road, Donvale is the main campus. It offers a library, four lecture theatres, meeting rooms, an auditorium, bookstore, chapel, student accommodation and 22 acres of beautiful grounds.



# STUDENT LIFE



Located at the SAC Donvale Campus, the St Pachomius Student Wing at the Donvale Campus accommodates full-time, part-time and visiting students.

Studying, sharing meals and praying together form the key elements of a rich and rewarding community life on campus.

Donvale is located 20 minutes from Melbourne CBD and is close to the Eastern Freeway, Mitcham Train Station and major shopping and recreational facilities.

Full-time SAC Student Weekly Rate: \$120  
Full-time SAC Student Semester Rate: \$2000  
Full-time SAC Student Annual Rate: \$4000  
Part-time SAC Student Weekly Rate: \$250  
Non-SAC Student Weekly Rate: \$250  
Visitors Nightly Rate: \$50

SAC offers students flexible learning options and all of our units are offered both online and face-to-face on-campus. Lecturers use mixed media tools and resources to communicate with students in the classroom and the online platform. We integrate emerging technologies and the latest teaching tools to ensure students receive the most rewarding learning experience.

# AWARDS

## CERTIFICATE III IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY AND THEOLOGY (VET)

30 weeks beginning each February (exact date TBA)

From 2021 the Certificate III in Christian Ministry and Theology (10741NAT) will be offered to Year 11 and 12 Students. It is a Christian leadership program for Senior School students that places Christian discipleship at the heart of their education. The program offers Year 11 and 12 students the opportunity to invest in their spiritual development whilst working toward their academic studies. Provided by Veta Morphus, the Certificate III in Christian Ministry and Theology has the added benefit of contributing to students' ATAR score. For more information, contact Fr Michael Salib at [frmichael@sac.edu.au](mailto:frmichael@sac.edu.au)

**ADMISSION CRITERIA:** Open to Year 10 graduates.

**FOLLOW ON STUDY:** Graduates may proceed to a Diploma in Theology, or an Advanced Diploma in Theology, or to the Bachelor of Theology.

## UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS



### DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY

1 year full-time, or up to 4 years part-time

The Diploma in Theology consists of 8 undergraduate units (144 points) and introduces students to the key theological disciplines of Biblical Studies, Christian Thought, and History, and provides options for electives in other areas of study.

**COST:** \$1,704 per undergraduate unit.

**ADMISSION CRITERIA:** Successful completion of Year 12 in an Australian secondary school, or equivalent. It may be possible for students to receive credit into their course for prior undergraduate study in related areas.

**FOLLOW ON STUDY:** Graduates may proceed to an Advanced Diploma in Theology, or to the Bachelor of Theology.

### ADVANCED DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

2 years full-time, or up to 8 years part-time

The Advanced Diploma in Theology and Ministry consists of 16 units (288 points) and builds on the Diploma in Theology by enabling students to deepen their understanding of the theological disciplines of Biblical Studies, Christian Thought and History, and Ministry.

**COST:** \$1,704 per undergraduate unit.

**ADMISSION CRITERIA:** Successful completion of Year 12 in an Australian secondary school, or equivalent. It may be possible for students to receive credit into their course for prior undergraduate study in related areas.

**FOLLOW ON STUDY:** Graduates may proceed to the Bachelor of Theology.

### BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY

3 years full-time, or up to 9 years part-time

The Bachelor of Theology consists of 24 units (432 points) and critically examines life and faith through study of the Bible, theological traditions, and historical contexts. The Bachelor of Theology assists students to develop knowledge across broad areas of theology, as well as depth in areas of interest. It develops research and communication skills, and prepares graduates for further theological study.

**COST:** \$1,704 per undergraduate unit.

**ADMISSION CRITERIA:** Successful completion of Year 12 in an Australian secondary school, or a University of Divinity advanced diploma or equivalent.

**FOLLOW ON STUDY:** Graduates have access to a range of postgraduate courses at Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma, and Masters levels.

## CROSS-INSTITUTIONAL STUDY & THEOLOGY AWARDS

If you are already undertaking study at another university, did you know that you may be able study units at SAC as part of your award? Contact us about the possibility of cross-institutional study, or check with your current institution about the flexibility of choosing electives at SAC as cross-institutional study. Studying theology is a great way for one to deepen their faith and knowledge of Christian tradition and to serve in the mission of the Church. So why not consider taking up a Diploma or Bachelor in Theology alongside your current award?

For Years 11 & 12 students who have completed a Certificate III in Christian Ministry and Theology (10741NAT), consider continuing your learning by enrolling in any of the undergraduate awards offered by SAC. Credits may be available.

## POSTGRADUATE COURSEWORK PROGRAMS



### GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN DIVINITY

1 semester full-time, or up to 3 semesters part-time

The Graduate Certificate in Divinity consists of 3 units (72 points) and is designed to allow students to explore areas of interest in divinity and its associated disciplines. It serves as an introduction to the broad field of study in theology, or philosophy, and disciplines which are associated with them.

