



Melbourne College of Divinity

Established by the Melbourne College of Divinity Act (Victoria) 1910.

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Regulation 21 Master of Arts (MA)

21.1 - Interpretation

In this Regulation,

- 21.1.1 'The Board' means 'the Academic Board' established as a committee of the Council under Regulation 2.1;
- 21.1.2 'Thesis' means any postgraduate essay or dissertation approved by the Board for the purposes of the Master of Arts, usually in written form but not excluding others;
- 21.1.3 'Supervisor' means the person or persons appointed by the Board to supervise a candidate.

21.2 - Admission and Enrolment

- 21.2.1 A person may seek the permission of the Board to enrol as a candidate for the Master of Arts (Research mode) if he or she
 - 21.2.1.1 has completed the Graduate Diploma in Theology, or a postgraduate diploma in theology or in a discipline (or combination of disciplines) relevant to theology, in each case including a 12,000-word postgraduate research essay of Distinction standard; *or*
 - 21.2.1.2 has obtained the degree of Bachelor of Theology with First or Second Class (Upper Division) Honours from the College, or the degree of Bachelor of Divinity with First or Second Class (Upper Division) Honours from the College, or an equivalent qualification from a university or college recognised by the Council for the purposes of the Master of Arts.
- 21.2.2 A person may seek the permission of the Board to enrol as a candidate for the Master of Arts (Coursework mode) if he or she has completed the Graduate Diploma in Theology, or a postgraduate diploma in theology or in a discipline (or combination of disciplines) relevant to theology.

Following clause made separate as it applies to both modes:

- 21.2.3 A person may seek the permission of the Board to enrol as a candidate for the Master of Arts if he or she has obtained an exceptional level of relevant professional attainment which may be recognised by the Board for this purpose.
- 21.2.4 Each candidate must be attached to a Recognized Teaching Institution for the whole period of candidature provided that, in exceptional circumstances, the Board may permit a candidate to attend another institution for part of the period of candidature.
- 21.2.5 Without limiting its discretion in the matter, permission may be given to enrol in the Research mode only where the Board is able to provide adequate supervision, and that it is satisfied that the candidate will have access to adequate libraries.
- 21.2.6 Where the Supervisor appointed by the Board is not a member of staff of the Recognized

Teaching Institution to which the candidate is attached, the Board must, on the recommendation of the Research Coordinator of that institution, appoint such a member of staff as the associate Supervisor. The associate Supervisor is to report regularly to the Supervisor on the progress of the candidate's work.

- 21.2.7 Where a candidate intends to undertake the Master of Arts using flexible delivery arrangements, the Board must be satisfied as to the candidate's capacity to fulfil the requirements of the degree through these arrangements.
- 21.2.8 Notwithstanding any other provision in these regulations, the Board may require any applicant to demonstrate their fitness for admission by carrying out such work and sitting for such examinations as the Board determines.
- 21.2.9 Unless the Board concerned determines otherwise, the minimum length of candidature for the Master of Arts is 12 months full-time, and the maximum length of candidature is 18 months full-time, or 3 years part-time. One extension of 6 months may be granted to full-time candidates, and one extension of 12 months may be granted to part-time candidates, Any extension of time for research students is to be granted only on a certificate from the Supervisor that the work is progressing satisfactorily.
- 21.2.10 Each candidate is to proceed on such terms and in conformity with such procedures as are determined from time to time by the Board, in addition to those specified in this Regulation. General determinations made by the Board are to be published by the Registrar; specific determinations applying to a particular candidate are to be communicated to him or her by the Registrar.
- 21.2.11 The Board may discontinue the candidature of any person whom it deems to have made unsatisfactory progress.

21.3 - Course of Studies: *Coursework mode*

- 21.3.1 Every candidate for the degree in coursework mode must complete, at a standard determined by the Board, the equivalent of 90 points of post-graduate study as approved by the Board. Each candidate may include a research essay of no more than 12,000 words (30 points) on a topic approved by the Board, and at a standard determined by the Board.
- 21.3.2 A candidate for the degree in coursework mode may be permitted to enrol under one of the specialisations approved by the Board for the Graduate Diploma in Theology. In this case at least two-thirds of the course (60 points) must be related to the area of specialisation, as approved by the Research Coordinator of the RTI to which the candidate is attached

21.4 Course of Studies: *Research mode*

- 21.4.1 Every candidate for the degree including a Major Thesis must write a thesis of no more than 40,000 words (90 points) on a topic approved by the Board, and at a standard determined by the Board.
- 21.4.2 Every candidate for the degree including a Minor Thesis must complete, at a standard determined by the Board, the equivalent of 30 points of post-graduate study as approved by the Board, and write a Thesis of not more than 25,000 words (60 points) on a topic approved by the Board.
- 21.4.3 Each candidate for the Master of Arts by Major Thesis must have their project assessed by an approval panel, with applications for such panels being submitted no later than 3 months following admission for full-time candidates, or 6 months following admission for part-time candidates.
- 21.4.4 Each candidate for the Master of Arts by Minor Thesis must have their project assessed by an approval panel, with applications for such panels being submitted no later than 3

months after the conclusion of coursework requirements for full-time students, or 6 months after the conclusion of coursework requirements for part-time students.

- 21.4.5 Each Thesis proposal, once approved by the Board, must be submitted to the Human Research Ethics Committee of the College as established by Regulation 2.5.
- 21.4.6 The Board must approve the Supervisor(s), and any special arrangements for supervision of the thesis.
- 21.4.7 The Thesis is to be examined in accordance with Regulation 26.

21.5 - Award of Degree

- 21.5.1 Where the candidate has satisfied the examiners and completed the requirements for the Master of Arts under Regulation 21.3.1, the Board may recommend to the Council that the degree should be awarded. After the degree has been conferred, the candidate has their degree denoted as Master of Arts (Theology)', abbreviated 'MA (Theol)' as a suffix to their name.
- 21.5.2 Where the candidate has satisfied the examiners and completed the requirements for the Master of Arts under Regulation 21.3.2, the Board may recommend to the Council that the degree should be awarded. After the degree has been conferred, the candidate is entitled to have their degree denoted as 'Master of Arts' followed by the approved specialization in parentheses, abbreviated 'MA (abbreviated specialization)' as a suffix to their name.
- 21.5.3 Where the candidate has satisfied the examiners and completed the requirements for the Master of Arts under Regulation 21.4, the Board may recommend to the Council that the degree should be awarded. After the degree has been conferred, the candidate is entitled to have their degree denoted as 'Master of Arts', abbreviated 'MA' as a suffix to their name.

Approved by the College June 23rd, 2004: revised following 2005 Act revision, November 30th 2005. Revision of admission provisions, clarification of coursework mode, specializations provided, November 29th 2006. Further Revisions approved by Council June 2009.