



DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

AWARD SUMMARY

CRICOS: 063714M

Nomenclature: DMin

AQF Level 10 Doctor of Ministry

Entry Requirements

A person may apply for admission to the Doctor of Ministry if he or she has obtained or is qualified to obtain a Graduate Diploma including an 18 credit point research unit with a GPA of 2.8+; OR
A four-year Bachelor degree, or the equivalent, in the broad field of the proposed an appropriate discipline, to at least a High Credit standard; AND
Has at least four years' full-time or equivalent part-time certified experience in ministry the broad field of the proposed doctoral research. For details see Regulation 4.1 below.

In all cases, prior studies should include sufficient preparation to undertake the proposed research in an area of ministry.

In exceptional cases, candidates may be admitted on the grounds of academic and/or professional attainments, including publications, in the theologically related area in which they wish to pursue research for the degree. Notwithstanding the provisions above, the University College may require suitability for candidature to be demonstrated by such examination or other work as determined by the University College. The University College will decline to accept an applicant if it cannot offer supervision in the proposed field of research.

Duration:

3-4 years full-time or 6-8 years (maximum) part-time. Candidacy period is a minimum of 2 years full-time or 4 years part-time.

Attendance Type:

Full-time, part-time.

Delivery Mode: Online, face-to-face, or multi-modal

Structure

There are two pathways to the award:

1. Doctor of Ministry by New Thesis: coursework (20%) and research (80%).
 - 1.1 Coursework Component: Two core 18 credit points units each, to be completed with at least a High Credit average before proceeding to the research component.
 - 1.2 Research Component: Thesis of 60,000 words maximum including footnotes/endnotes but excluding bibliography and appendices, under the direction of a supervisor; and compulsory participation in the Research Degree Workshop and the Research Seminars.
2. Doctor of Ministry by Coursework Thesis: coursework (60%) and research (40%) in which coursework assessments contribute to the development of the final research project.
 - 2.1 Coursework Component: Three core 18 credit points units and three elective 18 credit points units.
 - 2.2 Research Component: Thesis of 50,000 to 60,000 words maximum, including footnotes/endnotes but excluding bibliography and appendices, under the direction of a supervisor; Assessments completed during coursework stages should contribute to the completed thesis; and compulsory participation in the Research Degree Workshop and Research Seminars.

Some thesis topics may require competence in ancient and/or modern foreign languages or other relevant areas of knowledge such as statistics.

English Proficiency

Applicants whose entry qualifications were obtained in an institution where English is not the language of instruction normally require a minimum IELTS (or equivalent) score of 7.0 with a minimum of 7.0 in all bands of the test.

Enrolment

Contact the Research Director at scd@scd.edu.au Office of the Dean, Graduate Research School.

Graduate Profile and Rationale

The Doctor of Ministry meets the specifications for a Doctoral Degree (Professional) set by the Australian Qualifications Framework. It provides men and women with the opportunity to pursue advanced study in Christian Life and Ministry by research at the highest academic level in the context of professional practice, with supporting specialist coursework. It is designed for those who seek to expand their own understanding and develop new knowledge in professional ministry contexts, or for the personal transformation of the individual in academic and vocational areas.

The Doctor of Ministry is undertaken either by (i) a combination of specialist coursework (20%) and research and thesis (80%) OR (ii) a combination of specialist coursework (60%) and research and thesis (40%) in which the coursework contributes to the creation of the thesis.

In both cases, The specialist coursework components enhance the candidate's capacity for academic research in the context of professional practice and (i) prepares the candidate to develop a specific thesis proposal, and in the case of (ii) contribute to the content of the thesis through the coursework study itself. a specific Thesis Proposal. The research and thesis component provides the opportunity for the candidate to embark on a significant, extended piece of research, which investigates an area of Christian Life and Ministry in a systematic, creative and comprehensive manner. The research will contribute to knowledge in an original way.

Together, the specialist coursework and the research and thesis equip the person for advanced leadership in ministry and would also support an appropriate academic or professional career involving research.

Course Outcomes

Graduates will have systematic and critical understanding of a complex field of learning in Christian Life and Ministry and specialized research skills for the advancement of learning in the field.