**COST:** \$2,640 per post-graduate unit.

**ADMISSION CRITERIA:** Successful completion of an undergraduate degree, or an approved equivalent.

**FOLLOW ON STUDY:** Graduates may proceed to a Graduate Diploma, or Masters' degree by coursework.

### GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN DIVINITY

1 year full-time, or up to 3 years part-time

The Graduate Diploma in Divinity consists of 6 units (144 points) and is designed to allow students to explore multiple areas of interest in divinity and its associated disciplines, or to engage with one or two areas in depth. It serves as a foundation for study in theology, or philosophy, and disciplines which are associated with them.

**COST:** \$2,640 per post-graduate unit.

**ADMISSION CRITERIA:** Successful completion of an undergraduate degree, or a graduate certificate and either: (a) completed the equivalent of 72 points of theological study at the University of Divinity, or another higher education provider; or (b) completed 144 points of study towards a Master's award at the University of Divinity.

**FOLLOW ON STUDY:** Graduates may be eligible to proceed to a Masters award. Graduates who have included a Minor Thesis of 16,000 words (worth 2 units) in their course may be eligible to apply for admission to a Higher Degree by Research.

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGY

1 semester full-time, or up to 3 semesters part-time

The Graduate Certificate in Theology consists of 3 units (72 points) and is designed to allow students to develop and deepen their knowledge and skills in theological disciplines. It provides a foundation for further study and a means of engaging Christian thought and traditions.

**COST:** \$2,640 per post-graduate unit.

**ADMISSION CRITERIA:** Successful completion of an undergraduate degree, or an approved equivalent.

**FOLLOW ON STUDY:** Graduates may proceed to the Graduate Diploma in Theology, or Master of Theological Studies.

## GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY

1 year full-time, or up to 3 years part-time

The Graduate Diploma in Theology consists of 6 foundational and elective units (144 points). It allows students to explore areas of interest in theology.

**COST:** \$2,640 per post-graduate unit.

**ADMISSION CRITERIA:** Successful completion of an undergraduate degree, or a Graduate Certificate in Theology.

**FOLLOW ON STUDY:** Graduates may proceed to a Masters award. Graduates who have included a Minor Thesis of 16,000 words (worth 2 units) in their course may be eligible to apply for admission to a Higher Degree by Research.

## MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

2 years full-time, or up to 6 years part-time

The Master of Theological Studies consists of 12 units (288 points) and enables students to apply an advanced body of knowledge in theology and its associated disciplines. Students broaden their knowledge and skills and deepen their engagement with select areas of study to prepare them for professional practice and further learning.

**COST:** \$2,640 per post-graduate unit.

**ADMISSION CRITERIA:** Successful completion of an undergraduate degree.

**FOLLOW ON STUDY:** Graduates who have completed their M.Theol. with a Distinction–High Distinction average and have completed a Minor Thesis of 16,000 words achieving a grade of more than or equal to 75% may be eligible for admission to Higher Degrees by Research.

## MASTER OF DIVINITY

3 years full-time, or up to 9 years part-time

The Master of Divinity consists of 18 units (432 points) and is a first degree in theology for graduates from other disciplines. The degree offers a high level of theological study and provides an appropriate foundation for ministry formation and further study. The Master of Divinity serves as an alternative to the Bachelor of Theology degree, with a distinct emphasis on integration, research and theological reflection.

**COST:** \$2,640 per post-graduate unit.

**ADMISSION CRITERIA:** Successful completion of an undergraduate degree.

**FOLLOW ON STUDY:** Graduates who have completed their M.Div with a Distinction–High Distinction average and have completed a Minor Thesis of 16,000 words achieving a grade of more than or equal to 75% may be eligible for admission to Higher Degrees by Research.

### ENQUIRIES

To explore any of these Undergraduate or Postgraduate awards, please contact the SAC registrar: Rev. Dr Peter Dobson at registrar@sac.edu.au

## HIGHER DEGREES BY RESEARCH



Research may be defined as creative work that is undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase our theoretical and/or practical knowledge and to apply knowledge in new ways.

Four Higher Degrees by Research (HDR) are available to suitably qualified candidates at St Athanasius College. Research degrees are undertaken under supervision of two appropriately accredited supervisors, one of whom must be a research active faculty member of the University of Divinity. The following degrees are open to graduates of at least four years of full-time tertiary study, including at least one year of study in theology or an associated discipline.

### MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

18 months full-time, or 4 years part-time

The Master of Philosophy is a Higher Degree by Research in divinity or one or more of its associated disciplines and is designed for individuals who bring a foundation within this disciplinary range. The purpose of the Master of Philosophy is to qualify individuals to apply an advanced body of knowledge in divinity or one or more of its associated disciplines in a range of contexts and to provide a pathway for possible further learning. The course of study for the Master of Philosophy by major thesis consists of the preparation of a thesis of up to 40,000 words for examination.

