

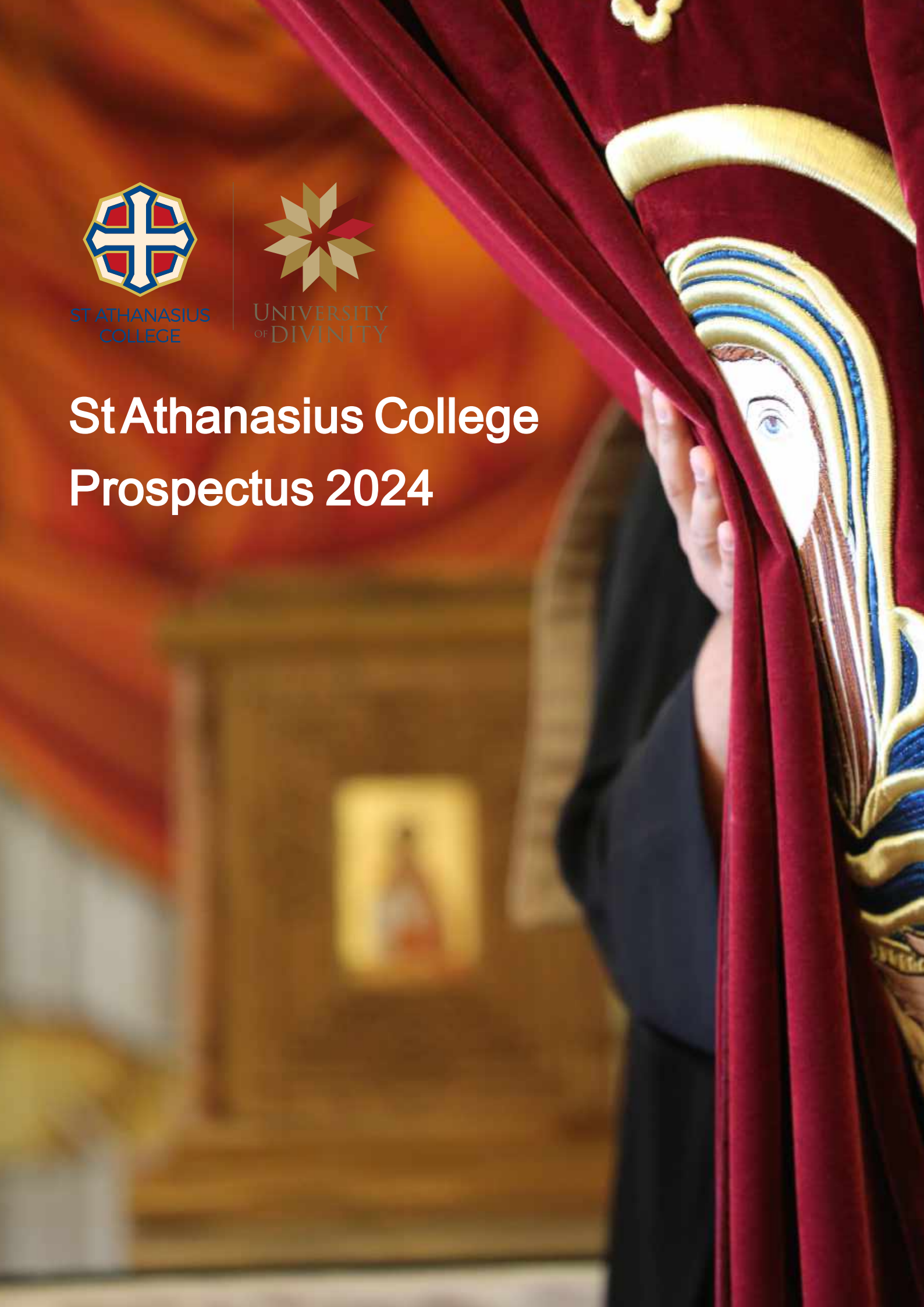


ST ATHANASIUS  
COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY  
OF DIVINITY

# St Athanasius College Prospectus 2024



# 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.



ST ATHANASIUS  
COLLEGE

# 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

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## 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 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.