Knowledge

Graduates will have:

- systematic and critical understanding of the chosen area of Christian Life and Ministry;
- mastery of a substantial body of knowledge at the frontier of knowledge in the field, including knowledge that constitutes an original contribution;
- expert understanding of theories pertaining to the field;
- substantial knowledge of research principles and methods applicable to the field.

Skills

Graduates will have expert and specialized cognitive, creative, and technical skills in the field of research, so that they are able independently and authoritatively to:

- critically evaluate existing knowledge and ideas pertaining to the field of research;
- systematically investigate and integrate other information potentially relevant to that field including potentially relevant theories;
- demonstrate and apply theoretical understanding of the field;
- develop or adapt research methodologies to extend existing understanding of the field;

- generate original knowledge in the field;
- communicate results of research cogently and appropriately to specialist and non-specialist audiences, using the English language competently and effectively for the purpose;

Applications of Knowledge and Skills

Graduates, as a practitioner or learner in relation to the inter-dependent building up of the church and good of the wider community, will have the ongoing capacity to:

- plan and execute a coherent, significant and original piece of research with intellectual independence and authority;
- generate significant and original knowledge in the field;
- contribute expertise to academic discourses in the field;
- take initiatives, think creatively and make innovations in new situations and/or undertake further learning;
- assume full responsibility and accountability for personal outputs;
- relate the skills gained to the professional practice of ministry;
- engage in the formation of ministers;
- contribute to the professional development of ministry leaders;
- assist ministers, including ministry leaders, to relate their theological awareness to the practical needs of people in the contemporary world.

Graduate Attributes

Doctor of Ministry Graduates will:

- Be able to identify, analyse and articulate problems and issues in discourses current in their academic, professional and social communities;
- Recognize the level of their own understanding;
- Demonstrate creativity and originality of thought in solving problems and dealing with complex and abstract conceptual matters, and seek resolutions in light of the common good;
- Be able to access information efficiently using the means most appropriate to purpose and context;
- Conduct themselves with academic integrity and rigour and exercise critical thinking in forming judgments;
- Work autonomously and with an open mind;
- Understand the distinction between information and argument and be adept in marshalling information as evidence in argument;
- Adopt and practise responsible values and attitudes as members of academic, professional and social communities, based in part on their experience as SCD research candidates;
- Be able to communicate their thinking coherently and effectively, with appropriate English proficiency, in public debate and printed word;
- Have confidence to engage in public discussions of faith and ethics;
- Appreciate and act on opportunities for lifelong learning and encourage others to recognize learning opportunities for themselves;
- Be willing to assume high-level leadership in their academic, professional and social communities as needed.

2 Course Structure

The Doctor of Ministry requires the completion of:

- 2.1 Candidates for the Doctor of Ministry by New Thesis are admitted directly

into the coursework component. When this is completed with at least a High Credit average, candidature continues into the research and thesis component on a provisional basis until approval of the formal Thesis Proposal, which should be submitted no later than one semester from completion of coursework for a full-time candidate or two semesters for a part-time candidate for approval by the Research Committee in order to continue their candidature. This proposal may not be substantially changed after acceptance without application to the Research Committee.

2.2 Candidates for the Doctor of Ministry by Coursework Thesis are provisionally admitted into the award and must successfully pass the first two units (36cpts) before presenting their developing research proposal to the SCD Research Committee for approval. Following the successful completion of the next two units (36cpts) candidates are required to submit to the SCD Research Committee their mature research proposal and literature review. The SCD Research Committee will then confirm candidature in the program. This proposal may not be substantially changed after final acceptance without application to the Research Committee.

2.3 No candidate for the Doctor of Ministry may be concurrently enrolled in any other undergraduate or postgraduate course within the University College or any other tertiary institution, except in the case that, on the recommendation of the supervisor, a candidate may be directed to undertake one or more individual units of study on a non-award basis in order to attain a competence emerging as appropriate to the most effective pursuance of the Doctor of Ministry research.

2.4 All course units will be taken from the University College Schedule of units of study coded within the 9 series and above.

Exit Points

A candidate enrolled in the MPhil may apply for transfer to Doctor of Ministry candidature, following discussion with the Research Director, using the Application to Transfer to a Different Research Degree, following satisfactory completion of 20,000 words of the thesis under the direction of the approved principal supervisor and associate supervisor; a record of having met MPhil regulations; and demonstration that the research is of a sufficient scope and depth to sustain a doctoral thesis. The application should be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from the principal supervisor. Applications are determined by the Research Committee.