**COST:** Fees for the Master of Philosophy are charged per semester at \$6,144. The total cost of a Master of Philosophy (3 semesters full-time, or 6 semesters part-time) is \$18,432.

**ADMISSION CRITERIA:** The applicant must have achieved: (a) a Masters by coursework with no less than a 75% average; or (b) a Graduate Diploma with no less than a 75% average; or (c) a four year undergraduate degree with Honours with no less than a 75% average. In addition, the applicant must also have completed a research essay or Minor Thesis of at least 16,000 words graded at or above 75%. The research essay or thesis may have been completed either within one of the awards listed above or as part of another program of study.

**FOLLOW ON STUDY:** Graduates may be eligible for admission to the Doctor of Philosophy.

### MASTER OF THEOLOGY (RESEARCH)

18 months full-time, or 4 years part-time

The Master of Theology (Research) is a higher degree by research in divinity, designed for individuals who bring a foundation in divinity. The purpose of the Master of Theology (Research) is to qualify individuals to apply an advanced body of knowledge in divinity in a range of contexts and to provide a pathway for further research and learning. The course of study for the Master of Theology by Research consists of the preparation of a thesis of up to 40,000 words for examination.

**COST:** Fees for the Master of Theology by Research are charged per semester at \$6,144. The total cost of a Master of Theology by Research (3 semesters full-time, or 6 semesters part-time) is \$18,432.

**ADMISSION CRITERIA:** The applicant must have achieved: (a) a Masters by coursework with no less than a 75% average; or (b) a Graduate Diploma with no less than a 75% average; or (c) a four year undergraduate degree with Honours with no less than a 75% average. In addition, the applicant must also have completed a research essay or Minor Thesis of at least 16,000 words graded at or above 75%. The research essay or thesis may have been completed either within one of the awards listed above or as part of another program of study.

**FOLLOW ON STUDY:** Graduates may be eligible for admission to the Doctor of Philosophy.

### DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY

3 years full-time, or 8 years part-time

The Doctor of Theology is a higher degree by research. The purpose of the Doctor of Theology is to qualify individuals who apply a substantial body of knowledge to research, investigate and develop new knowledge, in one or more areas of investigation, scholarship or professional practice. Doctor of Theology candidates present

their research in a thesis of not more 100,000 words which is examined by at least two external examiners.  
**COST:** A year of study in the Doctor of Theology is \$18,384 (full-time) or \$9,192 (part-time).

**ADMISSION CRITERIA:** The applicant must have achieved: (a) a Masters by Research with no less than a 75% average; or (b) a Masters by coursework with no less than a 75% average; or (c) a four year undergraduate degree with Honours with no less than a 75% average. In addition, the applicant must also have completed a research essay or Minor Thesis of at least 16,000 words graded at or above 75%. The research essay or thesis may have been completed either within one of the awards listed above or as part of another program of study.

## DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

3 years full-time, or 8 years part-time

The Doctor of Philosophy is a higher degree by research. The purpose of the Doctor of Philosophy is to qualify individuals who apply a substantial body of knowledge to research, investigate and develop new knowledge, in one or more areas of investigation, scholarship or professional practice. PhD candidates present their research in a thesis of not more 100,000 words that is examined by at least two external examiners.

**COST:** A year of study in the Ph.D. is \$18,384 (full-time), or \$9,192 (part-time).

**ADMISSION CRITERIA:** The applicant must have achieved: (a) a Masters by Research with no less than a 75% average; or (b) a Masters by coursework with no less than a 75% average; or (c) a four year undergraduate degree with Honours with no less than a 75% average. In addition, the applicant must also have completed a research essay or Minor Thesis of at least 16,000 words graded at or above 75%. The research essay or thesis may have been completed either within one of the awards listed above or as part of another program of study.

### ENQUIRIES

To explore any of these HDR awards, please contact the Research Co-ordinator:  
Dr Lisa Agaiby at [lagaiby@sac.edu.au](mailto:lagaiby@sac.edu.au)

## NON-AWARD COURSES

### AUDIT OF COURSEWORK

If you are curious to learn about some of our unit offerings, you are welcome to access our learning environment as an audit student on a not-for-credit basis. This means you can attend and participate in classroom discussions or online forums on ARK where you can listen to recorded lectures and download study materials, without the need to fulfill the assessment requirements to earn credit towards an academic award. Please note, however, that assessments cannot be submitted or marked, and no feedback can be given on your work or progress. For a small fee of \$550 per unit – payable directly to St Athanasius College – this wonderful opportunity provides professional development and further learning opportunities. If you are interested in attending any of our units as an audit student, please complete the enrolment form at:  
<http://sac.edu.au/individual-unit-study/>

# Supervised Reading Units Minor Thesis

With the approval of the Academic Dean, students may undertake specialised study--as part of their postgraduate courses--with the guidance of an appropriate supervisor in a Supervised Reading Unit (SRU).

