



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

Coursework

www.mcd.edu.au

Associate Diploma, Diploma and Advanced Diploma in Ministry



MCD for theological studies

Theological studies provide our students enriching and enhancing education.



Course Information

The MCD Associate Diploma in Ministry (AssDipMin) is a one year course (or equivalent part time study) that introduces students to the basics of the Scriptures and the Christian faith, while giving opportunity for some elective study. Units can be taken from 'standard' 15-point ones, 3 hours per week for a semester, with shorter units available in focused areas, allowing students to create their course from a variety of possibilities.

The MCD Diploma in Ministry (DipMin) adds a second year, providing a sound foundation in the key theological disciplines, with opportunity to relate these to ministry practice. The Advanced Diploma in Ministry (AdvDipMin) extends the Diploma to a three year course, requiring further study in Scripture and Christian Thought, while including more of ministry units.

Candidates for Christian ministries can use these courses to meet some of the academic prerequisites for ordination; the course is flexible, with a wide range of options.

The Associate Diploma must be completed in three years, the Diploma in six years and the Advanced Diploma in nine years.

Diploma students enrol in a MCD Recognised Teaching Institutions online studies are also available. 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

The Diplomas are 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.

Additionally, each candidate is expected to have been involved in the practice of ministry (ordained or otherwise authorised) for at least two years.

The degree can be undertaken in any location in Australia or New Zealand. For remote candidates, trips to Melbourne are required to fulfil Collegium Group and Residential School requirements.

Course Outcome

A Diploma graduate will have studied the foundations of Christian faith and ministry, developed their capacity for analytical thinking, come to engage with ideas, and begun to integrate belief and life. Some graduates will have used their study as part of preparation for Christian ministry.

A DipMin graduate with a credit average may articulate into the Bachelor of Theology, receiving advanced standing of 120 points at Level 1. A graduate with the Advanced Diploma with a credit average credit will receive advanced standing of 180 points at Level 1.

International applicants must score 6.5 across all bands with no band with no band under 6.0.

Details of the MCD AssocDipMin, DipMin, AdvDipMin

Each standard Diploma 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 classes

Units focused on ministry practice will involve supervised field placements, in which preparation, participation and evaluation of practical work play a key part with class work, observation, and reading.

Assessment methods in Diploma courses range from traditional academic essays, assignments and examination to writing a journal, group projects or competency assessment. The methods used for each unit must be approved by the MCD Coursework Studies Committee, to ensure equity in standards.

Associate Diploma students must complete at least 30 points in each of Biblical Studies and Christian Thought and History; Diploma students must complete at least one unit in each of Old Testament, New Testament, Church History and Systematic Theology; and Advanced Diploma students must complete at least two units in each of these areas.

To be awarded the AssDipMin, a total of 120 credit points (8 standard units) must be completed.

To be awarded the DipMin, a total of 240 credit points (16 standard units) must be completed.

To be awarded the AdvDipMin, a total of 360 credit points (24 standard units) must be completed.

A student who completes the Associate Diploma and then continues to the Diploma must resign their AssDip; similarly, a DipMin graduate who continues to the AdvDipMin must surrender their DipMin.

BTheol/DipMin, BTheol/AdvDipMin

The MCD provides for two combined awards: the BTheol / DipMin (480 points, four years) and BTheol / AdvDipMin (540 points, 4.5 years) courses. Registering officially for such a course is particularly relevant to students in receipt of Austudy (see further below).

A Masters / Diploma combination award is not possible, however a Master of Divinity student studying towards an MCD Diploma course receives the same credit towards their Diploma study as a BTheol student, viz. 120 points for the DipMin or 180 points for the AdvDipMin.

Prior Learning Recognised

Students who have completed units in other awards which are directly equivalent to particular Diploma units, may seek pre-requisite recognition or credit.

Students with an incomplete theological qualification may likewise seek to have their prior learning recognized. Such credit is granted for

studies in the ten years prior to a student commencing their Diploma course, and that students must still meet the completed compulsory unit requirements.

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); 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 AssocDipMin code is 060935M, the DipMin code is 047446D and the AdvDipMin code is 047445E.]

Governance and Accreditation

The MCD Coursework Studies Committee manages Diploma courses; 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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