In the event that an application is refused and the student wishes to appeal the decision, the appeal will be referred to the Dean. In the event that the student remains unsatisfied with the outcome, the student may have recourse to formal grievance procedures available through the Dean, as set out in the Student Grievance Policy and Procedures. Period of candidature provisions for the Doctor of Ministry degree apply from the time of transfer. Allowance for time already spent in MPhil candidature will be determined by the Research Committee in relation to the stage already reached in the research, but the remaining period of doctoral candidature will be at least two semesters for full-time candidates and at least four semesters for part-time candidates.

Academic regulations for the Doctor of Ministry

1 Admission to Candidature

1.1 An applicant for admission to candidature into the Doctor of Ministry shall have attained:

- 1.1.1 a Bachelor (Hons) degree or equivalent with results at Class II from the University College or an equivalent institution; OR
- 1.1.2 a Graduate Diploma with a GPA of 2.8+ and one 18 credit points research unit at High Credit level from the Australian University College of Divinity or an equivalent institution; OR
- 1.1.3 qualifications deemed by the University College to be equivalent to or higher than those above; AND
- 1.1.4 at least four years' full-time or equivalent part-time certified experience in ministry within the proposed field of doctoral research.

1.2 In all cases, prior studies should include sufficient preparation to undertake the proposed coursework and research related to Christian Life and Ministry.

1.3 In exceptional cases, candidates may be admitted on the grounds of academic and/or professional attainments, including publications, in the area of Christian Life and Ministry to which their coursework will be aligned and in which they wish to pursue the research.

1.4 Notwithstanding the provisions above, the University College may require suitability for candidature to be demonstrated by such examination or other work as determined by the University College.

1.5 The University College will decline to accept an applicant if it cannot offer supervision in the proposed field of research.

1.6 Applicants must submit together with their application:

- 1.6.1 *A Summary of Research Intentions*, sufficient for the Research Committee to determine the general suitability of the topic and availability of appropriate resources and supervision; AND
- 1.6.2 *A Certification of Experience in Ministry*.

1.7 Applicants may be required to show evidence of competence in ancient and/or modern languages, in order to access primary sources and/or significant secondary works relevant to their thesis topic, and competence in any other relevant area of knowledge, such as statistics. Any language or other requirements will be determined after advice from the Research Committee at the time of application and subsequently in consultation with the proposed supervisor.

1.8 A candidate for the Doctor of Ministry shall be designated as full-time or part-time.

1.9 Applicants whose entry qualifications were obtained in an institution where English is not the language of instruction will be required to demonstrate competency in English by an IELTS result of 7.0 in all bands of the test and may be required to attend such English language courses as prescribed by the University College.

1.10 Candidates for the Doctor of Ministry are registered with the University College through the Office of the Dean.

1.11 A candidate for the degree will be designated as full-time or part-time based on time to be given to the coursework and research.

Typically, full-time candidature requires an average of thirty hours per week and part-time candidature requires an average of fifteen hours per week. These hours should preferably be achieved through regular weekly commitment, but they may be achieved through varying periods of more and less intensive work. Clear progress is expected in each semester of enrolment.

2 Course Structure

2.1 Doctor of Ministry by New Thesis:

2.1.1 All Doctor of Ministry candidates proceed to the award by coursework (20%) and research and thesis (80%).

2.1.2 The coursework component consists of two 18 credit point units, which must be completed with at least a High Credit average. The two units are designed to familiarize students with:

- contemporary theology of ministry at specialist level;
- contemporary scholarship in key areas of ministry at specialist level;
- applied research methodologies;
- and to provide students with the tools to develop their Summary of Research Intentions into a formal Thesis Proposal.

The two units are:

R10001 Pastoral and Practical Theology: Hermeneutics and Methodological Paradigms

R10002 Research Settings in Pastoral and Practical Theology

All candidates begin the coursework at the beginning of the academic year. Full-time candidates do both units in the first semester of enrolment; part-time candidates do R10001 in the first semester and R10002 in the second semester.

