

the Australian New Church College



Prospectus

L o v e W i s d o m U s e

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WELCOME

And thank you for your interest in what the Australian New Church College has to offer. What follows is some information regarding our courses, accreditation, the method of delivery, fees, and opportunities for ministry within the New Church in Australia. If after considering what we can offer you feel you would like to take things further then please fill out the application form at the back of this prospectus and return it to the College. If you have any questions you can forward these to the College's Director of Spiritual Training whose contact details can be found at the bottom of page 12.

COURSE FRAMEWORK

The framework for the Australian New Church College's programmes of study is structured around the Lord's own purpose in creation. The Lord is Divine Love and Wisdom and this takes its form in people as a genuine concern for the spiritual well being of others. Consistent with this the College's own statement of purpose is as follows...

The purpose of the Australian New Church College is to support the Lord's desire for the salvation of the human race as an expression of His love through supporting people in their goal for ministry.

Ministry is understood to be the expression of the Lord's own desire for the salvation of the human race. This is ultimately expressed through people in acts of love that look to the spiritual welfare of others. Regardless of what form of expression a ministry takes, traditional, contemporary, or what is yet to emerge, or what social, cultural or ethnic factors have a bearing on it, the College seeks to offer a programme of study that is flexible enough to support as much diversity in ministry expression as possible.

The course design supports students to flesh out their vision for ministry through creating opportunities to gain an experiential understanding of spiritual truths drawn from the Sacred Scriptures and the Heavenly Doctrines. This experiential focus on working with

From the Heavenly Doctrines

"That which leads to what has a useful purpose is knowing what goodness and truth are; and that which has such a purpose is the desire to realize these in actions." AC 5293

"Religious knowledge does not come to be truths residing with a person until that knowledge finds acceptance in his understanding, which happens when he firmly embraces it; and what are then truths residing with him are not made his own until he lives in conformity with them. For nothing is made a person's own other than that which is made part of his life; thus because those truths form his life, his true self is invested in them." AC 5276

"Life from the Lord flows only into a humble and submissive heart, since it is fitted to receive. And it is fitted to receive because when a heart is truly humble no self-love or love of the world stands in the way." AC 8873

"And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them... repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" Lk 24:45-47

spiritual truths assists students to develop a foundation for an ongoing personal spiritual practice in their lives.

An important overarching learning objective that spans the whole course of study is that students gain spiritual literacy skills through the personal practise of self examination and repentance. It is the view of the College that if students are to be effective in using truths from the Word in ministering the Lord's love and wisdom that they...

a) Come into an experiential appreciation of the processes of reformation and regeneration and

b) Are able to connect this directly to their personal engagement with the Lord's Word and

c) Are able to draw on their sense of this in support of others to live a spiritually focused life.

These qualities are considered foundational to all expressions of ministry regardless of what form the ministry takes.

The programmes of study seek to strike a balance between intellectually focused learning and the experiential learning that comes from the application of spiritual truths to life. The online learning environment encourages students to acquire knowledge of spiritual principles and then work to have these affirmed and illustrated in their personal experience. To achieve this each course contains

objectives set around three learning domains.

The learning domains that frame course objectives are as follows;

- **Conceptual** – what an individual knows and can do in particular contexts.
- **Application** – the way an individual involves a wide range of specific skills and knowledge to produce a desired result.
- **Devotional** – the way an individual's attitude is formed by experiences, values, in-

terests and preferences in relation to course material.

THE PROGRAMMES OF STUDY

The College offers two programmes of study, the Certificate in Spiritual Christianity (CSC) and the Diploma in Spiritual Christianity (DSC).

