

# DIPLOMA OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES

## AWARD SUMMARY

Abbreviation:	DipChSt
Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF):	Level 5 (comprised of units at AQF Level 7)
Entry Requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Completion of Year 12 (no ATAR required)</li><li>• Mature Age and Special Entry Admissions for those who have reached the age of 21; or</li><li>• articulation from other Sydney College of Divinity programs.</li></ul>
Admission:	Annual admission intake only. Applications should be received by mid-December of the year prior to admission. Please check the website for 'Important Dates'.
Duration:	1 year full-time or 2 years part-time.
Mode:	Full-time or part-time.
Structure:	8 units (72 credit points), taken at 7100-7200 level.
Enrolment Options:	<i>On-Campus Weekly Lectures</i> : full time and part time study available <i>Distance Education (Online)</i> : full time and part time study available
English Proficiency:	Applicants whose entry qualifications were obtained in an institution where English is not the language of instruction normally require a minimum International English Language Testing System (IELTS, or equivalent) score of 6.5 with no score less than 6.0 in all bands of the 'academic format' of the test.
Tuition Fees and Financial Support:	Tuition Fees are invoiced <u>each semester</u> as follows: \$950 for the first unit (9 credit points) in a given semester \$250 for each subsequent unit taken in a given semester (up to four course units, 36 credit points, per semester) Scholarships are available (see page 4) FEE-HELP is available (conditions apply)
Prescribed Units (2017)	<i>Semester 1</i> B7120A Introduction to the Old Testament H7110A History of the Early Church* compulsory L7100A Introduction to Christian Worship T7101A Introduction to Theology* compulsory  <i>Semester 2</i> B7130A Introduction to the New Testament E7100A Sources and Principles of Christian Ethics* compulsory [Special Intensive Classes by Visiting Professor, 28-31 August 2017] H7230A Byzantium: Empire of New Rome T7281A Early Church Fathers* compulsory

## **GRADUATE PROFILE AND RATIONALE**

The Diploma of Christian Studies is an undergraduate award based wholly on Bachelor of Theology units. It is designed to introduce students to Christian studies within higher education. Graduates will have acquired basic knowledge, skills, and values of Christian relevance to their professional, family, church, social, or personal lives and have deepened their awareness of the nature and scope of theology and their affinity with it as a field of study within higher education. Some graduates may have taken the opportunity to focus their elective studies in such a way as to complete a major. In this case, they will have acquired the skills, knowledge, and values outlined for the respective majors as set out for the Bachelor of Theology.

## **ENROLMENT**

1. Enrolment into a unit or units is preceded by an application for admission into the actual award. This application for admission should be made by contacting the Registrar directly via telephone or email during November and early December (for entry in mid-February for Semester 1). Late applications may still be considered in the last week of January but only after consultation with the Registrar and at the discretion of St Andrew's.
2. If the application for admission is approved, then enrolment takes place in conversation with the Registrar who is responsible for guiding the student's study pathway.

## **ARTICULATION TO OTHER AWARDS**

1. The Diploma of Christian Studies is both a stand-alone award and a nested award in the Associate Degree of Christian Thought and Practice and the Bachelor of Theology. As a result, it articulates directly into either of these awards. On completion of either of these further awards the student would surrender their Diploma of Christian Studies. The exception would be if there was no credit granted into the further awards for the units in the Diploma.
2. The Bachelor of Theology presently serves as the principal means of training men for ordination or active ministry within the Church and as such admission to this program is limited to male applicants aspiring to this end.

## **ADMISSION TO CANDIDATURE**

1. An applicant for admission to candidature for a Diploma of Christian Studies shall: (a) have completed Year 12 (no ATAR required), or its equivalent; or (b) have reached the age of 21 and so satisfy the requirements for Mature Age Entry; or (c) have adequate grounds for Special Entry.
2. A candidate for a Diploma of Christian Studies shall be designated as full-time or part-time. A student is designated as a full time if enrolled in three units (27 credit points) or more in a semester or else part time if enrolled in less than three units (27 credit points) per semester.
3. No candidate for the Diploma of Christian Studies may be concurrently enrolled in any other undergraduate or postgraduate course within the Sydney College of Divinity or any other tertiary institution, unless approval has been granted by the Academic Board of the Sydney College of Divinity.
4. Applicants whose entry qualifications were obtained in an institution where English is not the language of instruction normally will be required to demonstrate competency in English by an IELTS (or equivalent) result of 6.5 with no score of less than 6.0 in all bands of the 'academic format' of the test.
5. Application for enrolment in the Diploma of Christian Studies program is made through the Registrar of St Andrew's.

