

## DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

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The Doctor of Ministry (DMin) is a new course commencing in 2008. The DMin is a postgraduate professional degree for those involved in Christian Ministry. It is aimed at assisting Christian leaders in developing their ministry practice skills at an advanced level. Participants are required to engage with contemporary debates around ministry practice, engage in critical reflection on areas of ministry specialisation and carry out original research concerning practice in the profession, the results of which will be embodied in a thesis for submission to external examination.

### **Entry Requirements: Direct Admission**

Entry requirements for direct admission to the course are:

1. A Bachelor of Ministry degree with first or upper second class honours or equivalent OR the ACD Master of Ministry degree or equivalent; and
2. At least three years pastoral experience; and
3. Permission of the ACD Research Committee and the Course Coordinator.

However the ACD Board may, under certain circumstances and subject to specific conditions admit others who can show evidence of fitness for candidature.

A candidate who holds a Master of Ministry degree or equivalent may be granted advanced standing in the DMin .

### **Entry Requirements: Transfer from Master of Ministry**

Entry may also occur by transfer from the Master of Ministry course upon completion of either Level 1, or Level 2 or Level 3 of the Master of Ministry. Requirements for transfer are:

1. A current enrolment in the ACD Master of Ministry course; and
2. A grade average of Distinction in the ACD Master of Ministry study in topics totalling at least 18 units calculated on the last 18 units taken; and
3. At least three years pastoral experience; and
4. Permission of the ACD Research Committee and the Course Convenor.

### **Advanced Standing**

A candidate who holds an ACD Master of Ministry degree and who is granted entry to the Doctor of Ministry may be granted advanced standing. Candidates who are granted advanced standing will be required to complete the following DMin course components:

- 18 units of coursework including MINS9031 Advanced Research Methods and Ethics
- 42 units of Doctoral research project study and optional practicum.

A candidate who holds a Masters degree deemed equivalent to the ACD Master of Ministry degree may also be granted advanced standing. The required DMin course components will be determined on a case by case basis in order to achieve consistency across the programs of study of those graduating from the Doctoral course.

### **Transfer of Status from MMin to DMin**

A candidate for the ACD Master of Ministry, if accepted into the Doctor of Ministry, will be granted status for topics completed in the MMin provided each topic has been completed with a grade of Credit or better according to the following scheme

- Programme Seminars at Master's level transfer to Doctoral level
- Theology of Ministry Practice
- Research Methods Seminar
- Guided Reading and Coursework
- Ministry Practice Project I and II transfer to Ministry Practice Thesis I and II
- Ministry Practice Project III is not transferable.

### **Course Structure**

The Doctor of Ministry is a 108 unit three-year full-time or 6 years part-time course. It is comprised of 21 units of Programme Seminars, 45 units of Coursework and Guided Reading topics and 42 units of research by means of a Thesis and Practicum or Thesis alone.

Some topics for the Master of Ministry and the Doctor of Ministry are shared. Where topics appear in both courses a candidate for the Doctor of Ministry will be expected to perform consistently at a higher level than a candidate for the Master of Ministry.

A variety of study paths can be taken to complete the Doctor of Ministry. Sample course structures are given on p 23 for part-time and full-time study and for students with advanced standing.

## Course Components

1. *Coursework Topics*: The coursework topics allow participants to explore current scholarship in their area of interest and related areas of ministry practice. These are 3 or 6 unit topics which are normally assessed by 3,000 or 6,000 words of written work respectively.

Coursework topics may be drawn from a variety of sources. Some topics are Doctoral topics. Other topics may be selected in consultation with the course convenor from 3 or 6 unit topics offered in the ACD Master of Ministry course or from Advanced Level topics from the ACD Bachelor of Ministry course. DMin students will be expected to perform consistently at a graduate level in these topics and may be required to include additional reading.

2. *Guided Reading Topics*: With the guidance of a topic convenor the student is enabled to read and be assessed in selected areas related to the student's proposed area of research. These 3 unit topics normally require 3,000 words of written work.

3. *Programme Seminars*: There are 21 seminars at 1 unit per seminar which allow participants to discuss current issues in their ministry experience and to present progress reports on ministry projects. Participants will be required to submit a 1,000 word response paper for each seminar. Each participant will be expected to lead at least one segment (approx 1 hr in length) of a Programme Seminar at each of levels 2-4 and will be required to submit a paper (1,500-3,000 words) describing the key issues in their presentation in advance. Seminars will also be led by the course convenor and invited experts in areas of ministry practice.

4. *Ministry Practice Thesis and Practicum*: Candidates are expected to complete a ministry practice thesis of 42 units (42,000 words) or a ministry practice thesis of 36 units (36,000 words) together with a practicum of 6 units.

