



ST ATHANASIUS  
COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY  
OF DIVINITY

# St Athanasius College Prospectus 2023







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COLLEGE

# 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 in both online and blended modes and face to face components take place at either our Donvale campus, located at 100 Park Road, Donvale, or 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 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 (Master of Philosophy and PhD).

To accompany our coursework offering, SAC faculty is engaged in a variety of research activities both within Australia 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



# WHO’S TEACHING AT SAC IN 2023?

## 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.

## Prof. Dr. Heike Behlmer

Prof. Behlmer is the Director of the Institute of Egyptology and Coptic Studies, at the University of Göttingen, in Germany, and chair of the steering committee of the research project "Digital complete edition and translation of the Coptic Sahidic Old Testament". A renowned Shénoutean scholar, her research interests include Egyptian monasticism, Coptic literature, gender studies and Egyptology.

## Ms Ireni Farag

Ireni is a Ph.D. candidate at the Queensland University of Technology, and has a Masters degree in Counselling from the University of Southern Queensland. She lectures in counselling at Excelsia College in Sydney and at the School of Social Sciences at Western Sydney University.

## Mr Ashraf Gerges

Ashraf has a Master of Arts 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. Ashraf teaches the practical applications of writing Coptic icons in the unit Coptic Art and Iconography.

## Fr Dr Daniel Ghabrial

Fr Daniel is the principal at St Athanasius College and has a Ph.D. from the University of Melbourne. He lectures in Pastoral Theology and Ministry and his areas of interest include the theology of priesthood in the Orthodox tradition and how it relates to contemporary life. Fr Daniel is a priest in the Coptic Orthodox Church.

## Dr Samir Ibrahim & Fr Abanoub Attalla

Dr Ibrahim is a psychiatrist by profession and a sessional lecturer at St Athanasius College teaching the units Introduction to Christian Counselling and Understanding the Family. His areas of interest include Mental Health, Family Counselling and Therapy.

Fr Abanoub is a D.Min. candidate at the University of Divinity/Abilene Christian University, Texas, and has a Master of Counselling from Monash University. He lectures in Pastoral Theology and Ministry and his areas of interest include Counselling and Family Therapy. Fr Abanoub is a priest in the Coptic Orthodox Church.

## Fr Dr Jacob Joseph

Fr Jacob has a Ph.D. from the University of Divinity, Melbourne and lectures in Missiology. His interests include the history and theology of Orthodox Mission and his interest in mission focuses on the youth and the socially marginalised. Fr Jacob is a priest in the Malankara Archdiocese of the Syrian Orthodox Church in Australia.

## Dr Amir Malek

Dr Malek is a medical practitioner by profession, and 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 a Ph.D. from the University of Divinity. His areas of interest include the Pentateuch and Christian-Arabic Studies.

## Mr Shadi Nessim

Shadi is a High School teacher in Humanities. He has a Master in Theological Studies from the University of Divinity and is a D.Min. candidate at the Catholic University of America. His research interests include Coptic language, Coptic and Arabic literature, and the history of the Egyptian Church.

## Dr Katherin Papadopoulos

Dr Papadopoulos is a lecturer in History and Church History. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Divinity and was awarded the University Medal for her doctoral thesis on Memory Studies and Late Antique Syriac Martyrologies. Her interests include Late Antique memory culture, Hagiography, history of the Mediterranean East, and Patristics.

## Fr Michael Salib

Fr Michael is a D.Min. candidate at Fuller Theological Seminary, California and has a Master of Arts in Coptic Studies from Macquarie University, Sydney. He lectures in Mission and Ministry and his interests include the relationship between ministry, formation, education and the Eucharistic Table in Coptic tradition. Fr Michael is a priest in the Coptic Orthodox Church.

## Mr Hany Takla

Hany is the president of the St. Shenouda the Archimandrite Coptic Society and is the Director of the Coptic Center in Los Angeles. He has authored a number of publications and in 2021 he developed, together with Mina Makar, a Coptic Bible App for iOS and Android Devices. Hany obtained his Master of Arts in Coptic Studies from Macquarie University, Sydney Australia. He is a part-time lecturer at the UCLA Near Eastern Languages and Cultures Department, the University of Notre Dame (USA), and St Athanasius & St Cyril's Coptic Orthodox Seminary, Los Angeles.

## Rev. Dr Nebojsa Tumara

Fr Nebojsa has a Ph.D. from the University of Belgrade, Serbia, and lectures in Biblical Studies, World Religions, Biblical Hebrew and Syriac languages. His interests include comparative religions, liturgy, and iconography. 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.