# AWARDS

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

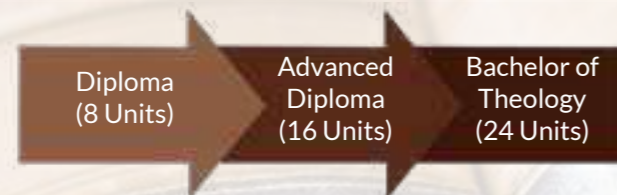
30 weeks beginning each February (exact date TBA)

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:** \$2,047 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:** \$2,047 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:** \$2,047 per undergraduate unit.

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

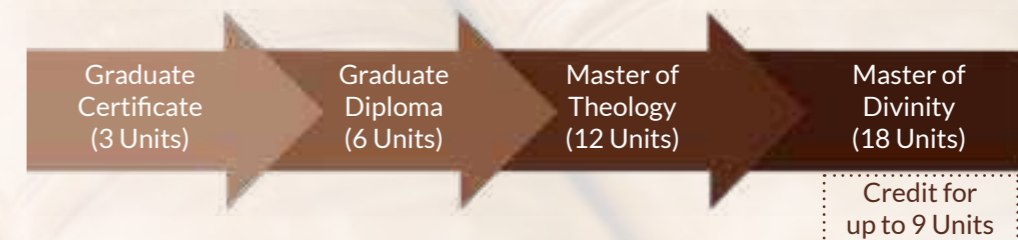
**FOLLOW ON STUDY:** Graduates have access to a range of postgraduate courses at Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and Masters levels.

## 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:** \$3,172 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:** \$3,172 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:** \$3,172 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:** \$3,172 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:** \$3,172 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

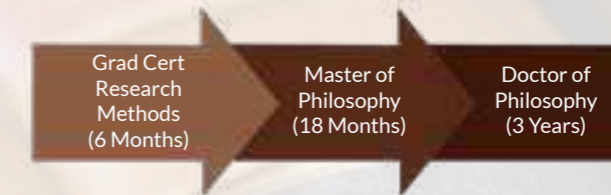
The Master of Divinity consists of 18 units (432 points) and is a first degree in theology for graduates from other disciplines. The degree offers a high level of theological study and provides an appropriate foundation for ministry formation and further study. The Master of Divinity offers a distinct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

**COST:** \$3,172 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 \$9,516. The total cost of a Master of Philosophy (3 semesters full-time, or 6 semesters part-time) is \$28,548.

**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 \$19,032 (full-time), or \$9,516 (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 \$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/>

### ENQUIRIES

To enquire about studying any of our Undergraduate or Postgraduate awards, or to audit a unit, please contact our SAC registrar, Mrs Gladys Mack at: [registrar@sac.edu.au](mailto:registrar@sac.edu.au) or phone 03 8872 8453.

To enquire about undertaking a Supervised Reading Unit (SRU) or Capstone Unit, please contact Dr Lisa Agaiby at: [lagaiby@sac.edu.au](mailto:lagaiby@sac.edu.au)

To enquire about undertaking a Minor Thesis or any Higher Degree by Research (HDR) award, please contact our SAC Research Coordinator, Dr Katherin Papadopoulos at: [kpapadopoulos@sac.edu.au](mailto:kpapadopoulos@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, please contact: Dr Lisa Agaiby [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/>

For enquires about Minor Thesis, please contact: Dr Katherin Papadopoulos at [kpapadopoulos@sac.edu.au](mailto:kpapadopoulos@sac.edu.au)





## FEES AND SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

### 2024 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): \$2,047 per 18-point unit**

**Postgraduate: \$3,172 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 in which they are enrolled.

**UPFRONT PAYMENT:** Students can choose to pay upfront by credit card 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/>

# Description of Units offered in 2024

## SEMESTER 1 UNITS

### **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: Bohairic I**

This unit will enable students to read and understand texts in Bohairic Coptic as Coptic is still of vital importance as the liturgical language of the Coptic Church. It will build basic skills in morphology, syntax, grammar and vocabulary, necessary to be able to read and translate from Bohairic Coptic to English and vice versa.

### **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.

### **Lives and Times of the Desert Fathers**

This unit will engage students in the study of the pioneers and centres of the early monastic movement in Egypt and their impact on the spread of the movement throughout the Late Roman Empire. It will consider the various theological viewpoints that became prominent in Late Antique Egypt and its impact in Egyptian monastic circles.

### **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. The unit will cover matters such as: origin and development, and 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 evangelisation.

### **History, Nature & 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 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.