The content, learning outcomes, bibliography and type of assessment will be proposed by the student in consultation with a supervisor (member of faculty) and finally approved by the Academic Dean. Students taking a supervised reading unit (SRU) will be required to meet with the supervisor at least monthly.

In addition to the re-enrolment procedure, an SRU Approval Template must be completed by the student and supervisor and submitted for approval to the SAC Academic Dean at least one week prior to the semester census date. Students may link this unit and its assessment tasks to an existing unit or participation or presentation in a scholarly conference during the semester in which the unit is taken.

In consultation with the supervisor, students may audit a coursework unit related to an SRU to guide their reading, thinking and writing.

For more information on SRU or Minor Thesis, please contact either:

The Academic Dean: Prof. John McDowell at [jmcdowell@sac.edu.au](mailto:jmcdowell@sac.edu.au)

or the Research Co-ordinator: Dr Lisa Agaiby at [lagaiby@sac.edu.au](mailto:lagaiby@sac.edu.au)

The purpose of the 16,000-word minor thesis is to demonstrate advanced theoretical knowledge in one or more disciplines. Students undertake their research with a suitably qualified supervisor in the chosen discipline of study.

Eligible students may apply to enrol in a 16,000-word minor thesis (worth 2 units) either as a single subject enrolment or as part of a postgraduate coursework award. Students may elect to take the Research Essay in a single semester, or across two consecutive semesters.

Students should discuss the option of undertaking a minor thesis with the Research Coordinator (Dr Lisa Agaiby at [lagaiby@sac.edu.au](mailto:lagaiby@sac.edu.au)) during the semester prior to enrolling in the Minor Thesis. Students who have agreed on a research topic with a qualified supervisor may enrol in the Minor Thesis at the beginning of the semester.

Completion of a 16,000-word Minor Thesis Outline, together with their supervisor, and return an electronic version of the outline for approval to the Academic Dean (Prof. John McDowell at [jmcdowell@sac.edu.au](mailto:jmcdowell@sac.edu.au)) one week prior to the census date of the semester in which the minor thesis commences.

For more information go to:  
<https://divinity.edu.au/study/research/minor-thesis-16000-words/>



## FEES AND SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

### 2021 Unit Fees

Tuition fees are set each year by the University of Divinity and are standard across all the college of the University.

Fees are charged on the basis of a “unit fee” which covers the teaching for one unit of study for one semester. This fee is all inclusive and covers tuition, library access, and student facilities.

**Undergraduate (Diploma/degree): \$1,704 per 18-point unit**

**Postgraduate: \$2,640 per 24-point unit**

**Audit of Coursework: \$550 per unit**

### Fee Payment Options

Students have a number of fee payment options depending on the course or unit which they are enrolled in.

**Upfront payment of fees** - Students can choose to pay upfront by credit card, cheque or BPay. FEE-HELP: Australian citizens and holders of a permanent humanitarian visa may defer the payment of University of Divinity fees through the FEE-HELP loan scheme. For more information go to: [www.studyassist.gov.au](http://www.studyassist.gov.au)

**Parish Sponsorships** - Coptic Parishes offer sponsorship to their members who study at SAC. Sponsorships are limited. Please talk to your Parish Priest about opportunities for sponsorship.

For more information go to:

<https://www.sac.edu.au/fees-and-sponsorship/>

See more information about fee payment options at the University of Divinity Fees page:

<https://divinity.edu.au/study/fees/>

# Descriptions of Units offered in 2021

## SEMESTER 1 UNITS

### **Advanced Syriac**

This unit introduces students to the advanced grammar and vocabulary of the Syriac language.

The primary focus of the unit will be the grammatical analysis of selected biblical and patristic texts (Peshitta, Acts of Addai, Aphrahat, Ephrem). Students will be exposed to West and East Syriac dialects and their respective alphabets and systems of vocalization and will be encouraged to use electronic tools and sources in their studies.

### **Apocalyptic Literature**

This unit provides an introduction to apocalyptic studies and apocalyptic literature. In this unit, the students will gain an overview of the nature of the apocalyptic genre and become familiar with the major views regarding the history and characteristics of the apocalyptic literature. The unit will examine the historical background, social settings, development, theology, and exegesis of ancient Jewish and Christian apocalyptic literature. Selected ancient Jewish and Christian apocalyptic texts will be chosen for exegesis. Phenomena of modern apocalypticism will be introduced, and subversive power of apocalypticism will be addressed. In its conclusion, the unit will introduce questions of public proclamation of apocalyptic literature and offer possible strategies for preaching the message of apocalyptic literature.