Located at the SAC Donvale Campus, the St Pachomius Student Wing 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: \$2,000  
Full-time SAC Student Annual Rate: \$4,000  
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 either online, blended, or on-campus. Lecturers use mixed media tools and resources to communicate with students in the classroom and via the online platform. We integrate emerging technologies and the latest teaching tools to ensure students receive the most rewarding learning experience.

# STUDENT LIFE





# AWARDS

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

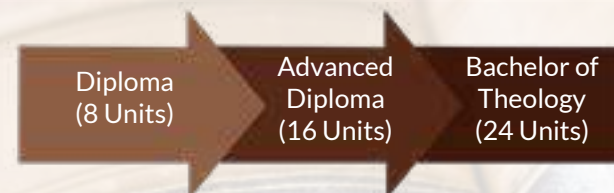
30 weeks beginning each February (exact date TBA)

Introduced in 2021, the Certificate III in Christian Ministry and Theology (10741NAT) is offered to Year 11 and 12 Students. It is a Christian leadership program for Senior High 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:** \$1,861 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:** \$1,861 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:** \$1,861 per undergraduate unit.

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

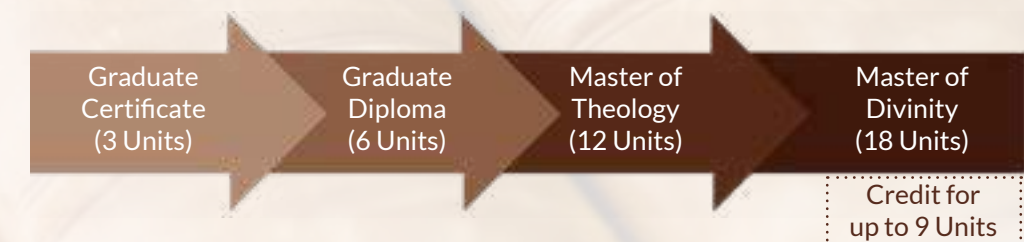
**FOLLOW ON STUDY:** Graduates have access to a range of postgraduate courses at Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and Masters levels.

## 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 THEOLOGY

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

The Graduate Certificate in Theology consists of 3 units (72 points) of Postgraduate Foundational units in three Disciplines from at least two fields 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:** \$2,882 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 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) of Postgraduate Foundational units in three Disciplines from any number of fields 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:** \$2,882 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) consisting of 3 units minimum (72 points) in foundational units (Level 8) in three disciplines across two fields. The remaining 3 units (72 points) are to be taken from foundational (Level 8) or elective units (Level 9). This course allows students to explore areas of interest in theology.

**COST:**\$2,882 per post-graduate unit.

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

**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 and achieved a minimum grade of 75% may be eligible to apply for admission to a Higher Degree by Research.

## 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) that may comprise of Level 8 or Level 9 units in any field or discipline. It 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.

**COST:**\$2,882 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 toward 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 and achieved a minimum grade of 75% 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:**\$2,882 per post-graduate unit.

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

**FOLLOW ON STUDY:**Graduates who have completed their Master of Theological Studies with a Distinction to High Distinction average and have completed a Minor Thesis of 16,000 words achieving a minimum grade of 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

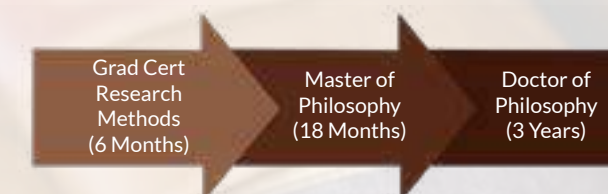
The Master of Divinity consists of 18 units (432 points) and is a first degree in theology for graduates from other disciplines. The degree offers a high level of theological study and provides an appropriate foundation for ministry formation and further study. The Master of Divinity offers a distinct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

**COST:**\$2,882 per post-graduate unit.

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

**FOLLOW ON STUDY:**Graduates who have completed their Master of Divinity with a Distinction to High Distinction average and have completed a Minor Thesis of 16,000 words achieving a minimum grade of 75% may be eligible for admission to Higher Degrees by Research.

## 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.

Two 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 research-active supervisors, one of whom must be a 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 \$9,514. The total cost of a Master of Philosophy (3 semesters full-time, or 6 semesters part-time) is \$28,542.

**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/Minor Thesis of min. 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 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 100,000 words that is examined by at least two external examiners.

