



St Athanasius College Prospectus 2025



ST ATHANASIUS
COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY
OF DIVINITY

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 a Christian 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, Melbourne, or at our city campus located at 285 La Trobe Street in Melbourne's CBD.

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 community.



ST ATHANASIUS
COLLEGE



NOT SURE WHICH COURSE TO CHOOSE?



The course you choose will depend on what qualifications you currently have. For example:

- If you have finished High School and have the equivalent of the VCE/HSC, you can apply to study an **undergraduate** award such as:

Diploma in Theology

Advanced Diploma in Theology and Ministry

Bachelor of Theology

- If you have a University Degree in any discipline, you can choose to study a **postgraduate** award in theology, such as:

Postgraduate Certificate in Divinity

Postgraduate Diploma in Divinity

Master of Theological Studies

Master of Divinity

- If you don't have a university degree but you have acquired – as a minimum – five years of relevant work/professional experience, you can apply to study at Postgraduate level by first completing a Postgraduate Certificate in Divinity, and then progress up to higher awards.

If you would like to chat about your study interests and options, please reach out to either our Registrar, Ms Gladys Mack at registrar@sac.edu.au, or our Academic Dean, Dr Lisa Agaiby at lagaiby@sac.edu.au

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.




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... learning commission

Photo by Chris Kapa

AWARDS IN MORE DETAIL

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY

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

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

ADVANCED DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

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

Consists of 16 units (288 points) and builds on the Diploma in Theology by enabling students to deepen their understanding of the theological disciplines.

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY

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

Consists of 24 units (432 points) and enables students to develop knowledge across broad areas of theology, as well as depth in areas of interest.

CROSS-INSTITUTIONAL STUDY & SINGLE SUBJECT STUDIES

If you are already undertaking study at another university, either as undergraduate or postgraduate, did you know that you may be able to 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?

Interested in studying a unit and completing all the required assessment tasks but don't intend to complete a full course of study? Considering enrolling in a **SINGLE SUBJECT** unit.

* *Upfront Fees: \$2,109 per unit of study (Undergraduate) and \$3,268 (Postgraduate).*

POSTGRADUATE COURSEWORK PROGRAMS

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGY

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

Consists of 3 units (72 points) of Postgraduate Foundational units in three Disciplines from at least two fields.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN DIVINITY

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

Consists of 3 units (72 points) of Postgraduate Foundational units in three Disciplines from any number of fields.

GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY

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

Consists of 6 foundational and elective units (144 points) comprising 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).

GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN DIVINITY

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

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.

MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

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

Consists of 12 units (288 points) and enables students to apply an advanced body of knowledge in theology and its associated disciplines.

MASTER OF DIVINITY

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

Consists of 18 units (432 points) and offers a distinct emphasis on integration, research and theological reflection.



HIGHER DEGREES BY RESEARCH

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

This degree is designed for individuals who bring a foundation within this disciplinary range. It consists of a 40,000-word thesis and attendance at 8 hours of postgraduate seminars per annum.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

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

3 years full-time, or 8 years part-time. The award qualifies 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. It requires a major piece of directed research through a thesis of 100,000 words.

ADMISSION CRITERIA INTO HDR awards: Successful completion of RQ9748M Minor Thesis (16,000 words) and either RQ9021Z Research Methodologies or DP9734W Human Research Methodologies (for human based research) are prerequisites for admission to Higher Degree by Research award. The Minor Thesis can be included in any of the pathways indicated above. A Minor Thesis result of 75% or above is required for HDR applications.

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

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

To enquire about undertaking a Supervised Reading Unit (SRU) or Capstone Unit, please contact Dr Lisa Agaiby at: 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

Supervised Reading Unit

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

Minor Thesis

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



TUITION FEES IN 2025

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): \$2,109 per 18-point unit

Postgraduate: \$3,268 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, EFT or Swift.

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

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

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

NEW UNITS IN SEMESTER 1, 2025

“Worship in Spirit and Truth”: An Introduction to Early Christian Worship

(DL1/8301AA)

Lecturer: Fr James Nessim

**The Illuminated Soul:
Psychotherapy and Desert Spirituality**

(DP3/9100A)

Lecturer: Ms Ireni Farag

NEW UNITS IN SEMESTER 2, 2025

"The Wound of Love": The Experiential and Mystical Spirituality of St Macarius

(CT3/9300A)

Lecturer: Fr Dr Markos El Makari

Advanced Syriac (AL3/9700A)

Lecturer: Fr Dr Nebojsa Tumara

Defining the True Faith:

The First Council of Nicaea and its Lasting Legacy

CH3300A / CH9300A

Fr Dr Gregorios Awad & Mr Abraam Mikhail



Wall painting of St Macarius and cherub. Monastery of the Syrians, Wadi Natrun, Egypt. Photo by Karel Innemee

2025 TIMETABLE

All classes will be offered in online (synchronous and asynchronous) mode, with weekly evening zoom tutorials that will consist of discussion and guided readings.