### **Coptic Art and Iconography I**

Students undertaking this unit will gain an appreciation of Coptic history and the theological meaning behind the icon. Emphasis will be placed on the “writing” of icons as an important method of translating the invisible divine, into the visible image. Students will study the important role of Coptic art in Coptic culture and its role in liturgical life. Finally, students will learn iconographic techniques such as preparation, design, colouring and gilding in the writing of an icon. They will explore the meaning, theology, and symbols rooted in the holy bible.

### **Coptic Church History I: From St. Mark to the Arab Invasion (7th Cen.)**

This unit will cover the history of the Coptic Church from its founding by St Mark the Evangelist to the 7th Century AD. Students will learn about the theological contribution of the great Alexandrian doctors of the church such as Clement, Origen, Athanasius and Cyril, and the School of Alexandria. Students will also examine the important roles its Patriarchs and scholars played in the ecumenical Councils until the

5th century. Different forms of monasticism such as the eremitical (Antony) and cenobitic (Pachomious) will be studied. Finally, students will learn about the various eras of persecution in the Coptic Church.

### **Coptic Language: Bohairic I**

This unit introduces the student to the basic morphology, syntax, basic grammar, and vocabulary of Coptic language (Bohairic dialect). Throughout the unit selected Coptic texts will be studied from Coptic liturgical books and the Bible.

### **Hagiography and the Cult of the Saints**

The aim of the unit is to introduce students to the literary genre of hagiography that developed in the 4th century and traces its origins to the Life of Antony attributed to Athanasius of Alexandria. In this unit, students will gain an appreciation of the interrelationship between hagiographical text, liturgy, and iconography in establishing the cult of a saint. The unit will follow the developments of the hagiographical genre and the associated cult of the saints, through Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages, by focusing on both monastic accounts and martyrologies, and finally consider the liturgical implications of hagiography as a means of understanding the role of the saints in the present day.

### **History of Orthodox Missiology**

This unit will examine the historical development of Orthodox Missiology by situating it in the key Orthodox mission movements from the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox traditions. There will be a distinctive focus on the mission models of the Coptic Orthodox tradition. The unit will cover matters such as: the origin and development, and the mission tasks in the social, cultural, and diaspora milieu of Orthodox mission; the lives, ministries, and methods of the most significant Orthodox missionaries; and the biblical, theological, liturgical and historical perspectives of the Orthodox witness that informed the Orthodox mission activities in various historical contexts. The unit will critically look into several historical approaches that took shape in engaging Orthodox evangelization.

### **Introduction to the Syriac Language**

This unit introduces students to the Syriac language as a basis for enhanced study of patristic literature preserved in Syriac, Peshitta (the standard Biblical text in Syriac) and for future study of the Syriac language. The primary focus of this unit is foundational Syriac vocabulary, grammar and syntax. Translation of selected biblical texts into English is an important component of this unit. The focus will be on consonant unvocalised text written in Estrangelo script. Students will also become familiar with Serto script.

## **Introduction to Theology**

Students will become acquainted with the basics of Christian theology and form a foundational understanding for theological reflection in the Orthodox Church with a particular reference to the Coptic tradition. Key doctrinal themes will be explored, along with their exposition in contemporary liturgical practice.

## **Objections to Christian Belief**

Christian beliefs and practices have been subjected to a variety of critiques of varying intensity over the centuries. Christian responses to these objections have themselves taken different forms: from apologetics, through to self-critical theological reflection. This unit critically evaluates a range of prominent objections from, for instance, disciplines such as a variety of sciences, psychology, and philosophy.

## **Organisational Leadership and Management**

This unit focuses on the leadership and management of organisations and how leadership and management principles can be implemented into ministry contexts. Leadership and management theories and principles will be reviewed including areas such as strategic planning, governance and organisational structure, human resource management, facilities management, and communication.

## **Seeking Christ in Scriptures: Scripture and Its Exegesis in the Orthodox Tradition**

Following the words of Jesus, recorded in John 5:39, that the Scriptures speak about Him, this Unit will explore the place of Scripture in the Orthodox Tradition. Since the Orthodox tradition has always been patristic, this unit will focus on the principles of patristic hermeneutics, exploring a range of homiletic, ascetic, liturgical, and iconographic exegeses of the Holy Scriptures. The focus of this unit will be the following question: What is the position of Scripture in the Orthodox tradition? Is there an Orthodox exegesis of the Scripture? What is the place of the Scriptures in the spiritual life of a believer?

# **SEMESTER TWO**

## **Coptic Art and Iconography II**

Students who have completed DL1410A Coptic Art & Iconography I, will further develop their skills in this more advanced unit which will focus on a deeper study of the theological meaning behind the icon and developing advanced technique and design skills.

