



## MCD Postgraduate Learning Outcomes Higher Degrees by Research

The Melbourne College of Divinity (MCD) seeks to equip its graduates with academically excellent skills and a sound knowledge of divinity and its associated disciplines in their contemporary, historical, social and cultural contexts. Consistent with its vision, the MCD also seeks to equip its graduates with certain humane values. Chief among these are an advanced awareness of the values of respect for human dignity, equity, intellectual integrity, ecumenical sensitivity and religious freedom, and how these values influence theological research

### 1.MCD research masters awards (MA, MTheol, MEd (Res), MMin\*)

The purpose of the research masters degree is to qualify individuals who apply an advanced body of knowledge in a range of contexts for research and scholarship, and as a pathway for possible further study.

#### 1.A Alignment of Learning Outcomes with the Australian Qualifications Framework (2011)

A graduate holding an MCD research master's degree will have:

##### *Knowledge*

- A body of knowledge that includes the understanding of recent developments in a field of study within Divinity or one or more of its associated disciplines
- An advanced knowledge of research principles and methods applicable to the field in which the research has been carried out.

##### *Skills*

- Cognitive skills to demonstrate mastery of theoretical knowledge and to reflect critically on theory and its application
- Cognitive, technical and/or creative skills to investigate, analyse, and synthesise complex information, problems, concepts and theories, including
  - the management of significant amounts of information, effective use and differentiation of primary and secondary resources, and identification and application of appropriate research resources such as computer programs, libraries, the internet, archives, databases or interviews
- Cognitive, technical and/or creative skills to apply established theories to different bodies of knowledge or practice
- Cognitive, technical and/or creative skills to generate and evaluate complex ideas and concepts at an abstract level
- Communication and technical skills to present a coherent and sustained argument, and to disseminate research results to specialist and non-specialists audiences
- Communication and technical skills to design, implement, evaluate, analyse, theorise and disseminate research that makes a contribution to knowledge within Divinity or one or more of its associated disciplines.



## *Application*

A graduate of an MCD research masters degree will be able to demonstrate:

- The application of knowledge and skills with initiative and creativity in new situations and/or in further learning
- The application of knowledge and skills with a high level of personal autonomy and accountability
- The ability to plan and execute a substantial piece of research.

## **1.B Alignment of Learning Outcomes with the Melbourne College of Divinity's Guiding Values**

A graduate holding an MCD research master's degree will be able to:

- formulate a research project with due regard to explicit and implicit ethical considerations
- demonstrate the development of sufficient psychological strength to work with a high degree of independence on a research project, and engage strategies to cope with the stress accompanying such a project and its necessary deadlines
- balance independent initiative with the capacity to respond to constructive criticism, and to learn from others.

*\*The MCD ceased offering the MMin at the end of 2010.*

## **2.MCD doctoral awards (PhD, DTheol, DMinStuds\*)**

### **2.A Alignment of Learning Outcomes with the Australian Qualifications Framework**

The purpose of the doctoral degree is to qualify individuals who apply a substantial body of knowledge to research, investigate and develop new knowledge, in one or more areas of investigation, scholarship or professional practice.

A graduate of an MCD doctoral degree will have:

#### *Knowledge*

- A substantial body of knowledge at the frontier of a field of work or learning within Divinity or one or more of its associated disciplines, including knowledge that constitutes an original contribution to the discipline or the profession
- A substantial knowledge of research principles and methods applicable to the field of work or learning.

#### *Skills*

- Cognitive skills to demonstrate expert understanding of theoretical knowledge and to reflect critically on that theory and its application
- Cognitive skills and use of intellectual independence to think critically, evaluate existing knowledge and ideas, undertake systematic investigation and reflect on theory and practice to generate original knowledge within Divinity or one or more of its associated disciplines
- Expert technical and creative skills applicable to the field of work or learning, including



- the management of significant amounts of information, effective use and differentiation of primary and secondary resources, and identification and application of appropriate research resources such as computer programs, libraries, the internet, archives, databases or interviews
- Communication skills to explain and critique theoretical propositions, methodologies and conclusions
- Communication skills to cogently present a complex investigation of originality or original research for external examination against international standards, and to communicate research results to peers and the community
- Expert skills to design, implement, analyse, theorise and communicate research that makes a significant and original contribution to knowledge and or professional practice within Divinity or one or more of its associated disciplines.

### *Application*

A graduate of an MCD doctoral degree will be able to demonstrate:

- The application of knowledge and skills with intellectual independence
- The application of knowledge and skills with initiative and creativity in new situations and/or in further learning
- The application of knowledge and skills with responsibility and accountability
- The ability to plan and execute an ongoing program of original research.

### **2.B Alignment of Learning Outcomes with the Melbourne College of Divinity's Guiding Values**

A graduate holding an MCD doctoral degree be able to:

- formulate a research project with due regard to explicit and implicit ethical considerations
- demonstrate the development of sufficient psychological strength to work with a high degree of independence on a research project, and engage strategies to cope with the stress accompanying such a project and its necessary deadlines
- balance independent initiative with the capacity to respond to constructive criticism, and to learn from others.

*\*The MCD ceased accepting new applications for the DMinStuds at the end of 2010.*