2.1.3 If the required result is not achieved in the coursework, the candidate will be informed that he or she may not proceed to the research and thesis stage. If the coursework has been passed the candidate may be offered transfer to a postgraduate coursework program with credit for the two 18 credit point units or, if appropriate, the MPhil (without credit). Period of candidature provisions for the award apply from the time of transfer.

2.2 Doctor of Ministry by Coursework Thesis:

2.2.1 Doctor of Ministry Candidates proceed to the award by coursework (60%) and research and thesis (40%).

2.2.2 The coursework component consists of six 18 credit point units (144 credit points) selected from the list of approved Doctor of Ministry units in Schedule 1.

2.2.3 The research component consists of one compulsory unit: P10XXX Research Thesis Project (36 credit points) which must be taken after the successful completion of the six coursework units.

2.3 Eligible candidates who have achieved the required result continue their candidature with research approved by the Research Committee and submit a thesis embodying the results of the research. The thesis will form an original contribution to research in the area. The thesis is to be 60,000 words maximum,

including footnotes/endnotes but excluding bibliography and appendices.

2.4 A candidate may not submit as the main content of the thesis any material that has previously been submitted for a degree, unless that material has been significantly reworked in the context of the thesis being submitted.

2.4.1 For the Doctor of Ministry by New Thesis, not later than one semester after satisfactory completion of the coursework component for full-time candidates or two semesters for part-time candidates, the candidate will submit a formal Thesis Proposal for approval by the Research Committee. Following approval, the thesis topic may not be substantially varied except with the permission of the Research Committee.

2.4.2 For the Doctor of Ministry by Coursework Thesis, students have two milestone checks.

Milestone 1: After successful completion of the first two units, students must submit a developing Thesis Proposal for consideration by the University College Research Committee. Following endorsement the student may continue to the next two units of coursework.

Milestone 2: After successful completion of a total of four units, students must submit a mature Thesis Proposal that includes a Literature review to the University College Research Committee for final approval. Following approval, the thesis topic may not be substantially varied except with the permission of the Research Committee.

2.5 The Research Committee appoints a principal supervisor and an associate supervisor to oversee the development of the thesis and may determine any special arrangements for supervision. Normally, the principal supervisor will be a faculty member of the University College. In some cases the University College may appoint an external supervisor based in another reputable theological college or university. The associate supervisor may likewise be internal or external to the University College. In either case the principal supervisor must be research active according to the Research Active in the University College Policy. The associate supervisor may be either an academic, normally identified as research active according to the Research Active in the University College R Policy, or a recognized expert professional in a field of ministry.

2.6 As part of the program for the award of the Doctor of Ministry, upon entering the research and thesis component of the program (or after Milestone 2 for students in the Doctor of Ministry by Coursework Thesis pathway) the candidate is required to participate in the Research Seminars listed for each year of their candidature, and to present a paper at least once a year for full-time candidates and at least once every second year for part-time candidates. Ongoing enrolment in the award is subject to completing these requirements.

2.7 Candidates in their first year of enrolment must attend a Research Degree Workshop in addition to the Research Seminars, provided that they have not previously attended such a seminar with the University College as part of a previous award. Regardless of such previous attendance, they may be required to attend those parts of the Workshop considered relevant to their current research.

2.8 All thesis proposals involving the gathering of personal information from

people by surveys, interviews or case studies will be dealt with according to the policies and procedures of the Research Ethics Committee, which makes a recommendation to the Academic Board in consultation with the Research Committee. Ethics clearance is normally sought at the same time as submission of the formal Thesis Proposal. If the need to seek ethics clearance arises subsequently, as the need to gather personal information arises belatedly, the application for ethical clearance should be lodged promptly. Under no circumstances may those elements of the thesis relying on the gathering of personal information proceed before ethical clearance is granted.

2.9 All candidates are to nominate a 'home library' from amongst the libraries of the Member Institutions of the University College. The library will regularly receive a research grant to supplement its collection in the topic area of the candidate.

3 Period of Candidature

3.1 The period of candidature for the degree is normally three to four years full-time or six to eight years part-time.

3.1.1 For the Doctor of Ministry by New Thesis, the coursework units will be completed with at least a High Credit average before the thesis may be undertaken. The two units will both be taken in the first semester of enrolment in the case of full-time candidature or successively in the first and second semester of enrolment in the case of part-time candidature.