## **Coptic Language: Bohairic II**

Following on from AL1200A Coptic Language Bohairic I, this unit will enable students to read and understand, after the completion of two semesters, texts in Bohairic Coptic. Building upon basic skills acquired in the previous unit of study, this unit presents the further grammatical material and vocabulary necessary to be able to read and translate from Bohairic Coptic to English and vice versa.

## **Coptic Liturgy: The Canonical Hours in the Coptic Church (Books of Horologion and Psalmodia)**

This unit will examine the two important liturgical books used daily in the Coptic church; the Horologion (Agpeya = book of hours) and the book of Psalmodia (book of midnight and evening praise). The Horologion (Agpeya) consists of prayers, Psalms, Gospel readings, and “troparia” (petitions) to be said at the various hours of the day and night. Students will gain insight into the historical development and the current structure of the canonical hours and their role in spiritual practice. The liturgical book of Psalmodia consists of Odes, Psalms, Theotokia (veneration to St Mary) and Doxologies which are chanted in the evening and night hours. Students will learn about the historical development and the structure as well as the theological thought preserved in hymnology in this very important liturgical book.

## **History of Orthodox Missiology**

This unit will examine the historical development of Orthodox Missiology by situating it in the key Orthodox mission movements from the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox traditions. There will be a distinctive focus on the mission models of the Coptic Orthodox tradition. The unit will cover matters such as: the origin and development, and the mission tasks in the social, cultural, and diaspora milieus of Orthodox mission; the lives, ministries, and methods of the most significant Orthodox missionaries; and the biblical, theological, liturgical and historical perspectives of the Orthodox witness that informed the Orthodox mission activities in various historical contexts. The unit will critically look into several historical approaches that took shape in engaging Orthodox evangelization.

### **Hope in Dark Times: The Eschatological & Apocalyptic Imaginations**

Soon after the victory of Donald Trump in the U.S.A. presidential election a pavement advertisement board outside a bookshop read: “Dystopian fiction now found in the political history section”. Is a global conversation now even possible? Are we doomed to the trauma of a violent despair? Is hope nothing more than nostalgia? This unit addresses a range of issues relating to hope, hopelessness, and despair, while seeking to understand and critically engage them through the history of Christian eschatological and apocalyptic thought. Beliefs and practices are inseparable which entails that practices of hope can be fruitfully examined in conjunction with critical analysis of the beliefs that ground and shape them.

### **Introduction to Biblical Hebrew**

This unit introduces students to Biblical Hebrew as a basis for enhanced study of the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) and for further study of Biblical Hebrew. Its primary focus is foundational Hebrew vocabulary, grammar, and syntax. Translation of selected biblical texts into English is an important component of the subject.

### **Introduction to the New Testament**

This unit provides a general introduction to the New Testament. It introduces students to the literary forms, historical and cultural contexts, and theological themes of the New Testament. Students will examine first century history (in and around the land of the New Testament), contemporary critical methodologies and the shaping of the New Testament canon. Students will study an overview of all books of the New Testament.

### **Major Prophets**

This unit provides a detailed study of the writings of the four “major” prophets of the Old Testament - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel. The student will gain an overview of the nature of the genre of the prophetic literature and its place in the canon of the Old Testament. The unit will further examine the personalities, historical and cultural background, social setting, and theology of the four “major” prophets. Selected passages from the Book of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel will be chosen for exegesis. In its conclusion, the unit will address the reception of the prophetic writings in later Christian and Jewish tradition and address the question of public proclamation of the prophetic message.

### **Orthodox Mission Theology**

This unit examines the theological development of an Orthodox perspective on Christian witness or mission. It studies an Orthodox theology of mission from a range of biblical, theological, and liturgical perspectives. Through the works of Orthodox mission theologians, the unit demonstrates the relevance of the Orthodox mission theology to today’s global and local contexts. Students are required to critically engage with an Orthodox theology of mission in the light of contemporary social, religious, political, and

ecological challenges. The unit also examines the salient features of mission theology in other Christian traditions to encourage a more comprehensive understanding of Christian mission.

### **Philosophy and Christian Thought in Antiquity**

What has Jerusalem to do with Athens? This unit introduces the student to ancient philosophy from the Pre-Socratics through the Platonic and Stoic traditions. It explores the interaction between philosophy and ancient Christian thought through themes such as the nature of God, the soul, the good life, truth, and metaphysics. Students will be introduced to the nature of philosophical inquiry, to key ancient philosophical and theological texts, and to the ways in which the development of Christian beliefs emerged from complex ways of engaging philosophical reflection.

### **Theology and Film**

This unit will explore vibrant scholarly field that emerges from interplay between cinema studies and theology. Students will gain basic tools that will enable them in further critical exploration of the links between theology and motion picture. The unit will introduce methodological issues related the field of studies, while modern films will be introduced and analysed. The main themes that will be treated include: Faith, God, Jesus Christ, Church and Eschatology. The main question that will be raised during the unit is how movies mediate theology, particularly how modern cinematography represents and interprets Jesus Christ and his life, as well as Christ-like figures.

