



*We walk with you as you
ask the eternal questions*

Coursework

www.mcd.edu.au

Bachelor of Theology



MCD for theological studies

Theological studies provide our students enriching and enhancing education.



Course Information

The Bachelor of Theology (BTheol) is a comprehensive three year undergraduate degree enabling students to lay sound foundations in the key theological disciplines and engage in more detailed study in selected areas. Candidates for Christian ministries can use the BTheol to meet many of the academic prerequisites for ordination with a wide range of units and disciplines available.

BTheol students learn through becoming a member of one of the MCD's Recognised Teaching Institutions (RTI). Each RTI is committed to providing a supportive community of scholarship, teaching from its own heritage with an ecumenical openness towards others. Students may take units at other RTIs, and permission may be sought to have units from non-MCD institutions. The Coursework Coordinator at each RTI assists students with course enquiries and planning on enrolment.

Eligibility for BTheol

The Bachelor of Theology is open to persons eligible to enter a degree course at an Australian University. Probationary candidature is available to students who are more than 21 years of age: candidature is confirmed when a probationary student completes satisfactorily a qualifying year or 120 points.

Course Outcome

A BTheol graduate will have developed high-level capacities in analytical thinking, interpreting primary documents, engaging with ideas, and integrating belief and life.

BTheol graduates may articulate into the Graduate Diploma of Theology (Specialised), the Master of Theological Studies or the Master of Arts (Coursework). BTheol graduates with at least two years' professional ministry experience may apply to enter the Graduate Diploma

of Ministry, which articulates to the Master of Ministry.

BTheol graduates with First or Upper Second Class Honours may apply to enrol in the Master of Theology or Master of Arts (Research) degrees.

BTheol(Hons)

BTheol students who have completed at least one half of the degree or 180 points can apply to be enrolled for the Honours degree. This extends the degree to four years, and requires an area of specialisation to be chosen, in which 60 additional points (at Level 3) plus a 12,000-word research essay must be completed.

The level of Honours awarded – First, Upper Second or Lower Second – is determined by the Coursework Studies Committee on the basis of the overall results in the research essay and the honours units. A student who does not obtain at least Lower Second Class Honours may be awarded the Pass degree.

Students interested in Honours should discuss with the RTI Coursework Studies Coordinator.

International applicants must score 6.5 across all bands with no band under 6.0 of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

BA/BTheol

A student can undertake a double Bachelor of Arts / Bachelor of Theology degree with Monash University over four years or over five years at the University of Melbourne. However, with the introduction of the new University of Melbourne degrees in 2008 the theology component will be undertaken after the Arts component instead of concurrently as in the past.

To be eligible, you must qualify for entry at both the MCD and the University, and your course of study must meet the Majors requirements for both degrees. The reduced time provided by the double degree arrangements assumes careful planning in the selection of units.

The credit points per standard unit at Monash, Melbourne and the MCD vary, but the number of unit required per semester for a full-time load is the same.

All these possibilities are best discussed with an RTI Coursework Coordinator. Whitley and the UFT have long-standing links with the Arts Faculty at University of Melbourne while CCTC, CTC and YTU with Monash University, but students at any of the above mentioned RTI are able to participate in either of the double degrees.

Details of the MCD BTheol

Each standard BTheol unit (15 credit points) runs for one semester of 15 weeks, including three weeks for reading and examination, and normally has three class hours in each teaching week, including tutorials. Teaching methods typically include lectures, seminars and

tutorials with class sizes rarely over 30, and many much smaller.

Assessment methods seek to reflect the growing depth of learning involved. Level 1 introduces a discipline and lays foundations for further study; Level 2 takes students on to the deeper and more focused issues in the discipline; Level 3 brings a student to graduate standing.

The degree is structured in four Fields, each embracing particular disciplines:

Field A – Humanities

- Biblical Languages
- History
- Languages ancient and modern
- Philosophy
- Religious Studies

Field B – Biblical Studies

- Biblical Studies
- New Testament
- Old Testament

Field C – Christian Thought and History

- Church History
- Systematic Theology

Field D – Theology : Mission and Ministry

- Canon Law
- Ecumenical Studies
- Liturgy
- Missiology
- Moral Theology
- Pastoral Theology and Ministry Studies
- Religious Education
- Spirituality

Sequences in the Bachelor of Theology

- A **major** sequence consists of 90 points of study in the same discipline, including a minimum of 30 points of third year units and a maximum of 30 points of first year units, usually completed as 30 points at each of Levels 1, 2 and 3;
- A **submajor** sequence consists of 60 points of study in the same discipline, including a maximum of 30 points of first year units, usually completed as 30 points at each of Levels 1 and 2;
- A **minor** sequence consists of 30 points of study in the same discipline.