3.1.2 If the required result is not achieved in the coursework, the candidate will be informed that he or she may not proceed to the research and thesis stage. If the coursework has been passed the candidate may be offered transfer to a postgraduate coursework program with credit for the two 18 credit point units or, if appropriate, the Master of Philosophy (without credit).

3.1.3 For the Doctor of Ministry by Coursework Thesis, the coursework units must be successfully completed and the student pass both Milestone markers prior to taking the unit P10XXX Research Thesis Project. Candidates can exit early from the award after:

- the completion of two coursework units with a Graduate Certificate of Arts
- the completion of four coursework units with a Graduate Diploma of Arts
- the completion of six coursework units with a Master of Arts.

3.2 In certain circumstances the Research Committee may grant limited extensions of candidature upon application. The normal upper limits for extension are one semester for full-time candidates and two semesters for part-time candidates.

3.3 For serious reasons the Research Committee may grant a candidate leave of absence from the program. This leave will not normally exceed one semester. The period of leave is not counted in the period of candidature.

3.4 If the candidate discontinues or does not re-enrol, the candidate is required

to apply for re-admission to the Doctor of Ministry program. The Research Committee will process the application and may specify conditions for enrolment.

3.5 A candidate resuming after an absence will be enrolled for not less than one semester before being permitted to submit a thesis.

4 Monitoring of Candidature

4.1 Once a semester, and at any other time considered appropriate, the principal supervisor of the thesis will report to the Research Committee on the progress of the candidate using the Research Degree Progress Report form.

5 Termination of Candidature

5.1 If the Research Degree Progress Report describes the candidate's progress as unsatisfactory and there is no advance within a semester, the Research Committee will ask the candidate to show cause why candidature should not be terminated. Unsatisfactory progress occurs when there is no evidence that production of the thesis has been advanced by identifiable further research, constructive meetings of the candidate with the supervisor, or written drafts, and where there are insufficient grounds for special consideration.

5.2 Any show-cause submission by the candidate will be considered by the Research Committee and the Committee's recommendation will be forwarded to the Academic Board. The Committee may recommend the termination of candidature, continuation of candidature, or imposition of conditions on continuation of candidature.

5.3 If the candidate does not show cause, the Research Committee will recommend termination of candidature to the Academic Board.

5.4 Persons whose candidature has been terminated may have recourse to the appeals procedures set out in the Handbook under General Academic Regulations. The decision of the Appeals Committee is final.

6 Examination of Thesis

6.1 The candidate will submit to the Office of the Dean of an electronic PDF version of the thesis embodying the results of the candidate's research. One copy in electronic form should be submitted to the Research Director, which will be placed in the University College Institutional Repository. The length of the thesis will conform to the prescribed requirements. The thesis must be written and presented in accordance with the current guidelines for the preparation of a thesis.

6.2 The thesis must be the candidate's own work, with no hint of plagiarism, must be written in English, and must reach a satisfactory standard of literary presentation.

6.3 Before a candidate may submit a thesis, the principal supervisor must sign a Certification of Thesis, to be submitted with the thesis, stating that the thesis conforms to the requirements of the regulations. If the supervisor does not so certify, the Research Committee will determine whether the thesis is to be

submitted after having considered written submissions from the principal supervisor, the associate supervisor and the candidate.

6.4 The Research Committee appoints three expert examiners, all external to the University College, at least two of international standing, and may appoint additional examiners. Examiners will be expected to report in writing two months from the receipt of the thesis. An examiner will normally be replaced if the report is not received within three months.

6.5 The examiners will report in writing and make a recommendation that the thesis be placed in one of five categories:

- 6.5.1 that the award be granted
- 6.5.2 that minor amendments be made to the thesis to the satisfaction of the Research Committee
- 6.5.3 that major amendments be made to the thesis to the satisfaction of the Research Committee
- 6.5.4 that a significantly revised thesis be re-submitted for examination
- 6.5.5 that the award not be granted.

6.6 In the event of a disagreement arising amongst examiners, the Research Committee may appoint a fourth examiner or may make a recommendation to the Academic Board of the University College.

6.7 The Research Committee may recommend that the candidate undergo an oral or written examination requested by the examiners or initiated by the Research Committee.

