



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

---

## Research

---

[www.mcd.edu.au](http://www.mcd.edu.au)

# Master of Theology



## **MCD postgraduate studies in theology**

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



## Course Information

MTheol provides students with a deeper acquaintance with and knowledge of one's particular Christian tradition and its faith, leading to a richer encounter with life, beauty and truth, to a more profound sense of God and of the divine purposes for humankind and creation.

Professionally, this means the further development of knowledge and experience in a theological discipline, and the development of critical scholarly skills within that discipline for the purposes of teaching, ministry, research and writing, and of inter-disciplinary dialogue.

The degree of Master of Theology (MTheol) is a higher degree by research which

aims to equip honours graduates in Theology with advanced research skills, and enable them to pursue focused study through research.

## Eligibility for the MTheol

Applicants must hold one of the following degrees in order to be eligible for entry:

- Bachelor of Theology or Master of Divinity with a minimum of Second Class Honours (Upper Division) from the Melbourne College of Divinity, or other institution deemed equivalent by the Academic Board
- Master of Theological Studies or Graduate Diploma in Theology

(Specialised) from the Melbourne College of Divinity, or holding two undergraduate degrees (one in theology), in each case including a 12,000-word postgraduate essay of Distinction standard

- Master of Ministry from the Melbourne College of Divinity
  - have refereed publications deemed equivalent in standing to one of the above degrees;
- Intending MTheol candidates should discuss their proposed research with their RTI Research Coordinator, who must sign the application.

*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 MTheol

The Master of Theology may be taken in two modes:

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

Both research modes may articulate to the DTheol program of the Melbourne College of Divinity.

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

The MCD Academic Board needs to be assured that 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 Board.*

An MTheol candidate may request an upgrade to doctoral candidature after the completion of two semesters' full-time work (or equivalent in part-time study): for details, see Regulation 9 (DTheol

## Examination

Theses are initially examined by two examiners, who report to the appropriate Chair of Examiners. Not uncommonly, revisions of the thesis are required of candidates. When the Chair of Examiners reports that the thesis is acceptable, award of the Master of Theology degree can be recommended by the Academic Board to the MCD Council.

## Fees

Refer to MCD website, [www.mcd.edu.au](http://www.mcd.edu.au)

Students enrolled in a Master of Theology 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 MTheol 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 MCD website
- Discuss your proposed course of studies with the Research Co-ordinator at the RTI of your choice. These are listed in this brochure. Discuss your proposed research project with your potential supervisor.
- Submit the completed Application form to the MCD office, having ticked the relevant MTheol box and had the form signed by the Research Coordinator and supervisor.
- Unless articulating immediately from an MCD degree, certified photocopies of previous relevant academic qualification(s) and transcripts must accompany the application.

Once their application has been approved, MTheol candidates prepare an initial research 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.

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:

Contact:  
**Director of Research**  
Melbourne College of Divinity  
21 Highbury Grove, Kew,  
Victoria 3101  
Tel: (03) 9853 3177  
Fax: (03) 9853 6695  
Email  
[directorofresearch@mcd.edu.au](mailto:directorofresearch@mcd.edu.au)  
Website [www.mcd.edu.au](http://www.mcd.edu.au)