To be awarded the Bachelor of Theology, a total of 360 credit points (24 standard units) must be completed which comprised of:

- **Two** majors and **one** submajor in each of the core areas of:
 - Biblical Studies
 - Systematic Theology
 - Theology: Mission and Ministry
- A minor in Church History
- A minor in another discipline
- A further 60 points of study to make up the 360 points. These may be used to build a minor into a submajor or into a third major.

It is possible to do a third major in a discipline outside the core areas, such as Philosophy or Church History, however careful course planning is required.

Prior Learning Recognised

- Students who hold a degree-level qualification in any discipline may receive credit for Level 1 units up to 60 points. This includes not only graduates, but also those holding teaching and nursing qualifications that have been recognized as having graduate standing.
- Students holding The Salvation Army Training College Advanced Diploma of Ministry, the Australian College of Theology Diploma of Ministry or Theology, or the MCD Diploma of Ministry, in each case with a Credit average, receive 120 points Level 1 credit towards the BTheol, including meeting the minimum Field points requirement.
- Students holding the MCD Advanced Diploma of Ministry with a Credit average receive 180 points Level 1 credit towards the BTheol, including meeting the minimum Field points requirement.
- Students who have completed units in other awards which are directly equivalent to particular BTheol units may seek pre-requisite recognition or credit for up to 120 points.
- Students who have an incomplete theological qualification may likewise seek to have their prior learning recognized, to a maximum of 240 points.

Please note, however, that such credit is normally given only for studies in the ten years prior to a student commencing the BTheol, and that students may still be required to meet the minimum Field points requirement.

All enquiries about credit must be discussed with the RTI Coursework Coordinator, and certified documentation provided. The Coordinator presents each application to the Associate Registrar (Coursework); the cases may be presented individually to the Coursework Studies Committee.

Fees

Refer to MCD website, www.mcd.edu.au

FEE-HELP

If you are an Australian citizen, or hold a Permanent Humanitarian visa, you are eligible for a Commonwealth Government FEE-HELP loan. The Commonwealth pays the MCD for your studies. Your loan is repaid through the tax system once your taxable income reaches around \$40,000.

The MCD recommends that all eligible students consider FEE-HELP and students who make early voluntary repayments on their FEE-HELP loan receive a 10% discount from the Commonwealth.

Further details about FEE-HELP are available on the MCD web site.

Austudy

You may be eligible, provided you meet the income and citizenship requirements and have not used your Austudy entitlement. The MCD office is required to sign off each semester on the study load of each MCD students receiving Austudy, it is important that recipients notify their RTI and the MCD office of any changes which may affect their eligibility.

As noted above, Austudy is available for Diploma, the Bachelor of Theology and combined Diploma / BTheol courses.

In the MCD office, Austudy is the responsibility of the MCD Registrar, and administered by the MCD Executive Assistant to the Dean.

[Austudy is a living allowance paid to eligible Australian students in order to gain primary-level tertiary qualifications. Austudy is administered by Centre Link, to whom enquiries should be directed. The CRICOS Provider code for the MCD is 01037A, the BTheol code is 011489A.]



Governance and Accreditation

The MCD Coursework Studies Committee manages BTheol course; it reports to the Academic Board, which is responsible to the MCD Council for all matters of academic policy and procedure. All RTI faculties are approved by the MCD Academic Board to ensure that each is qualified, equipped and experienced for their teaching and research work.

Each RTI is audited every five years, reviewing units and courses offered, staff development, and library and learning facilities, in each case with student feedback and planning for future needs and opportunities. The MCD is audited every five years by the Australian University Quality Agency (AUQA): the first took place in 2005, and the AUQA Report on the MCD is on <http://www.auqa.edu.au>. The MCD is recognized by both

Federal and State Governments as a self-accrediting institution. The audits assure students of the quality of their course of study and that it is recognized across the academic world.

Application Process

Obtain an Undergraduate Application Form from the MCD website (www.mcd.edu.au) or from one of the Recognised Teaching Institutions.

Discuss your proposed course of studies with the Coursework Co-ordinator at the RTI of your choice: you are welcome to discuss studies at more than one RTI.

Submit the completed Application form to the RTI office, having ticked the relevant BTheol box and had the form signed by the Coursework Coordinator.

Unless articulating immediately from an MCD

award, the Application fee, and certified copies of previous relevant academic qualification(s) and transcripts, must accompany the application.

If you are applying for FEE-HELP, read the FEE-HELP booklet and complete and sign the FEE-HELP Application Form and lodge these with your application.

The RTI Coursework Coordinator will then consider your Application for enrolment.

For further information:

Contact:

Associate Registrar

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21 Highbury Grove, Kew,
Victoria 3101

Tel: (03) 9853 3177

Fax: (03) 9853 6695

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