### **Uncovering the Past: An Archaeology of Christian Egypt**

This unit will give students a comprehensive overview of the main archaeological sites in Egypt from Late Antiquity, looking at both communal monasteries and semi-anchoritic settlements, analysing their characteristic components and their evolution in time. Students will also study the representation of wall paintings presented in the most important monastic sites. This unit will also consider how textual information pertaining to the various theologies present in late antique Egypt is reflected in monastic architecture, as revealed archaeologically.

# Semester 1 2021 Timetable

All units will be taught in face-to-face and online modes

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Unit name	Introduction to Theology	Organisational Leadership and Management	History of Orthodox Missiology	Coptic Church History I: From St. Mark to the Arab Invasion	Apocalyptic Literature
Lecturer	Prof John McDowell	Dr Peter Dobson	Fr Dr Jacob Joseph	Fr Dr Gregorios Awad	Fr Dr Nebojsa Tumara
Mode	<b>Online</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">CT1619A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">CT8619A</a>  <b>Face-to-face</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">CT1610A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">CT8610A</a>	<b>Online</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">DP2659A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">DP9659A</a>  <b>Face-to-face</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">DP2650A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">DP9650A</a>	<b>Blended</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">CH1800A/DM1800A</a> , <a href="#">CH2800A/DM2800A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">CH8800A/DM8800A</a>	<b>Online</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">CH1109A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">CH8109A</a>  <b>Face-to-face</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">CH1100A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">CH8100A</a>	<b>Online</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">BS3929A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">BS9929A</a>  <b>Face-to-face</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">BS3920A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">BS9920A</a>
Face-to-face Location	Donvale 6:30pm-9.30pm	Donvale 6:30pm-9.30pm	Donvale 6:30pm-9.30pm	Donvale 6:30pm-9.30pm	Donvale 6:30pm-9.30pm
Unit name	Coptic Art & Iconography I	Introduction to the Syriac Language	Objections to Christian Belief	Seeking Christ in Scriptures: Scripture and Its Exegesis in the Orthodox Tradition	Hagiography and the Cult of the Saints
Lecturer	Mr Ashraf Gerges & Shady Nessim	Fr Dr Nebojsa Tumara	Prof John McDowell	Fr Dr Nebojsa Tumara	Dr Lisa Agaiby
Mode	<b>Blended</b> Postgraduate: <a href="#">DL8410A</a>  <b>Face-to-face</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">DL1410A</a>	<b>Face-to-face</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">AL1700A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">AL8700A</a>	<b>Blended</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">CT2830A</a> , <a href="#">CT3830A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">CT9830A</a>	<b>Blended</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">BS3000A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">BS9000A</a>	<b>Online</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">CH1449A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">CH8449A</a>  <b>Face-to-face</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">CH1440A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">CH8440A</a>
Face-to-face Location	Donvale 6:30pm-9.30pm	Donvale 6:30pm-9.30pm	Donvale 6:30pm-9.30pm	Donvale 6:30pm-9.30pm	City campus 6pm-9pm
Unit name		Coptic Language – Bohairic I	Advanced Syriac		
Lecturer		Fr Dr Gregorios Awad & Shady Nessim	Fr Dr Nebojsa Tumara		
Mode		<b>Face-to-face</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">AL1200A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">AL8200A</a>	<b>Face-to-face</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">AL3700A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">AL9700A</a>		
Face-to-face Location		Donvale 6:30pm-9.30pm	Donvale 6:30pm-9.30pm		