Certificate In Spiritual Christianity

The CSC programme is a foundational course in New Church/Swedenborgian thought and practise. CSC courses are designed to equip students with an overview of the Bible, new church theological concepts, principles of per-

From the Heavenly Doctrines

“True worship of the Lord consists in performing useful services; and such services during a person's life in the world lie in a proper fulfilment of his function by each person, whatever his own position, that is, in serving his country, its communities, and his neighbour with all his heart. They also lie in honest dealings with fellow human beings and in the diligent discharge of duties, with full regard for each person's character. These useful deeds are the principal ways of exercising charity and the principal means of worshipping the Lord.” AC 7038.

“Behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you: but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” Lk 24:49

sonal spiritual practice and the Life of Swedenborg. Offered in an on-line dispersed learning format the CSC is made up of 4 courses as follows:

- The Life of Swedenborg
- Overview of New Church Doctrine
- Introduction to Correspondences
- Bible Overview

The CSC courses also serve as pre-requisites for entry into the Diploma course. Completion of the CSC will provide students with a good sense of what's involved in study with the College which will enable them to better assess whether the DSC is something they wish to pursue. It is also designed to provide students with the necessary skills and knowledge to cope with the demands the DSC will place on them. Each course towards the CSC carries a minimum of 30 hours of work. The Certificate in Spiritual Christianity is awarded upon the satisfactory completion of its 4 courses.

The Diploma in Spiritual Christianity

The DSC programme, excluding the Certificate courses, is based on 3 to 3.5 years of full time study calculated over a 36 week academic year, although the online format allows students to work to a 50 week year enabling them to move more quickly through their studies. The DSC is offered in an online

dispersed learning format enabling students to undertake their formal studies with the College on a part time basis. While every individual situation is different the experience of the College is that those who are in full time employment seem to be able to manage a maximum commitment somewhere around 20hrs per week.

Entry into the Diploma course is granted once the College is satisfied that a student has fulfilled the following entry requirements...

The prospective student has shown that they have met the learning objectives set out in the CSC programme. This is achieved through either...

- having completed the Prerequisite courses to the required level of competency or
- being able to demonstrate that through previous study (independent or formal) and/or through experience that they have met the required level of competency required for the awarding of the CSC.

A person's registration and acceptance into the Diploma course does not mean that they automatically become a candidate for ordained ministry nor does it place the New Church in Australia or any of its members under

From the Heavenly Doctrines

“God flows into every human being with all his divine life, that is with all his divine love and divine wisdom.”
TCR 364

“The Lord withdraws no one from their hell unless they see that they are in hell and wish to be led out.”
DP 251

“Give ear, O heavens and I will speak; And hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. Let my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distil as the dew.” Deut. 32:1-2

any obligation related to a student's current or future employment.

Recognition as a candidate for ordination is in the hands of the Council of Ministers and can only be applied for when studies are well advanced. This will involve a screening interview with the College's Director of Spiritual Training and the NCIA President.

Note: An application can be made to the College for the assessment and possible cross crediting of previous study and experience. Any cross crediting of previous work will be at the discretion of the College Board.

The DSC programme is made up of 5 elements inclusive of the CSC courses. These are as follows...

- CSC Courses
- Core courses
- Electives
- Text Study (Logopraxis)
- Thesis or Course Design

Core courses are mandatory for all students who have fulfilled the prerequisite requirements for the DSC. There are five Core courses, these are:

- The Lord's Love
- Incarnation/Glorification
- The Divine Human
- The Nature of Self
- The Management of States

Each Core course is a minimum of 80 credit hours giving a total minimum of 400 hrs of study.

Elective courses are not mandatory but provide students with the opportunity to take courses that are directly relevant to their vision for ministry. These may be courses the College offers or they may be courses offered by external learning institutions.

Text Study consists of intensive work with a specified text of the Heavenly Doctrines using an approach developed by the College called Logopraxis. The specific text selected will be determined by the student in consultation with the DST. This will largely be determined by what texts are currently being worked with by the groups in the College's Logopraxis programme.