The thesis must embody a piece of original research that makes a substantial contribution to the theological and practical understanding of Ministry practice. The thesis will be examined in accordance with the ACD Policy *Research in Postgraduate Courses*.

The professional project practicum is an approved ministry experience in an agreed setting, under the guidance of a Supervisor. It may take place in the candidate's own ministry setting. It provides an opportunity for a student to identify a specific area in ministry practice and enhance their skills and knowledge in that area while in the process also providing real-world experience on which to base development of practical theology and the implementation of action-reflection models. Areas for the practicum include preaching, leadership, chaplaincy, interim ministry, new models of church, and Christian education. The practicum will be preceded by a Guided Reading Topic on the area of the practicum.

## Doctor of Ministry Sample Course Structures

Coursework topics will be selected with the approval of the Course Coordinator. Students who choose the optional practicum MINS9581 Professional Practicum are not required to complete MINS9007 Ministry Practice Thesis VII.

### A. Completion in 6 years, part-time

<b>Year 1</b>	MINS8501-8503 MINS9030 MINS8551 MINS8531-8533	Programme Seminars 1-3 Research Methods Seminar Theology of Ministry Practice Guided Reading A, B or approved coursework topics	3 units 3 units 6 units 6 units
<b>Year 2</b>	MINS8504-8509 MINS9031 MINS8533 MINS9001	Programme Seminars 4-9 Advanced Research Methods and Ethics Guided Reading C or approved coursework topics Ministry Practice Thesis I	6 units 3 units 3 units 6 units
<b>Year 3</b>	MINS8510-8515 MINS8534-8535 MINS9002	Programme Seminars 10-15 Guided Reading D, E or approved coursework topics Ministry Practice Thesis II	6 units 6 units 6 units
<b>Year 4</b>	MINS8516-8521 MINS8536, 9537 MINS9003	Programme Seminars 16-21 Guided Reading F, G or approved coursework topics Ministry Practice Thesis III	6 units 6 units 6 units
<b>Year 5</b>	MINS9538-8539 MINS9004-9005	Guided Reading H, I or approved coursework topics Ministry Practice Thesis IV and V	6 units 12units
<b>Year 6</b>	MINS9540-41	Guided Reading J, K or approved coursework topics	6 units

	MINS9006-9007	Ministry Practice Thesis VI and VII	12units
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An optional practicum could be included in Years 4, 5, or 6.

**B. Completion in 3 years, full-time**

<b>Year 1</b>	MINS8501-8506	Programme Seminars 1-6	6 units
	MINS9030	Research Methods Seminar	3 units
	MINS9031	Advanced Research Methods and Ethics	3 units
	MINS8551	Theology of Ministry Practice	6 units
	MINS8531-8532	Guided Reading A, B or approved coursework topics	6 units
	MINS9001-9002	Ministry Practice Thesis I and II	12 units
<b>Year 2</b>	MINS8507-8515	Programme Seminars 7-15	9 units
	MINS8533-8536, 9537	Guided Reading C, D, E, F, G or approved coursework topics	15 units
	MINS9003-9004	Ministry Practice Thesis III and IV	12 units
<b>Year 3</b>	MINS8516-8521	Programme Seminars 16-21	6 units
	MINS9538-9541	Guided Reading H, I, J, K or approved coursework topics	12 units
	MINS9005-9007	Ministry Practice Thesis V, VI and VII	18 units

An optional practicum could be included in Years 2 or 3.

**C. Advanced Standing from ACD MMin**

<b>Year 1</b>	MINS9031	Advanced Research Methods and Ethics	3 units
	MINS9537-9539	Guided Reading G, H, I or approved coursework topics	9 units
	MINS9001-9003	Ministry Practice Thesis I, II and II	18 units
<b>Year 2</b>	MINS9540-41	Guided Reading J, K or approved coursework topics	6 units
	MINS9004-9007	Ministry Practice Thesis IV, V, VI and VII	24 units

An optional practicum could be included in Year 2.

**Research Guidelines**

All research involving human participants must be approved prior to commencement by the ACD Human Research Ethics Committee in accordance with the ACD *Ethical Guidelines for Research*. The ACD *Guidelines for Research in Postgraduate Courses* set out research procedures including supervision, examinations and appeals. The Guidelines are available on the ACD website [www.acd.edu.au](http://www.acd.edu.au), in the Orientation Manual or from the ACD Executive Officer.

**Delivery Mode**

The Doctor of Ministry is available by internal mode with teaching taking place on the ACD Campus. In internal mode coursework topics and Programme Seminars are delivered for the most part in the classroom in the form of lectures, tutorials, workshops and seminars. In internal mode for the Ministry Practice Thesis and Guided Reading topics, the primary interaction between student and supervisor will take place in face-to-face meetings, supplemented by electronic communications (email, phone).

**Course Coordinator**

Rev Dr Andrew Dutney