# Semester 2 2021 Timetable

All units will be taught in face-to-face and online modes

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Unit name	Hope in Dark Times	Orthodox Mission Theology	Philosophy & Christian Thought in Antiquity	History of Orthodox Missiology	Major Prophets
Lecturer	Prof John McDowell	Fr Dr Jacob Joseph	Prof John McDowell	Fr Dr Jacob Joseph	Fr Dr Nebojsa Tumara
Mode	<b>Blended</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">CT2820A</a> <a href="#">CT3820A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">CT9820A</a>	<b>Online</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">CT1819A/CT2819A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">CT8819A</a>  <b>Face-to-face</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">CT1810A/CT2810A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">CT8810A</a>	<b>Blended</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">AP3100A/CT3100A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">AP9100A/CT9100A</a>	<b>Blended</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">CH1800A/DM1800A</a> , <a href="#">CH2800A/DM2800A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">CH8800A/DM8800A</a>	<b>Online</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">BA3409A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">BA9409A</a>  <b>Face-to-face</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">BA3400A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">BA9400A</a>
Face-to-face Location	Donvale 6:30pm-9.30pm	Donvale 6:30pm-9.30pm	Donvale 6:30pm-9.30pm	Donvale 6:30pm-9.30pm	Donvale 6:30pm-9.30pm
Unit name		Coptic Language – Bohairic II		Theology and Film	
Lecturer		Fr Dr Gregorios Awad		Fr Dr Nebojsa Tumara	
Mode		<b>Face-to-face</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">AL2200A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">AL9200A</a>		<b>Online</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">AR2209A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">AR9209A</a>  <b>Face-to-face</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">AR2200A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">AR9200A</a>	
Face-to-face Location		Donvale 6:30pm-9.30pm		Donvale 6:30pm-9.30pm	
Unit name				Coptic Liturgy: The Canonical Hours	
Lecturer				Fr Dr Gregorios Awad	
Mode				<b>Online</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">DL1409A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">DL8409A</a>  <b>Face-to-face</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">DL1400A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">DL8400A</a>	
Face-to-face Location				Donvale 6:30pm-9.30pm	
Unit name	Coptic Art & Iconography II		Introduction to Biblical Hebrew	Introduction to the New Testament	Uncovering the Past: An Archaeology of Christian Egypt
Lecturer	Ashraf Gerges & Shady Nessim		Fr Dr Nebojsa Tumara	Dr Amir Malek	Dr Lisa Agaiby
Mode	<b>Blended</b> Postgraduate: <a href="#">DL9410A</a>  <b>Face-to-face</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">DL2410A</a>		<b>Online</b> Postgraduate: <a href="#">AL8609A</a>  <b>Face-to-face</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">AL1600A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">AL8600A</a>	<b>Online</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">BN1609A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">BN8609A</a>  <b>Face-to-face</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">BN1600A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">BN8600A</a>	<b>Online</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">AH1149A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">AH8149A</a>  <b>Face-to-face</b> Undergraduate: <a href="#">AH1140A</a> Postgraduate: <a href="#">AH8140A</a>
Face-to-face Location	Donvale 6:30pm-9.30pm		Donvale 6:30pm-9.30pm	City campus 6pm-9pm	City campus 6pm-9pm

# 2021 KEY DATES

## Key Event / Activity

### Semester 1 Classes

College Opens  
Final Date for New Admissions  
Final Date for Re-enrolment  
Census Date  
University of Divinity Graduation  
Non-teaching Period (Easter)  
Final Date: New Admissions for Semester 2, 2021 International/  
Domestic HDR students  
Study Week  
Examination Week  
Results Published

### Semester 2 Classes

Final Date for New Admissions  
Final Date for Re-enrolment  
Census Date  
Non-teaching period  
Study Week  
Examination Week  
Final Date: New Admissions for Semester 2, 2022 International/  
Domestic HDR students  
Results published

### University Holidays 2021

New Year 2021  
Australia Day  
ANZAC Day  
Queen's Birthday  
AFL Grand Final Friday (Victoria)  
Christmas 2021

## Calendar Date

February 22 – May 28  
January 4  
February 12  
February 19  
March 16  
March 19  
March 29 – April 9  
  
April 15  
May 31 - June 4  
June 7 – 11  
July 9  
  
July 26 – October 29  
July 16  
July 23  
August 17  
September 20 – October 1  
November 1 – 5  
November 8 – 12  
  
November 15  
December 10  
  
January 1  
January 26  
April 25  
June 14  
TBC  
December 25

# HOW TO APPLY

## 1. DECIDE ON WHAT INTERESTS YOU

What are your areas of interest? Are you aiming to complete a particular academic qualification? Would you like to study full-time, part-time, face-to-face, or online? Check out our timetable and unit descriptions, as well as the awards we offer to decide a possible starting point for your studies.

## 2. TALK TO US

We would love to meet you in person and discuss options for your study, but if it's not practical to come in, we'd be happy to have a conversation with you over the phone. To organise a time, contact Peter, for undergraduate study options, or Lisa for postgraduate and HDR options. Together we can look at study options you may be interested in and decide on a suitable starting point and pathway to your circumstances and interests.

## 3. SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FORM

- Complete an Application for Admission form ([link](#))
  - Complete an application form for FEE-HELP or authorise payment of fees
- Provide the following necessary supporting documents:
- Proof of citizenship in your current name (e.g. birth certificate, Passport)
  - Academic transcripts (Year 12 transcript if applying for the Dip.Theol.)
  - IELTS results if you are an overseas student

## 4. YOU'RE READY TO GO!

- Application for Admission approved by the Academic Dean and processed by the Registrar
- Receive enrolment confirmation and welcome emails
- Receive access to the online Learning Management System (ARK)
- Receive an admission letter from the University of Divinity
- Enjoy the journey of learning!



ST ATHANASIUS  
COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY  
OF DIVINITY

## CONTACT US

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**Research Co-ordinator:** Dr Lisa Agaiby

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