The exceptions are COPTIC ART & ICONOGRAPHY (Semesters 1 & 2), which will be taught in face-to-face mode, and "THE WOUND OF LOVE": THE EXPERIENTIAL AND MYSTICAL SPIRITUALITY OF ST MACARIUS (Semester 2) which will be taught in blended mode.

- * Unit codes 1 – 3 are Undergraduate levels
- * Unit codes 8 & 9 are Postgraduate levels



Semester 1

Unit	Lecturer
Monday	
HOLY IMAGES, HOLY RELICS & SACRED SPACE IN THE ORTHODOX TRADITION DL3460A / DL9460A	Fr Dr Nebojsa Tumara
HIDDEN PEARLS: A SURVEY OF SYRIAC CHRISTIAN LITERATURE CH1110A / CH8110A	Dr Katherin Papadopoulos
Tuesday	
"WORSHIP IN SPIRIT & TRUTH" AN INTRODUCTION TO EARLY CHRISTIAN WORSHIP DL1301A / DL8310A	Fr James Nessim
HISTORY, NATURE, AND DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN CHRISTIANITY CH2310A / CH9310A	Fr Dr Jacob Joseph
INTRODUCTION TO SYRIAC LANGUAGE AL1700A / AL8700A	Fr Dr Nebojsa Tumara
Wednesday	
THE ILLUMINATED SOUL: PSYCHOTHERAPY & DESERT SPIRITUALITY DP3100A / DP9100A	Ms Ireni Farag
JESUS CHRIST AT THE MARGINS CT3720A / CT9720A	Fr Dr Jacob Joseph
Thursday	
"WOMEN ARE TO BE SILENT"? VOICES OF WOMEN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT AND IN ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY BN1500A / BN8500A	Dr Amir Malek
MARY IN THE COPTIC TRADITION DL3330A / DL9330A	Fr Dr Gregorios Awad
Friday	
ADVANCED BIBLICAL HEBREW AL9600A	Fr Dr Nebojsa Tumara
COPTIC ART AND ICONOGRAPHY II DL2410A / DL9410A	Mr Ashraf Gerges

Mid-Year Intensive 16.6.2025 - 28.7.2025	
COPTIC LANGUAGE: BOHAIRIC I AL1200A / AL8200A	Contact Fr Dr Gregorios Awad

Semester 2

Monday	
APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE BS3920A / BS9920A	Fr Dr Nebojsa Tumara
SAINTS AND SINNERS: WOMEN IN LATE ANTIQUITY AH3510A / AH9510A	Dr Katherin Papadopoulos
Tuesday	
DEFINING THE TRUE FAITH: THE FIRST COUNCIL OF NICAEA AND ITS LASTING LEGACY CH3300A / CH9300A	Fr Dr Gregorios Awad Mr Abraam Mikhail
A JOURNEY WITH LADY WISDOM: BIBLICAL WISDOM LITERATURE AND ITS RECEPTION BS3510A / BS9510A	Fr Dr Nebojsa Tumara
Wednesday	
"THE WOUND OF LOVE": THE EXPERIENTIAL AND MYSTICAL SPIRITUALITY OF ST MACARIUS CT3300A / CT9300A	Fr Dr Markos El Makari
JESUS CHRIST IN THE ASIAN CONTEXT DM3710A / DM9710A	Fr Dr Jacob Joseph
Thursday	
ADVANCED SYRIAC AL3700A / AL9700A	Fr Dr Nebojsa Tumara
ORTHODOX MISSION THEOLOGY CT2819A / CT8819A	Fr Dr Jacob Joseph
Friday	
COPTIC ART AND ICONOGRAPHY I DL1410A / DL8410A	Mr Ashraf Gerges

2025 KEY DATES

Semester 1:

24 February – 30 May

Census date

Tuesday 18 March

Graduation (Melbourne)

Friday 21 March

Mid-semester break

14 April – 25 April

Last day to withdraw without academic penalty

Friday 30 May

Study week

2 – 6 June

Examination week

9 – 13 June

Results published

Friday 11 July

Semester 2:

28 July – 31 October

Census date

Tuesday 19 August

Mid-semester break

22 September – 3 October

Last day to withdraw without academic penalty

Friday 31 October

Study week

3 – 7 November

Examination week

10 – 14 November

Results published

Friday 12 December

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, Ms Gladys Mack at 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!



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CONTACT US

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Email: enquiries@sac.edu.au

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Principal: Fr Dr Daniel Ghabrial

frdaniel@sac.edu.au

Academic Dean: Dr Lisa Agaiby

lagaiby@sac.edu.au

Research Coordinator: Dr Katherin Papadopoulos

kpapadopoulos@sac.edu.au

Registrar: Ms Gladys Mack

registrar@sac.edu.au

Library Technician: Ms Gladys Mack

librarian@sac.edu.au

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



Wall painting of Daniel the prophet at the Monastery of the Syrians, Wadi Natrun, Egypt. Photo by Karel Innemee