6.8 In the case of 6.5 (b), (c) or (d), the Research Committee will determine the time to be allowed for completion or re-submission. In both cases, the candidate will re-enrol for the specified period.

6.9 In the event of a re-submission, the Research Committee may appoint the same examiners or may appoint one or more different examiners. The same examination process will apply except that examiners will be asked to make a recommendation in one of three categories:

- 6.9.1 that the award be granted
- 6.9.2 that minor amendments be made to the thesis to the satisfaction of the Research Committee
- 6.9.3 that the award not be granted.

7 Examiners' Reports

7.1 Candidates will be given a copy of the examiners' reports at the completion of the examination process. Examiners' names will be included unless a written request to the contrary has been received by the Office of the Dean.

8 Submission of the Completed Thesis

8.1 When any corrections as determined by the Research Committee in light of the examiners' reports have been completed, an electronic PDF version of the thesis is to be submitted to the Office of the Dean.

8.2 The thesis will be available for consultation and electronic distribution forthwith. In exceptional cases the Research Committee, on application of the candidate, may determine that the thesis will not be available until after the expiry of a period, normally no longer than a year. The candidate holds copyright in the thesis and it is expected that any use made of it will be appropriately acknowledged by the user.

9 Saving Clause

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the Academic Board of the University College may, in any case in which it may deem it appropriate to do so, vary, dispense with, or suspend any requirement or prescription by these regulations, and report forthwith to the Council of the University College.

SCHEDULE ACOM Program Units

First Year Program		
DMin Orientation	No formalised assessments	Tri 1 – Not for Credit
P10XXX Theological Foundations for the Practice of Ministry (Ways of Knowing Y1) (ACOM Core)	Major Assessment completes Ministry Context Analysis Proposal (MCAP) (~5-6k words) (Seen as foundation for Thesis opening chapter)	Year Long (18cp)
S10XXX Christian Spiritual Formation (Ways of Leading Y1) (ACOM Core)	Major Assessment Contributes to Development of Thesis context	Year Long (18cp)
<i>Student Milestones: Initial Research Proposal (MCAP) & SCD Presentation (x1) & Candidature Milestone 1</i>		

Second Year Program		
P10XXX Culture, Context and Community Project (Ways of Knowing Yr2) (ACOM Core) Part 1: Cultural Analysis of Students Project Context Part 2: Project Seminar in which Students report on project framework and anticipated results and impact	Major Assessment Task produces detailed Thesis proposal including: Summary of MCAP; Draft theological and theoretical framework for the given context; Literature review; and Methodology Proposal. Student will also address anticipated findings and reflect on potential impact their work may have upon their cultural context (Contributes to Thesis (~10k words)	Year Long (18cp)
P10XXX Missional Ecclesiology and Leading Change (Ways of Leading Yr2) (Elective)	Student develops a process for action reflection in a constrained context; Produces a missional ecclesiology that embraces a process of continual change/growth.	Year Long (18cp)
<i>Student Milestones: Final Research Proposal (Includes Literature Review) & SCD Presentation (x1); SCD Candidature Confirmed (Milestone 2); Ethics Approval (if Required)</i>		

Third Year Program		
P10XXX Christian Leadership Development (Ways of Knowing Y3) (Elective)	Assessment produces a personal leadership development plan	Year Long (18cp)
P10XXX Forming Communities of Faith (Ways of Leading Y3) (Elective)	Assessment requires practical application of formation processes in the student's context. Contributes to the application section of Student's Thesis project (~5-8k words)	Year Long (18cp)
<i>Student Milestones: Progress Report (x2) which focus on Data Analysis and Contributions to Theory and Application & SCD Presentation (x1)</i>		

Fourth Year Program		
P10XXX DMin Research Thesis Project	Completed Thesis	Year Long (36cp)
<i>Student Milestones: Submission of Completed Thesis (50k-60k words) & SCD Oral Examination</i>		

Version	Date and Governance	Changes
1.0	14/11/14 Academic Board	First approved
2.0	11/12/23 Academic Board	Addition of admission requirements; discipline requirements; pathways by New Thesis or Coursework Thesis; and coursework units.
3.0	6/5/2024 Academic Board	Removal of bound copies requirements for theses.
4.0	30/6/2025 Academic Board	Addition of minimum candidacy period.