

Graduate Diploma in Ministry (GDipMin)

The Graduate Diploma in Ministry forms part of a nested suite of postgraduate courses that build seamlessly through to a Master of Ministry or Doctor of Ministry. The Graduate Diploma in Ministry is designed to provide the opportunity for theological reflection and professional development for Christian leaders in ordained and lay ministry roles, with an emphasis on innovation.

The course requires one year of full-time study, but is usually taken part time over two (or more) years of study.

After successful completion of the required units a student may choose to graduate with the Graduate Diploma in Ministry or may apply to transfer to the Master of Ministry.

Admission Requirements

Entry to the Graduate Diploma in Ministry normally requires:

- A Bachelor degree in any discipline; and
- At least two years' relevant ministry experience; and Permission of the Course Coordinator.

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

Credit

Credit may be granted for recognition of prior postgraduate studies undertaken at another approved Higher Education Institution.

Program of study

The Graduate Diploma in Ministry consists of 36 credit points of study as follows:

Core Units (13.5 credit points)

These prepare students for advanced thinking and skills use in the area of Ministry Practice, engagement with current research in the field, and theological reflection upon their own ministry practice and leadership in the Australian context.

The required coursework units are: Reflecting on Best Practice in Ministry, Introduction to Community Research and Theology for Ministry Practice.

Guided Study or Coursework Units (22.5 credit points)

Students who hold a ministry or theology degree will be required to complete five Guided Study units, A to E. The Guided Studies provide the scope to shape the award to the specific needs of each student. After consultation with the Postgraduate Coordinator, students may complete an approved postgraduate unit, or with a supervisor read an agreed bibliography as individual study or as part of a group, or build their study around interviewing experts, attending a conference, or conducting a field trip, or undertake an agreed project set within the student's ministry context.

Students coming from a discipline other than theology or ministry will be required to include three coursework units, being a choice of one out of two Biblical units, one of two Theology units and the third unit is Biblical Hermeneutics. They will either attend on-campus classes (offered across a semester) or enrol to study by distance. The content of Guided Study A and B will be negotiated with the course coordinator, with the same range of possibilities as listed above.

It is possible to exit with a Graduate Certificate in Ministry Studies after the completion of the first part-time year, or, for those without a prior degree in theology or ministry, after completion of the three required coursework topics and Reflecting on Best Practice in Ministry.

Study program template

Course Structure: for students who hold a ministry or theology degree

	Unit code and title	Credit points
Year 1 <i>part-time</i>	MINS8557 Reflecting on Best Practice in Ministry	4.5
	MINS8201 Guided Study A	4.5
	MINS8202 Guided Study B	4.5
	MINS8203 Guided Study C	4.5
Year 2 <i>part-time</i>	MINS8558 Introduction to Community Research	4.5
	MINS8559 Theology for Ministry Practice	4.5
	MINS8204 Guided Study D	4.5
	MINS8205 Guided Study E	4.5
Exit	Graduate Diploma in Ministry	36

Course Structure: for students who hold degrees in disciplines other than ministry and theology

	Unit code and title	Credit points
Year 1 <i>part-time</i>	MINS8557 Reflecting on Best Practice in Ministry	4.5
	MINS8558 Introduction to Community Research <i>Either</i>	4.5
	MINS8209 Interpreting the Old Testament <i>Or</i>	4.5
	MINS8210 Interpreting the New Testament	4.5
Year 2 <i>part-time</i>	MINS8201 Guided Study A	4.5
	MINS8559 Theology for Ministry Practice	4.5
	MINS8207 Biblical Hermeneutics	4.5
	<i>Either</i> MINS8211 Introduction to Christian Thought	4.5
Exit	<i>Or</i> MINS8212 Jesus Christ: A Theological Introduction	4.5
	MINS8202 Guided Study B	4.5
Exit	Graduate Diploma in Ministry	36