Logopraxis is designed to pull together all the skills students experience in the 3 learning domains (Conceptual, Application and Devotional). This enables their consolidation with work in a single text with others in a small group context. The groups are called Life Groups and depending on students circumstances participation in a group can either be in a face to face or online context or a combination of both. The College is constantly

From the Heavenly Doctrines

•“The heavenly person is such that he does not base his actions on his own desires but on what pleases the Lord; this is his desire. In this way he enjoys inward peace and happiness.”

AC 85

•“A person's knowing much counts for nothing if he does not live in accordance with what he knows.” AC

I 100

“This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it.” Josh. 1:8

running Logopraxis groups for anyone interested. It is possible for students to have participated in a Life Group prior to undertaking study towards the DSC. If this is the case, and their participation was for at least 12 months, then they can apply to the College's Director of Spiritual Training to have this recognised thus fulfilling this requirement of the Diploma course. The Text Study component of the DSC can be undertaken at any time before, after or during the study of other courses towards the DSC.

Thesis/Course Design To round out their study students are given the option of writing a 10,000 word thesis that explores some area of applied new church theological thought that is specifically related to their vision for ministry. Alternatively they can opt to design and write a course for the Elective course category of the DSC. In both cases students will be required to submit a proposal to the College Board for approval.

Completion of the Thesis component of the DSC doesn't necessarily have to occur during a student's formal period of study. The College Board recognises that for some students their vision for

ministry will be still developing and where this is directly linked to their thesis work leave may be granted for a student to enter ministry with a view to completing their thesis within two years. Such leave will require the approval of the College Board who will consider each request on a case by case basis.

Intensive Seminars are open to all people in the wider new church/Swedenborgian communities. We would encourage all students to attend seminars if they have the opportunity to do so. Seminars have proved to be an invaluable component in supporting the growth and development of student's abilities and skills in a number of areas. They also provide opportunities for face to face contact between students and tutors.

Seminars also provide an ideal setting for students to develop both formal and informal presentation skills. They provide opportunities for delivering specialist interest material utilising in house and out of house expertise. By far one of the most rewarding aspects to Seminar work is the cohesion it fosters between all those who attend. These times are precious,

particularly in a dispersed learning environment, because they foster the development of life long connections with others and ongoing support. Seminars are typically held over 3 days, usually from Friday to Sunday, at least twice a year.

From the Heavenly Doctrines

“Everybody is withheld from evils by the Lord, and this is done with a mightier power than what a person can possibly believe.” AC 2406.2

“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and God was the Word... In Him was life, and the life was the light of men... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory...” John 1:1,4,14

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE NEW CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

The College recognises that study towards its Diploma in Spiritual Christianity constitutes a major commitment on the part of those who undertake it. It also recognises that people who come into the programme do so for many different reasons. For some people there is a desire to build a greater awareness of what the Word and the Heavenly Doctrines teach with a view to being more informed and able to use them in their personal lives and interactions with others. Others may enter the programme with a strong sense of call to some form of ministry. What form this will take may or may not be clear for them, or it could be that they feel called to serve in the organised New Church as an ordained minister in one of its Churches. Others may seek to pursue a vision for ministry that includes ordination but is focused outside of what is typically the established form of ministry within a congregational church context. Or it could be that a person's sense of call is such that they don't feel that ordination is something necessary for fulfilling their vision for ministry. The training the College offers is able to cater for all this variety because its emphasis is not on training people for a particular model of ministry but is on giving people the

tools needed to personally engage with Word and the Heavenly Doctrines as the basis for their own work of regeneration. A person's willingness to engage in their own inner work of self examination and repentance is viewed by the College as the only real basis for effective ministry regardless of what form that ministry may take.

CHURCH BASED PASTORAL MINISTRY

The churches affiliated with The New Church in Australia (NCIA) are independent locally run incorporated societies. Each of these churches are communities whose primary focus is on Sunday worship and meeting in various small groups for doctrinal discussion and social connection. Traditionally these communities have looked to securing a full time minister whose primary responsibilities have included pastoral care, teaching of doctrine, leading Sunday services and preaching, amongst other locally focused initiatives.

