



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

Research

www.mcd.edu.au

Master of Arts



MCD postgraduate studies in theology

Postgraduate studies in theology provide enriching and enhancing education for students at advanced academic levels.



Course Information

The Master of Arts (MA) in research mode can be completed by major thesis (40,000 words), or by minor thesis (25,000 words) plus postgraduate coursework.

Eligibility for the MA

The MA is open to candidates with a degree from an Australian University who have also completed a foundational theological qualification, normally the Graduate Diploma of Theology

(GradDipTheol) from the Melbourne College of Divinity. Applicants must have completed a 12,000-word research essay at Distinction standard in GradDipTheol. Students holding an honours degree in theology may also apply to enter the Master of Arts degree.

International applicants must score 7.0 across all bands with no band under 6.5 of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or have completed tertiary study of at least five years duration with English as the language of instruction within the previous two years, to be eligible for candidature in MCD research awards.

Details of the MCD MA

The MCD Master of Arts may be completed :

- by 30 points of postgraduate coursework and a minor research thesis of 25,000 words; or
- by a major research thesis of 40,000 words.

Both research modes may upgrade or articulate to an MCD PhD program.

The minimum length of candidature is 12 months full time and the maximum length of candidature is 18 months full time or 3 years part time.

The MCD Academic Board must be satisfied that a suitable supervisor and adequate library resources are available. *Candidates are responsible for approaching and nominating an appropriate supervisor in the area of study. However, final approval of supervisors rests with the MCD Academic Board.*

Once an application has been approved, a research candidate prepares an initial proposal in conjunction with the supervisor, which is submitted to an Approval Panel. When approval has been given, the candidate submits an Application for Ethical Clearance to the MCD Human Research Ethics Committee.

No MCD research candidate or MCD faculty member may

commence research involving human subjects (including recruiting in any form) or records not available in the public domain, before receiving permission in writing from HREC.

Once clearance has been given by the MCD HREC, the candidate is advanced to research status, and proceeds with the approved research.

Examination

Theses are initially examined by two examiners, who report to the Chair of Examiners: not uncommonly revisions are asked for from their reports. When the Chair of Examiners reports that the thesis is acceptable, award of the degree can be recommended by the Academic Board to the MCD Council.

Fees

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

Students enrolled in a MA are eligible to apply for an *Australian Postgraduate Award*, which pays for tuition fees, plus a living allowance. These are awarded on a competitive basis: the number available varies annually, as allocated to the MCD by Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

If Commonwealth Research Training Scheme funding

permits, the MCD seeks to award an RTS place to each doctoral candidate from the time of their Confirmation.

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, and your loan is repaid through the tax system once their taxation income reaches about \$40,000.

The MCD recommends that all eligible MA students not holding an APA or RTS place consider FEE-HELP and students who make early voluntary repayments to their FEE-HELP loan receive a 10% discount from the Commonwealth.

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



Governance and Accreditation

The MCD Research Committee manages all MCD Higher Degrees by Research, and each RTI Research Coordinator is a member. The Committee reports to the MCD Academic Board, which is responsible to the MCD Council for all matters of academic policy and procedure.

All supervisors are approved by the MCD Academic Board, while all examiners are appointed by the Committee. Examiners' reports are considered by the appropriate Chair of Examiners who is appointed by the MCD Council, on the recommendation of the Board. This ensures that each supervisor and examiner is qualified and appropriately experienced for their role in relation to MCD research degrees.

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. These audits assure students of the quality of their course of study and that it is recognised across the academic world.

Application Process

- Obtain a Postgraduate Research Application Form from the MCD website
- Discuss your proposed course of studies with the Research Co-ordinator at the RTI of your choice. Discuss your proposed research project with your potential supervisor.
- Submit the completed Application form to the MCD office, having ticked

the MA box and had the form signed by the Research Coordinator and Supervisor.

- Unless articulating immediately from the GradDipTheol, certified photocopies of previous relevant academic qualification(s) and transcripts must accompany the application.

The MCD Director of Research will present the application to the Admissions Committee for consideration. Approved candidates will then be offered a place in the program.

For further information:

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