**COST:**A year of study in the PhD is \$19,028 (full-time), or \$9,514 (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/Minor Thesis of min. 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.



## 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 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 \$500 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/>

### ENQUIRIES

To enquire about studying any of our Undergraduate or Postgraduate awards, or to audit a unit, please contact the SAC registrar: Rev. Dr Peter Dobson at [registrar@sac.edu.au](mailto:registrar@sac.edu.au)

To enquire about studying any of our HDR awards, or for further information on Minor Thesis and Supervised Reading Units, please contact the Research Co-ordinator: Dr Lisa Agaiby at [lagaiby@sac.edu.au](mailto:lagaiby@sac.edu.au)

## 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, research-active 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 their supervisor at least once a month.

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 that may be related to an SRU to guide their reading, thinking and writing.

For more information on SRU go to: <https://divinity.edu.au/documents/supervised-reading-unit-approval-form/>

For enquires about SRU or Minor Thesis, please contact: 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, research-active 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 Minor Thesis in a single semester or across two consecutive semesters.

Students should discuss the option of undertaking a Minor Thesis with the Research Co-ordinator 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 that has been reviewed and agreed together with the supervisor, must be sent electronically to the Academic Dean for approval at least one week prior to the census date of the semester in which the Minor Thesis commences.

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





# FEES AND SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

## 2023 Unit Fees

Tuition fees are set each year by the University of Divinity and are standard across all the colleges 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): \$1,861 per 18-point unit**

**Postgraduate: \$2,882 per 24-point unit**

**Audit of Coursework: \$500 per unit**

## Fee Payment Options

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

**UPFRONT PAYMENT:** Students can choose to pay upfront by credit card, cheque or BPay.

**ONLINE:** Students can now pay their fees online via the University's payment portal:  
<https://pay.divinity.edu.au/>

**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)

For more information about fee payment options at the University of Divinity go to:  
<https://divinity.edu.au/study/fees/>

## Parish Sponsorships

Coptic Parishes offer sponsorship to their parishioners 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/>



# When to apply

To study in Semester 1, 2023 apply by:

**Domestic Coursework**

Friday 17 February

**Overseas Coursework**

Thursday 15 November

**Domestic and Overseas Higher Degree by Research**

Admission applications are open throughout the year for February, May, August and October intakes.

To study in Semester 2, 2023 apply by:

**Domestic Coursework**

Friday 21 July

**Overseas Coursework**

Thursday 15 April

**Domestic and Overseas Higher Degree by Research**

Admission applications are open throughout the year for February, May, August and October intakes.



# SEMESTER 1 UNITS, 2023

## 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 that are all grounded in the Holy Bible.

## Coptic Language: Sahidic II

This unit builds upon Coptic Language: Sahidic I which introduced students to the vocabulary and grammar of Sahidic Coptic, as well as introduced some of the various sources of Sahidic. This unit now consolidates and advances students’ knowledge of the Sahidic Coptic language through a study of a range of Sahidic texts.

## Coptic Liturgical Manuscripts

Coptic liturgical books comprise the texts used for the performance of the Church's mysteries and services; and include several genres currently in use. The liturgical texts contained in these books are often heavily influenced by Scripture and the writings of the Fathers, and as such embody the beliefs of the Coptic Orthodox Church. This unit will introduce students to the evolution of Coptic liturgical books through surveying the manuscript tradition as well as the modern published editions.

## History, Nature, and Development of Indian Christianity

This unit provides an account of the history of Christianity in India from its inception until the current period. From the earliest period, the movement has been associated with St. Thomas, one of the apostles of Jesus Christ. Further, it explores the historical blending of Syriac Christianity (first and second Syrian migration), Nestorian Christianity (Nestorianism), Portuguese Christianity (Catholicism), and Dutch and English missionaries (Protestantism) with Indian Christianity. It especially examines the nature and development of Syriac/Orthodox/Jacobite Christians and the modern Western mission in India.

## 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.

## Introduction to the Old Testament

This unit offers an Introduction to the literature of the Old Testament, and a study of the history and geography of biblical Israel. The topics covered include: manuscripts of the Holy Bible, development of the Old Testament Canon and translation. Students will be introduced to the study of the Old Testament and its different genres, comparing modern and patristic methodologies of interpreting the Old Testament. Students will study an overview of all books of the Old Testament.