### **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.

### **Journey with Lady Wisdom: Biblical Wisdom Literature and its Reception**

The unit will examine many different aspects of the ancient Israel wisdom, focusing on four canonical books of the Old Testament: the Book of Job, Wisdom Psalms, the Book of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes; with reference to the Deuterocanonical books: the Wisdom of Solomon, Ben Sirach (Book of Ecclesiasticus). Wisdom literature will be explored through the questions: What is wisdom? What are its foundations? Who is a wise person? Specific biblical and extra-biblical texts will be studied from a theological, historical critical and literary perspectives. Modern reception of Wisdom literature will be investigated, particularly the manner in which modern theologians respond to the question of innocent suffering in the modern world.

### **Coptic Liturgical Manuscripts (A)**

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.

### **Study Tour of Coptic Egypt: Crossroads of Civilisations**

This unit combines intensive study with an immersive cultural experience. Students will explore the main archaeological sites in Egypt: Ancient (pagan), Late Antique (Christian), and Islamic, looking at the ways in which society, culture and religion transitioned and assimilated from one civilisation to the next and the use and re-use of sacred space. Students will also explore in depth the sites where the monastic movement first developed and flourished in the 4th and 5th centuries and are still in existence today. Students will analyse their characteristic components, including wall paintings, and their evolution over time. Students will examine how primary textual information is reflected architecturally, archaeologically, and culturally.

## **SEMESTER TWO UNITS**

### **Coptic Language: Bohairic II**

This unit builds upon AL1200A (Bohairic I) which introduced students to the vocabulary and grammar of Bohairic Coptic, as well as introduced some of the various sources of Bohairic. This unit (AL2200A) now consolidates and advances students' knowledge of the Bohairic Coptic language through a study of Bohairic liturgical and biblical texts.

### **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.

### **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 settings and the theology of the four prophets. Passages from the prophetic writings will be chosen for exegesis. The unit will address the reception of these 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.

## **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.

## **Pillars of Orthodoxy: The Alexandrian Fathers**

This unit will introduce students to the literary works of the early Fathers of Alexandria: Didymus the Blind, Clement, Origen, Cyril and Athanasius, in order to understand the historical and theological contexts in which the Fathers were engaged, against wider social, cultural and political forces operative at the time. Primary texts will be examined to explore the development of Alexandrian theology and the controversies in which the Fathers were engaged.

## **Coptic Liturgical Manuscripts (B)**

This unit builds upon Coptic Liturgical Manuscripts (A) which introduced students to the Coptic liturgical books that comprise the texts used for the performance of the Church's mysteries and services. This proposed unit now consolidates students' knowledge of texts contained in Coptic liturgical manuscripts through a detailed study of the services related to the ministering of the sacraments in the Coptic Church, the various offices and consecrations. The process of how hagiographical texts are incorporated into liturgical texts will also be examined.

## **Hagiography and the Cult of 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.

## **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 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 Scripture? What is the place of the Scriptures in the spiritual life of a believer?

## **Jesus Christ at the Margins**

This unit seeks to critically examine Jesus Christ's engagement with the people who were categorised as at the social margins. Through a survey of 'Jesus Christ and margins' in the 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.

# SEMESTER

# 1

Monday

M

A Journey with Lady  
Wisdom: Biblical  
Wisdom  
Literature and its  
Reception  
  
(BA3510A / BA9510A)

Fr Dr Nebojsa Tumara  
  
6:30pm - 9:30pm

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History of Orthodox  
Missiology

(CH1800A / DM1800A  
DM8800A / CH8800A)  
  
Fr Dr Jacob Joseph  
  
6:30pm - 9:30pm

Tuesday

T

Introduction to  
Biblical  
Hebrew  
  
(AL1600A / AL8600A)

Fr Dr Nebojsa Tumara  
  
6:30pm - 9:30pm

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Coptic Language:  
Bohairic I

(AL2200A / AL9200A)  
  
Fr Dr Gregorios Awad  
  
6:30pm - 9:30pm

Wednesday

W

The Illuminated  
Heart:  
Microskills  
Counselling  
  
(D1400A / DP8400A)

Ms Ireni Farag  
  
6:30pm - 9:30pm

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Introduction to  
the Old  
Testament

(BA1100A / BA8100A)  
  
Fr Dr Nebojsa Tumara  
  
6:30pm - 9:30pm

Thursday

T

History, Nature, and  
Development of Indian  
Christianity  
  
( CH2/3/9310A)

Fr Dr Jacob Joseph  
  
6:30pm - 9:30pm

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The Lives and  
Times of the  
Desert Fathers  
  
