

Leadership for Mission



Availability

Available to participants from across Australia

Duration

2 years (part-time)

Contact

Ms Andrea Dean
Director, National Office for the Participation of Women,
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
director.opw@catholic.org.au
www.opw.catholic.org.au

CRICOS registered provider: 00004G

Disclaimer (September 2019): Information correct at time of printing. The University reserves the right to amend, cancel or otherwise modify the content without notice.

Leadership for Mission is a project of the Council for Australian Catholic Women (CACW). The council advises the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) through the Bishops Commission for Church Ministry. Program partners are Catholic Mission and Australian Catholic University.



Successful completion of the Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies provides entry (and advanced standing) into the Graduate Diploma in Theological Studies, Master of Theological Studies or Master of Professional Studies in Theology.

“During a time of renewed calls within the Catholic Church for the greater participation of women in decision-making, leadership and ministry, this graduate program seeks to embrace, enhance, and theologically ground the leadership capabilities, skills and aspirations of young women.”

Ms Andrea Dean

Leadership for Mission is a joint initiative of the Council for Australian Catholic Women, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Catholic Mission and Australian Catholic University.

It is designed by and for women who are inspired by the Gospel vision of justice, freedom and the dignity of the human person. Across a series of educational and formative encounters, this unique program brings together the leadership experiences of women in the Church within the context of an academic and collaborative learning environment.

Framed by an engagement with scripture, theology, spirituality and leadership, this program encourages participants to reflect on their faith and how it can address the many challenges and opportunities of our contemporary world.

In the company of other women, participants explore how and in what ways their personal mission and vocation can contribute to a vision of leadership for the Church and society that promotes equity, equality, and reconciliation.

HOW IS THE PROGRAM STRUCTURED?

This is a two-year, part-time program structured across four residential sessions in North Sydney, supported through ACU's online learning management system. Airfares, accommodation and meals are provided for.

The academic component of this program, A Catholic Theology of Women's Leadership, consists of a total of 40 credit points (cp), comprising four compulsory units (10 cp each). Upon completion, students will be awarded a Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies by ACU's Faculty of Theology and Philosophy.

ELIGIBILITY

This program is open to women aged between 25-35 with diverse personal and professional experiences from across Australia. As this is a graduate program, participants will need to have successfully completed an undergraduate degree in advance.

Leadership for Mission

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

DATE	UNIT
18 – 22 March, 2020	Unit 1: Scripture (Interpreting the Bible)
19 – 23 August, 2020	Unit 2: Theology and the challenges and opportunities for women's leadership
17 – 21 March, 2021	Unit 3: Theology for the future: Designing approaches and strategies for women's leadership
16 – 20 August, 2021	Unit 4: Theology as Leadership for Mission

WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

Complete the online application form, which requires applicants to reflect on their:

- personal commitment to the Catholic faith
- commitment to improving the quality of life for others
- potential to engage in critical thinking about your own religious tradition
- communication and interpersonal skills
- capacity to engage in a leadership role.

Applicants will also be required to nominate two referees (one of whom should be a priest).

PROGRAM COST

This is a sponsored program. However, participants will be required to contribute 25 per cent of the academic fees over the course of two years (a total contribution of \$4,000).

UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

Interpreting ancient texts for contemporary (and future) worlds

In this introductory of the program, participants will have the opportunity to bring the experiences and questions of their own contexts into dialogue with the biblical tradition. Learning is structured to support participants to approach the encounter with sacred scripture as a key dimension of theological reflection. Participants will be given opportunities for critical interpretation of scripture in the context of their current situations and the subsequent implications for their own leadership.

Theology and the challenges and opportunities for women's leadership

In the second unit of the program, participants will engage with the theological grounding for women's leadership in the Church. Participants will be introduced to contemporary modes of theological method and hermeneutical reflection, particularly those that identify women's experience and perspective, and will bring them into personal conversation with the challenges and the opportunities facing women's leadership in the Church and the wider world.

Theology for the future: Designing approaches and strategies for women's leadership

In this component of the program, the focus is on creating a way forward for women's leadership in the future. Having journeyed through scripture and contemporary theological reflection, participants are called together to create and articulate a vision for leadership that is grounded in their own context, both personal and professional. In this way, the unit will open a space where personal identity, understood with and through a relationship with God, can be fully grasped as that which provides the template for future leadership. This unit will involve mentored reflection and creative theological work on designing approaches and strategies for women in leadership for the future of the Church and society more broadly.

Theology as Leadership for Mission

This final unit will serve as a practical application of the contemporary modes of theological method and hermeneutical reflection engaged throughout the program. Participants will here be asked to re-engage, from a pastoral and practical theological perspective, the challenges and opportunities for women in contemporary times. Drawing upon the tools and principles of Catholic Social Thought, participants will also assess how and in what ways participation in the program, and in any related volunteer or exposure experience, has assisted them in re-imagining and enacting a vision of leadership as ministry for their own immediate context and the wider world in which they work and live.