## Jesus Christ at the Margins

This unit seeks to critically examine Jesus Christ’s engagement with the people who were categorised as being at the social margins. Through a survey of ‘Jesus Christ and margins’ in biblical and patristic works, the unit will determine how this has been appropriated by contemporary theologians to articulate a contextual Christology. By tracing this perspective from the Gospels, ante-Nicaean and post-Nicaean teachers and modern theologians, this unit seeks to understand the missional significance of conceiving Christology through the life of vulnerable communities.

## The Illuminated Heart: An Introduction to Counselling Microskills for those in Service and Ministry

This introductory unit will provide students with an overview of basic counselling micro-skills and is designed to provide experiential learning opportunities that will equip students with skills necessary for fostering and facilitating effective communication and conversation in a variety of ministry and pastoral service settings within the Orthodox Church.

## "Women are to be silent"? Voices of Women in the New Testament and in Orthodox Christianity

The position of women in the New Testament, especially in the epistles of the Apostle Paul, may appear contradictory. Some passages command women to be submissive, remain silent and not teach. Yet in other passages women were praised, spoke with authority, prayed, prophesied, owned property, managed finances, and headed households. In this unit we will unravel the conflicting evidence by undertaking an in-depth socio-cultural, historical, and literary study of the role of women in the New Testament, and how this image sheds light on the position of women in Orthodox Christianity.



# SEMESTER 2 UNITS, 2023

## 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 develop advanced technique and design skills.

## Hidden Pearls: A Survey of Syriac Christian Literature

This unit surveys the main genres of Syriac Christian literature in the first six centuries AD, commencing with the origins of Syriac literature and the Syriac Bible and ending with the first Syriac historiography of the sixth century. In addition to biblical and apocryphal literature, students will be introduced to the writings of Syriac-speaking authors from the Classical, West and East Syriac traditions such as Ephrem, Narsai and Jacob of Sarug, and explore ascetical and mystical works; poetry (soghyatha, memre, and madrashe); lives and acts of martyrs; exegetical and polemical literature; and histories and chronicles.

## 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 unit.

## Jesus Christ in the Asian Context

This unit seeks to critically examine the Christological developments in the Asian context. Primarily, it aims to demonstrate 'who is Jesus Christ' for the people in the multi-faceted context of Asia and will analyse the Asian social realities, namely religious, ethnic, cultural, gender and economic phenomena to recognise 'Christ's social face' that emerged in this context. It will also evaluate the earliest traits of Christological presence in Asia.

## 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.

## Mary in the Coptic Tradition

This unit will explore the understanding of the Virgin Mary in ecclesiology, Christology, iconography and liturgy within the Coptic tradition. A critical engagement with Scripture through a patristic lens will be developed to understand the Virgin Mary's position in the Christian tradition throughout the centuries. Students will examine Marian doctrines as observed and expressed in Copto-Arabic literature as well as reappraise the liturgical tradition and practice surrounding Mary in the ancient, medieval and modern Coptic tradition.

## Ministry to Teens and Youth

This unit will explore the nature and role of teenage and youth ministry in the Orthodox Church. Students will reflect on the aims of ministry to teenagers and youth and develop a strong philosophy of teenage and youth ministry in 21st century Australia. The unit will also explore the key skills and leadership qualities needed for this ministry.

## Pastoral Ministry and Priesthood

In this unit students will study priesthood in the Orthodox Church. The priesthood of Christ - the priesthood of all believers - and the priesthood of the ordained minister of Christ, will be defined and contrasted to arrive at a theological basis of priesthood. The theology and formation of the ministerial priesthood, the role of the priest in the care of the soul, ritual and sacramental resources available to the priest in discharging this care and how the role of the priest differs from that of other helping professions will be considered.

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

Following the words of Jesus 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 Liturgies of the Oriental Orthodox Church

This unit will explore the various liturgies of the Oriental Orthodox tradition: Coptic, Syrian (East and West), Armenian, and Ethiopian. A survey of four distinct liturgical rites that still exist today will complete a foundational understanding to the diverse observances of these cultural traditions. It will enable students to engage and compare ancient and modern liturgical texts, specifically the anaphoras, as well as analyse theological representations expressed in each tradition.

## Understanding the Family: A Christian Perspective

This unit offers an introduction to the understanding of family life. Insights from the Social Sciences will be informed and critiqued by cultural and theological themes. The unit will outline the factors that contribute to family wellbeing and review factors that challenge spiritual health and family integrity. An important focus will be the role of the family in providing a sacred space of 'safe holding' that encourages and nurtures the spiritual formation of children in faith.