6. Units at 7100 level and 7200 level may be available to cross-institutional students, non-award students, and auditors after consultation with the Registrar.

### **COURSE STRUCTURE**

1. The Diploma of Christian Studies requires the completion of 72 credit points (eight bachelor level units, AQF Level 7).
2. Every program for the award shall include: (a) at least 9 credit points within Biblical Studies, and (b) at least 9 credit points within the discipline of Theology, and (c) 54 credit points of electives or units specifically prescribed by St Andrew's.
3. Units are described in the 'Timetable' page on the website.
4. Each unit has a 9 credit point value unless otherwise stated.
5. The website of the Sydney College of Divinity may contain further details about this award. Please consult the Registrar for more information.

### **PERIOD OF CANDIDATURE**

1. The period of candidature for the diploma shall normally be one year full time and two years part time, with a maximum period of up to three years if required.
2. In certain circumstances the Student Support and Administration Committee of the Sydney College of Divinity may grant extensions.

### **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

1. The Student Support and Administration Committee of the Sydney College of Divinity, at the recommendation of St Andrew's, may grant leave of absence from the Diploma of Christian Studies. The period of leave shall not be counted as part of the period of candidature for the diploma.
2. The period of leave shall normally be one semester after which a candidate may apply for a further period of one semester or else be required to complete their candidature.

### **ASSESSMENT**

1. The assessment of units shall be in the manner approved by the Academic Board of the Sydney College of Divinity in line with its established guidelines for assessment packages at bachelor level.
2. Students may be required by the Academic Board of the Sydney College of Divinity to present themselves for oral examination.
3. Academic and non-academic misconduct will be penalised severely in accordance with the regulations of the Sydney College of Divinity.

### **CREDIT FOR PREVIOUS STUDY**

1. A candidate may seek credit up to a maximum of 45 credit points in the Diploma of Christian Studies.
2. Credit will be granted for units that are from an equivalent award or institution and have outcomes, content, demand hours, and assessment equivalent to that of units in the Diploma of Christian Studies.

### **DELIVERY OF UNITS**

1. Units are offered primarily by weekly evening lectures on campus during each semester. Please consult the 'Timetable' page on the website.

2. Units are also offered via distance education (online) mode within the parameters of the two regular semesters. Online units normally include a compulsory on-campus residential component and all students studying via distance education must account for the need to travel to the Redfern campus on certain key dates throughout the year. Please consult the 'Distance Education' page on the website for more information, and well as the Academic Calendar.

## **TUITION FEES AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

St Andrew's is committed to admitting the most able and dedicated students to its courses, regardless of their financial means or background. Most students are eligible for financial support as outlined below.

Tuition Fees are invoiced each semester as follows:

\$950 for the first unit (9 credit points) in a given semester

\$250 for each subsequent unit taken in a given semester

(up to four course units, 36 credit points, per semester)

FEE-HELP is available (conditions apply). Visit [www.studyassist.gov.au](http://www.studyassist.gov.au).

*For a clergyman and/or their spouse*

Orthodox Christian clergymen serving within the jurisdictions of local hierarchs who belong to the Episcopal Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of Oceania may undertake the Diploma of Christian Studies and pay only \$475 for the first unit (9 credit points) in a given semester, followed by \$250 for each subsequent unit taken in a given semester. Such clergymen must provide a reference letter from their local hierarch if they are not under the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia. The wife of such a clergyman may also access this same scholarship.

*For current and prospective volunteer Scripture Teachers and Sunday School Teachers*

Current and prospective volunteer Scripture Teachers and Sunday School Teachers serving in parishes within the jurisdictions of local hierarchs who belong to the Episcopal Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of Oceania may undertake the Diploma of Christian Studies and pay only \$475 for the first unit (9 credit points) in a given semester, followed by \$250 for each subsequent unit taken in a given semester. Such persons must provide a reference letter from their parish priest which clearly describes their teaching role and lists the school(s) which they serve.