The training offered towards the DSC is well able to prepare suitable candidates to work in the area of church based pastoral ministries. To enter this area of ministry students will have completed the Diploma in Spiritual Christianity or equivalent and have received New Church ordination. Churches affiliated to the NCIA are independent entities and as such reserve the right to accept or decline an expression of interest from a minister to serve in them. Prospective students of the College should be aware that ordination is not a guarantee of employment within a local Church or the wider body of the NCIA.

From the Heavenly Doctrines

“People in whom this love is present love the Lord wholeheartedly. Yet they realize, say, and perceive that all love, thus all life, which belongs exclusively to love, and so all happiness, come from the Lord and nowhere else, and that they derive not one trace of love, life, and happiness from themselves.” AC 32

LOGOPRAXIS: LIFE GROUP MINISTRY

In recognition of the growing interest to engage with the truths found in the Heavenly Doctrines as a basis for a daily spiritual practise the College has undertaken an initiative to support the development of communities focused on that end. These small groups are called Life Groups. Participants are drawn from right across the whole spectrum of the organised New Church/ Swedenborgian community as well from outside of it.

The basis for building spiritual communities is the practise of spiritual truths with others. The approach used to connect with truths in this way is called Logopraxis. Logopraxis literally means “the practice of the Word”. Life Groups utilise online space and where possible meet face to face to cultivate a sense of spiritual community. The College looks to promote this work through creating opportunities for people to be involved in

small groups as well as providing a pathway for training Life Group facilitators and Regional Spiritual Directors (RSDs).

To become a Life Group facilitator a person needs to a) have a desire to facilitate a Life Group b) have worked through a text using Logopraxis in a Life Group for at least 12 months c) have in their work demonstrated an ability to engage with the Word as the Lord, leading and guiding them in their work of regeneration and d) exhibit a desire to support the spiritual development of others in their use of Logopraxis.