# CAPSTONE UNITS

Capstone units are a wonderful opportunity for students to research and write on a topic of interest. Students can enrol in a Capstone unit in either semester. For information, please email Dr Lisa Agaiby at: [лагаiby@sac.edu.au](mailto:лагаiby@sac.edu.au)

## **Undergraduate Capstone Integrative Project (XX3100A)**

This unit offers students the opportunity to draw together the various elements of their bachelor award, in order to integrate their learning and articulate their insights. Students will integrate and engage critically with the content and concerns of more than one discipline to identify key theological, historical and biblical themes that have implications for life and ministry in the contemporary context. Students will work with a supervisor as well as engage in seminar conversations to develop a bibliography and develop key formational theological concepts. Students will identify a topic or theme as the basis for their work. The intent is for students to demonstrate their skills to reflect theologically and produce work of sound academic skill.

## **Postgraduate Capstone Project (XX9424A)**

This unit is offered in order to enable postgraduate students to fulfil the capstone requirements related to their award and is intended to be taken in the student's final year. It aims to direct, support and encourage the integration of student learning across the theological disciplines by means of the completion of a project that draws on the student's prior learning and directs it towards an integrative treatment of a chosen topic. Projects must include explicit engagement with methodologies, concepts and content from more than one discipline and show awareness of the issues related to creative and effective communication of theological ideas. In consultation with their supervisor, the topics will be determined by the participants' own interests and experience. Students will be expected to present their ideas to their peers and members of Faculty.

# \* NEW UNITS OFFERED IN 2023!

## *Semester 1:*

- The Illuminated Heart: An Introduction to Counselling Microskills for those in Service and Ministry
- Coptic Language: Sahidic II
- "Women are to be silent"? Voices of Women in the New Testament and in Orthodox Christianity
- History, Nature, and Development of Indian Christianity
- Coptic Liturgical Manuscripts

## *Semester 2:*

- Hidden Pearls: A Survey of Syriac Christian Literature
- Mary in the Coptic Tradition
- The Liturgies of the Oriental Orthodox Church



# SEMESTER 1

All classes will be offered in ONLINE (synchronous and asynchronous) mode, with the exception of **Coptic Art & Iconography I** which is a face-to-face- unit.

## NEW UNITS

- The Illuminated Heart: An Introduction to Counselling Microskills for those in Service and Ministry
- Coptic Language: Sahidic II
- "Women are to be silent"? Voices of Women in the New Testament and in Orthodox Christianity
- History, Nature, and Development of Indian Christianity
- Coptic Liturgical Manuscripts

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
M	T	W	T	F	S
<p>Apocalyptic Literature (BS3920A/BS9920A)</p> <p>Fr Dr Nebojsa Tumara 6:30pm - 9:30pm</p> <hr/> <p>The Illuminated Heart: An Introduction to Counselling Microskills for those in Service and Ministry (DP1400A/DP8400A)</p> <p>Ms Ireni Farag 6:30pm - 9:30pm</p>	<p>Introduction to Syriac Language (AL1700A/AL8700A))</p> <p>Fr Dr Nebojsa Tumara 6:30pm - 9:30pm</p> <hr/> <p>Coptic Language: Sahidic II (AL2300A/AL9300A)</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Heike Behlmer 6:30pm - 9:30pm</p>	<p>Introduction to the Old Testament (BA1100A/BA8100A)</p> <p>Fr Dr Nebojsa Tumara 6:30pm - 9:30pm</p> <hr/> <p>Jesus Christ at the Margins (CT3720A/CT93720A)</p> <p>Fr Dr Jacob Joseph 6:30pm - 9:30pm</p>	<p>"Women are to be silent"? Voices of Women in the New Testament and in Orthodox Christianity (BN1500A/BN8500A)</p> <p>Dr Amir Malek 6:30pm - 9:30pm</p> <hr/> <p>History, Nature, and Development of Indian Christianity (CH2310A/CH3310A/CH9310A)</p> <p>Fr Dr Jacob Joseph 6:30pm - 9:30pm</p> <hr/>	<p>Coptic Art and Iconography I Face-to-face classes at Donvale campus (DL1410A / DL8410A)</p> <p>Mr Ashraf Gerges 6:30pm - 9:30pm</p> <hr/>	<p>Coptic Liturgical Manuscripts (DL1510A/DL8510A)</p> <p>Mr Hany Takla 9:00am - 12.00pm</p> <hr/>



# SEMESTER 2

All classes will be offered in ONLINE (synchronous and asynchronous) mode, with the exception of **Coptic Art & Iconography II** which is a face-to-face unit.

