DIPLOMA OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES

AWARD SUMMARY

- **For students residing outside Australia and studying via distance education.**
- **For international students seeking to study full-time in Australia.**

Abbreviation:	DipChSt
CRICOS Course Code:	071257J
AQF Level:	Level 5 (comprised of units at AQF Level 7)
Entry Requirements:	• Completion of Year 12 (no ATAR required) • Mature Age and Special Entry Admissions for those who have reached the age of 21
Course Duration:	1 year full-time or 2 years part-time (max. of 4 years).
Course Structure:	8 units (72 credit points)
Study Modes:	*On-Campus Weekly Lectures in Sydney* Full time study only (compliance with student visa rules) For study in Australia, visit the Overseas Students page. *Distance Education (Live Webinars and/or Webinar Recordings)* 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.
2027 Tuition Fees and Financial Support:	$1,380.00 per unit (incl. AUCD capitation fee $395.00) See page 5 for details.
How to Apply	Please contact the Registrar for an application interview.

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.

ADMISSION AND ENROLMENT

Enrolment into a unit or units is preceded by an application for admission into a course of study. Please check the website for 'Important Dates' regarding application for admission and enrolment. Late applications may still be considered but only after consultation with the Registrar and at the discretion of St Andrew's. If the application for admission is approved, then enrolment takes place in conversation will 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 Bachelor of Theology. As a result, it articulates directly into this award. On completion of the Bachelor of Theology, the student would surrender their Diploma of Christian Studies. The exception would be if there was no credit granted into the Bachelor for the units in the Diploma.
2. The Bachelor of Theology is available to all suitably qualified applicants, male and female, whilst also serving as a means of preparing men for ordination within the Church.

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 Australian University College of Divinity or any other tertiary institution, unless approval has been granted by the Academic Board of the Australian University 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 series and 7200 series 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 (8 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 (i.e., T7101), and
   c) one sub-major (36 credit points) in the domain of Christian Thought (drawn from Biblical Studies, Theology, and Humanities in the Christian Tradition).
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 Australian University College of Divinity may contain further details about this award. Please consult the Registrar for more information.

Available Units of Study at St Andrew's: (see Timetable)

Choose 8 units, including T7101.

Check unit descriptions for any applicable prerequisites.

2026, Semester 1 (units repeated annually)

- T7101 Introduction to Theology (compulsory)
- B7110 Introduction to the Old Testament
- L7101 Introduction to Christian Worship
- H7110 History of the Early Church
- P7101 Introduction to Pastoral Theology and Ministry*

2026, Semester 2 (most units repeated annually)

- T7171 Early Church Fathers
- B7150 Introduction to the New Testament
- L7250 Liturgical Rites
- H7232 Early Byzantine History
- S7102 Introduction to Christian Spirituality†

EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

In conversation with the Academic Director and Registrar, students may wish to also consider participating in the following additional extra-curricular opportunities which aim to complement their theological studies, but which are not accredited for this course:

1. Modern Greek language studies (not available online);
2. Byzantine chanting lessons (not available online);
3. Pastoral field education (including Introductory Clinical Pastoral Education; not available online);
4. Seminars, workshops and conferences, public lectures, bible study, and designated 'College Events' as available.

Please note that not all extra-curricular opportunities are available at all times. Whilst unaccredited, most of these activities are offered to current students without additional fees.

* Part-time students must complete the unit T7101 Introduction to Theology prior.
† Not available via distance education. Students must attend weekly classes on campus in Redfern. Next offered in 2026 and 2028.

PERIOD OF CANDIDATURE

1. The period of candidature for the Diploma will normally be 1 year full-time and up to 4 years part-time.
2. In certain circumstances the Student Support and Administration Committee of the Australian University College of Divinity may grant extensions.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

1. The Student Support and Administration Committee of the Australian University 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.

CREDIT FOR PREVIOUS STUDY

1. A candidate may seek credit up to a maximum of 36 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 by weekly lectures on campus in Redfern during each semester. Please consult the Timetable page on the website.
2. Units are also offered via distance education (online) within the parameters of the two regular semesters.
3. Distance education is available either in real-time (through Zoom video conferencing) or asynchronously (by accessing video/audio recordings within 24hrs after the lecture).
4. Some distance education 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 unless otherwise stipulated. 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 have changed minimally since 2021.

Tuition Fees are invoiced each semester as follows:

$1,380 per unit (9 credit points)	Up to 4 units, 36 credit points, per semester.
$11,040 yearly indicative fee (72 credit points)	
$11,040 indicative total course cost (72 credit points)	

FEE-HELP is available (eligibility criteria apply). Visit www.studyassist.gov.au.

Scholarship assistance with regards to tuition fees is available to persons enrolled in a course through St Andrew's and who meet the following descriptions:

Scholarship Category	*Scholarship Coverage*
A. Full Time Student Scholarship The applicant be enrolled in 36 credit points during the semester and maintain a Grade Point Average of at least 2.0 (65%+) in each semester.	20%
B. Orthodox Christian Clergymen The applicant will be (i) a person whose application for admission has been approved by the College's Admissions Committee; (ii) an ordained clergyman; (iii) endorsed in writing by their local bishop or their bishop's designate on his behalf; (iv) enrolled for a minimum of 18 credit points during the semester; and (v) a student who maintains a Grade Point Average of at least 2.0 (65%+) in each semester.	20%

A student's scholarship eligibility is reviewed each semester or annually.
Scholarship provisions are subject to change from year to year.

Last Updated: 30 September 2026