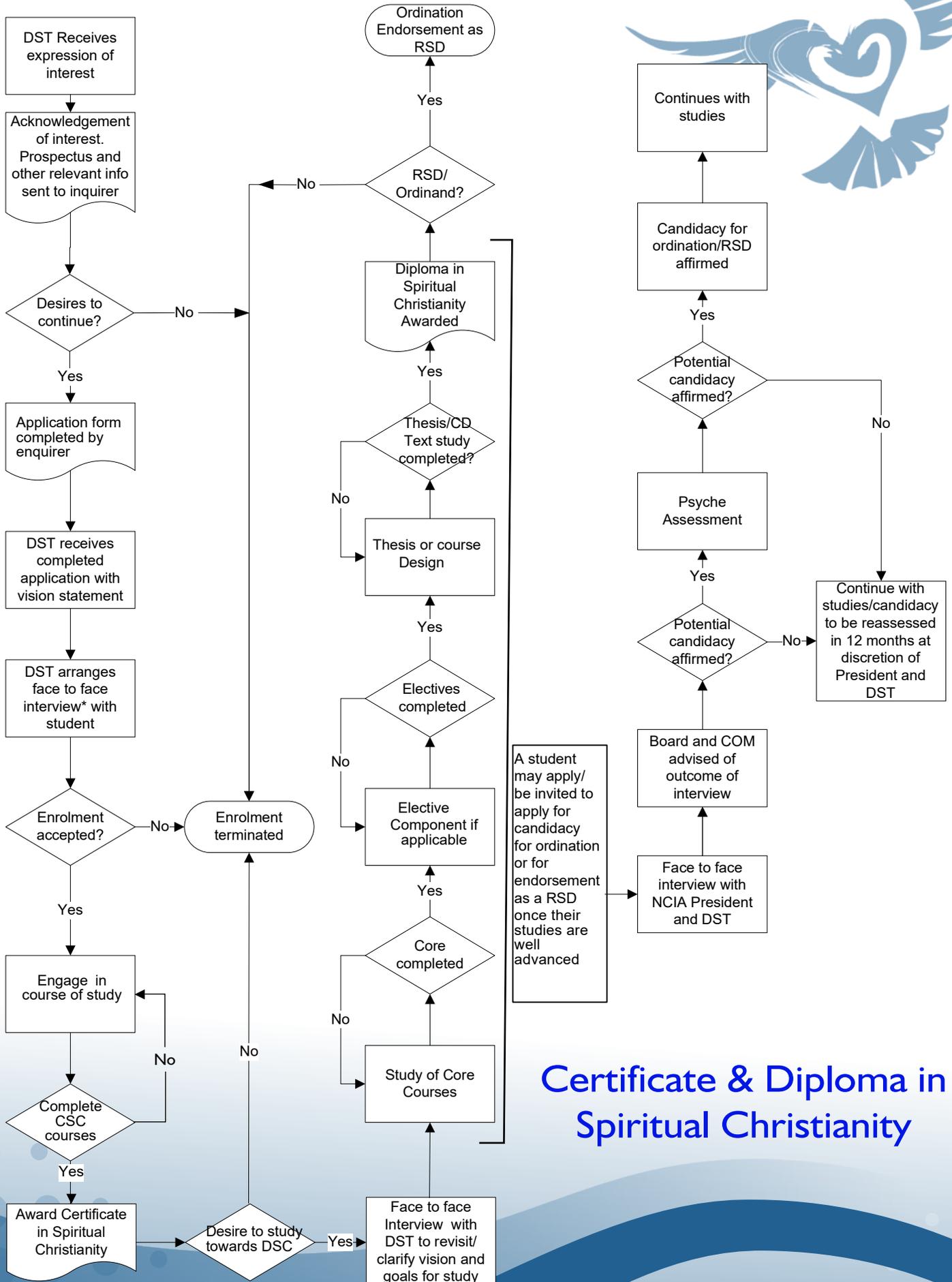
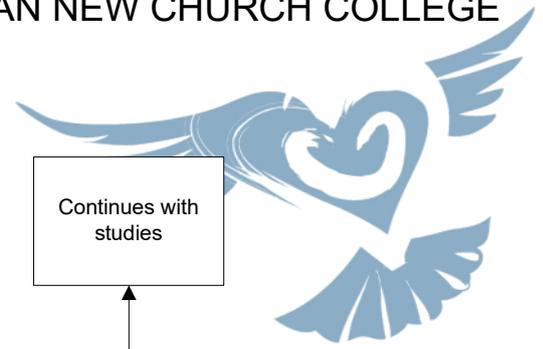
To be recognised as a RSD functioning under the auspices of the NCIA a person will need to have completed the Diploma in Spiritual Christianity or equivalent, and have received ordination or, in cases where ordination is not sought, have been endorsed as a RSD by the Council of Ministers with approval from the NCIA board.

In cases where a person’s vision for ministry falls outside the above framework and where there exists a desire to have that ministry formally recognised and practised under the auspices of the NCIA a person can seek ordination, or recognition as a RSD, or both, once their vision for ministry has gained formal endorsement from the Council of Ministers and the approval of the NCIA board.

Ordination, RSD endorsement, and formal recognition of a ministry vision to be performed under the auspices of the NCIA must have the approval of the COM and NCIA Board. The COM and Board reserves the right to decline any application for ordination or RSD endorsement. All those who serve in new church ministry, where that ministry is formally recognised by the NCIA, whether ordained or non-ordained, employed or serving in a voluntary capacity are required to sign a license agreement.

Application forms to study with the Australian New Church College can be downloaded from the College’s website on the Study Programme page by clicking [Study Programme](#)

STUDY PATH FOR STUDENTS OF THE AUSTRALIAN NEW CHURCH COLLEGE



Certificate & Diploma in Spiritual Christianity

*Note: Where a face to face interview is not possible in the case of the prerequisite course of study other interview formats will be utilised