(CH3/9500A /

Dr Lisa Agaiby  
  
6.30pm - 9.30pm

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Coptic Liturgical  
Manuscripts (A)  
  
DL1510A / DL8510A)  
  
Dr Hany Takla  
  
6.30pm - 9.30pm

Friday

F

Coptic Art  
and Iconography I  
\*Face-to-face component  
at Donvale campus  
  
(DL1410A / DL8410A)

Mr Ashraf Gerges  
  
6:30pm - 9:30pm

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History of Orthodox  
Missiology

(CH1800A / CH2800A /  
CH8800A)  
  
(DM1800A / DM2800A /  
DM8800A)  
  
Fr Dr Jacob Joseph

6:30pm - 9:30pm

All classes will be offered in  
ONLINE (synchronous and  
asynchronous) mode, with the  
exception of **Coptic Art &  
Iconography I.**

# SEMESTER

# 2

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>M</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>
Pastoral Ministry and Priesthood	Coptic language: Bohairic II	Introduction to Syriac Language	Orthodox Mission Theology	Major Prophets (BA3400A / BA9400A)
(DP2500A / DP8500A)	(AL2200A / AL9200A)	(AL1700A / AL8700A)	(CT1819A / CT2819A / CT8819A)(DM1819A / DM2819A / DM8819A)	Fr Dr Nebojsa Tumara (
Fr Dr Daniel Ghabrial	Fr Dr Gregorios Awad	Fr Dr Nebojsa Tumara	Fr Dr Jacob Joseph	6:30pm - 9:30pm
6:30pm - 9:30pm	6:30pm - 9:30pm	6:30pm - 9:30pm	6:30pm - 9:30pm	
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Seeking Christ in Scriptures: Scripture & its Exegesis in the Orthodox Tradition	Pillars of Orthodoxy - The Alexandrian Fathers		Hagiography and the Cult of saints	Jesus Christ at the Margins
(BS3000A / BS9000A)	(CT2530A / CT8530A)		(AL1700A / AL8700A)	(DM3720A/ DM9720A) / (CT3720A / CT9720A)
Fr Dr Nebojsa Tumara	Mr Abraam Mikhail		Dr Katherin Papadopoulos	Fr Dr Jacob Joseph
6.30pm - 9.30pm	6:30pm - 9:30pm		6:30pm - 9:30pm	6:30pm - 9:30pm
			Coptic Liturgical Manuscripts (B)	
			DL2510A / DL9510A)	
			Dr Hany Takla	
			6.30pm - 9.30pm	

All classes will be offered in ONLINE (synchronous and asynchronous) mode.

# 2024 KEY DATES

## Key Event / Activity

## Calendar Date

### Semester 1 Classes

College Opens	February 26 - May 31
Final Date for New Admissions	January 4
Final Date for Re-enrolment	February 16
Census Date	February 16
University of Divinity Graduation	March 19
Non-teaching Period (Easter)	March 15
Final Date: New Admissions for Semester 2, 2022 International/ Domestic HDR students	March 25 - April 5
Study Week	April 15
Examination Week	June 3 - 7
Results Published	June 10 - 14
	July 12

### Semester 2 Classes

Final Date for New Admissions	July 25 - October 28
Final Date for Re-enrolment	July 19
Census Date	July 19
Non-teaching period	August 20
Study Week	Sep 23 - Oct 4
Examination Week	Nov 4 - 8
Final Date: New Admissions for Semester 2, 2023 International/ Domestic HDR students	November 11 - 15
Results published	November 15
	December 13

### University Holidays 2024

New Year 2024	January 1
Australia Day	January 26
Good Friday and Easter	Mar 29 - Apr 2
ANZAC Day	April 25
King's Birthday	June 10
University Holiday	Dec 25 - Jan 2, 2025

# 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 our registrar, Mrs Gladys Mack at [registrar@sac.edu.au](mailto:registrar@sac.edu.au). 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!



ST ATHANASIUS  
COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY  
OF DIVINITY

## CONTACT US

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**Principal:** Fr Dr Daniel Ghabrial

**Academic Dean:** Dr Lisa Agaiby

**/Research Co-ordinator:** Dr Katherin Papadopoulos

**Registrar:** Mrs Gladys Mack

**Library Technician:** Mrs Gladys Mack

**VET Program:** Fr Michael Salib

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