## NEW UNITS

- **Hidden Pearls: A Survey of Syriac Christian Literature**
- **The Liturgies of the Oriental Orthodox Church**
- **Mary in the Coptic Tradition**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
M	T	W	T	F	S
<p>Seeking Christ in Scriptures - Scriptures and its Exegesis in the Orthodox Tradition</p> <p>(BS3000A/BS9000A)</p> <p>Fr Dr Nebojsa Tumara</p> <p>6:30pm - 9:30pm</p> <hr/> <p>Pastoral Ministry and Priesthood</p> <p>(DP2500A/DP8500A)</p> <p>Fr Dr Daniel Ghabrial</p> <p>6:30pm - 9:30pm</p>	<p>Hidden Pearls: A Survey of Syriac Christian Literature</p> <p>(CH1110A/CH8110A)</p> <p>Dr Katherin Papadopoulos</p> <p>6:30pm - 9:30pm</p> <hr/> <p>Major Prophets</p> <p>(BA3400A/BA9400A)</p> <p>Fr Dr Nebojsa Tumara</p> <p>6:30pm - 9:30pm</p>	<p>The Liturgies of the Oriental Orthodox Church</p> <p>(DL1210A/DL8210A)</p> <p>Fr Dr Jacob Joseph and Mr Shadi Nessim</p> <p>6:30pm - 9:30pm</p> <hr/> <p>Understanding the Family: A Christian Perspective</p> <p>(DP1615A/DP8615A)</p> <p>Dr Samir Ibrahim and Fr Abanoub Attalla</p> <p>6:30pm - 9:30pm</p>	<p>Mary in the Coptic Tradition</p> <p>(DL3330A / DL9330A)</p> <p>Fr Dr Gregorios Awad</p> <p>6:30pm - 9:30pm</p> <hr/> <p>Introduction to Biblical Hebrew</p> <p>(AL1600A/AL8600A)</p> <p>Fr Dr Nebojsa Tumara</p> <p>6:30pm - 9:30pm</p>	<p>Coptic Art and Iconography II</p> <p>*Face-to-face component at Donvale campus</p> <p>(DL2410A / DL9410A)</p> <p>Mr Ashraf Gerges</p> <p>6:30pm - 9:30pm</p> <hr/> <p>Jesus Christ in the Asian Context</p> <p>(CT3710A/CT9710A)</p> <p>Fr Dr Jacob Joseph</p> <p>6:30pm - 9:30pm</p>	<p>Ministry to Teens and Youth</p> <p>*Face-to-face component at City campus</p> <p>(DA1110A / DA8110A)</p> <p>Fr Michael Salib</p> <p>9:00am - 3:00pm</p> <hr/>



## 2023 KEY DATES

### Key Event / Activity

### Calendar Date

#### 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)

#### Feb 27 – June 2

January 9  
February 17  
February 17  
March 21  
March 24  
April 3 - 14

Final Date: New Admissions for Semester 2, 2023  
Study Week  
Examination Week  
Results Published

April 15  
June 5 - 9  
June 12 - 16  
July 14

#### Semester 2 Classes

Final Date for New Admissions  
Final Date for Re-enrolment  
Census Date  
Non-teaching period  
Study Week  
Examination Week

#### July 31 - Nov 3

July 21  
July 21  
August 22  
September 25 - October 6  
November 6 - 10  
November 13 - 17

Enrolments/New Admissions for Semester 1, 2024 open  
Results published

November 14  
December 15

#### University Holidays 2023

New Year 2023  
Australia Day  
Good Friday and Easter  
ANZAC Day  
Queen's Birthday  
Christmas

January 2  
January 26  
April 7 - 10  
April 25  
June 12  
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 Rev. Dr Peter Dobson for undergraduate study options, or Dr Lisa Agaiby 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
- 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 SAC's 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!





## CONTACT US

[www.sac.edu.au](http://www.sac.edu.au)

Email: [enquiries@sac.edu.au](mailto:enquiries@sac.edu.au)

Facebook: [fb.com/SACtheology/](https://fb.com/SACtheology/)

**Principal:** Fr Dr Daniel Ghabrial

**Academic Dean/Research Co-ordinator:** Dr Lisa Agaiby

**Registrar:** Rev. Dr Peter Dobson

**Librarian:** Mrs Deborah Decru

**VET Program:** Fr Michael Salib

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**City Campus:** 285 La Trobe St, Melbourne VIC, 3000