

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

<b>Position Title</b>	Research Fellow / Senior Research Fellow (Early Christianity)		
<b>Organisational Unit</b>	Faculty of Theology & Philosophy		
<b>Functional Unit</b>	Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry		
<b>Nominated Supervisor</b>	Program Director, Biblical and Early Christian Studies		
<b>Career Pathway</b>	Teaching and Research		
<b>Classification</b>	Academic Level B/C		
<b>CDF Level</b>	CDF1	<b>Position Number</b>	10607358
<b>Attendance Type</b>	Full Time	<b>Date reviewed</b>	17-JUN-2025

## ABOUT AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

Mission Statement: *Within the Catholic intellectual tradition and acting in Truth and Love, Australian Catholic University is committed to the pursuit of knowledge, the dignity of the human person and the common good.*

An ACU education builds on the Catholic understanding of faith and reason working together in pursuit of knowledge and promotion of human dignity and the common good.

An ACU education seeks to transform lives and communities. Students are challenged to look beyond the classroom, solve real-world problems, develop their own search for meaning and cultivate strong professional ethics. They are invited to stand up for people in need and causes that matter.

ACU is open to all. As is common with great Catholic institutions the world over, the university is inclusive and supportive of everyone, every day – regardless of their faith or tradition.

ACU is a young university making a serious impact. Ranked in the top two per cent of universities worldwide and in the top 10 Catholic universities, we're also a leader in employability with 94 per cent of our graduates employed. The university has seven campuses around Australia, a campus in Rome, Italy, and an online campus – ACU Online.

ACU has four faculties, and several research institutes and directorates. We believe our number one asset is our people. It's the character, enthusiasm and dedication of our staff that make this a university like no other. All our staff contribute to the achievement of our goals set out in ACU's Vision 2033 and aim to provide high-quality services with a strong focus on service excellence.

To be agents of change in the world, we all need to see life through the eyes of others. We believe that our role as a university is to inspire and equip people to make a difference – and that means cultivating their ability to act and think empathetically.

The structure to support this complex and national university consists of:

- Vice-Chancellor and President
- Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)
- Chief Operating Officer
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise)
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)
- Pro Vice-Chancellor - Catholic Mission

## **ABOUT FACULTY OF THEOLOGY & PHILOSOPHY**

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The Faculty of Theology and Philosophy is the largest Faculty of its kind in Australia, comprised of two national schools - the School of Theology and the School of Philosophy - and the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry.

ACU has prioritised research excellence in a number of areas of strategic priority, including theology and philosophy. . In the 2023 QS ranking in Theology, Divinity and Religious studies, for example, ACU was ranked first in Australia, and top 50 in the world. Our Philosophy program also continues to rank highly in Australian assessments: for example, at 'above world standard' in the most recent Excellence in Research for Australia rankings. A particular strength of the Faculty's research profile is its growing network of collaborations with international partners that leads to joint publication projects, research conferences and workshops (in Australia, on our Rome campus, and beyond), co-supervision of research students, and joint programs for research funding.

We offer high quality theology and philosophy programs of study for students at any stage of their life or career journey, with learning opportunities provided across multiple points of engagement, and across a variety of delivery modes. This includes Mission-aligned short courses, certificate and bachelor-level courses, postgraduate coursework programs, Higher-degree by research degrees, international study tours, and a wide range of professional learning and in-service opportunities. Our programs are designed in collaboration with industry, community, and church to equip students with the knowledge and skills required to succeed in an evolving, global and digital world.

## **ABOUT INSTITUTE FOR RELIGION AND CRITICAL INQUIRY**

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The Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry (IRCI) collaborates with researchers from around the globe to examine ideas, beliefs and history in order to advance understanding of our world and imagine ways to improve it. To this end the IRCI promotes collaborative research on religion and critical thought from multiple disciplinary perspectives, including philosophy, theology, history, and literature. It explores the inter-relationships between philosophy, religion, and their cultural contexts, and contributes to contemporary philosophical, theological, social, and political debates.

Founded in 2014, the Institute has established research programs in Biblical and Early Christian Studies; Pre-modern Belief; Philosophy; and Religion and Theology. Each program includes full-time researchers, affiliate

and honorary staff, and research students.

The IRCI has established research partnerships with leading institutions in Europe, the UK, and North America, and presents a series of research seminars each year at ACU's Rome Campus. It sits within the Faculty for Theology and Philosophy, the largest such Faculty in Australia, which offers undergraduate and postgraduate courses and higher research degrees across eight campuses. The Institute has strongly contributed to ACU's ranking of 1st in Australia and 22nd in the world in theology, divinity, and religious studies (QS 2025), and ACU's Leiden CWTS 2024 score of first in Australia for research quality in Humanities and Social Sciences (proportion of papers in the top 10% frequently cited).

Research activities encompass projects, seminars, workshops, public engagement and conferences that enhance intellectual discourse and debate.

## **POSITION PURPOSE**

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The Research Fellow /Senior Research Fellow will conduct outstanding research as a member of the Program in Biblical and Early Christian Studies. Their area of specialty may be related to New Testament and/or Early Christian Studies, with a focus on any period from the first century to the seventh. One of the Program's aims is to span the traditional divide between 'New Testament studies' and scholarship on later Christianity, so the ability to work across this and other disciplinary boundaries is desirable, as is knowledge of the wider historical, literary, philosophical, and material contexts in which ancient Christianity developed. We aim to provide a home for scholars at the cutting edge of our disciplines, who are able to advance scholarship of the highest quality in conversation with other disciplines such as Jewish studies, classics, and constructive theology.

The Research Fellow /Senior Research Fellow will carry out their own research leading to high-quality publications and will be expected to pursue career development in other domains of research activity including supervision of research students, applications for external grant income, and engagement and impact activities.

The Research Fellow /Senior Research Fellow will contribute to the Program's collaborative activities, including seminars, reading groups, and workshops. The Program sits within the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry, and the Research Fellow /Senior Research Fellow will be expected to contribute to the scholarly and collegial life of the Institute as a whole. Working on interdisciplinary team projects within the Program and across the Institute's other areas (Religion and Theology, Pre-Modern Beliefs, and Philosophy) is desirable. For example, the Program's researchers are currently undertaking a multi-year collaborative project on 'Flourishing in Early Christianity', which involves international partners and sponsors a steady stream of research events. The Flourishing Project is pursuing an integrated historical, literary, and theological inquiry into the multi-faceted reality of human flourishing in ancient Christianity, in dialogue with research on human flourishing in the social sciences and philosophy. The ability of the Research Fellow /Senior Research Fellow to contribute to the aims of the Flourishing Project or projects like it, would be an advantage.

## KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

### Introduction

A number of frameworks and standards express the University's expectations of the conduct, capability, participation and contribution of staff. These are listed below:

- [ACU's Vision 2033](#)
- [Catholic Identity and Mission](#)
- [Code of Conduct for all staff](#)
- [ACU Capability Development Framework](#)
- [Higher Education Standards Framework](#)
- [ACU Staff Enterprise Agreement 2022-2025](#)
- [ACU Staff Reconciliation Action Plan](#)

The following two frameworks are important in understanding the expectations of an academic position and the required qualifications and capability of a position holder:

- The [Academic Performance Matrices and Evidence Framework](#) which describes the performance standards in areas of academic activity.
- The [Capability Development Framework](#) which describes the core competencies needed in all ACU staff to achieve the University's strategy and supports its mission.

All academic staff are allocated workload comprising a range of academic duties/activities that fall within the following three broad areas of academic activity in line with the relevant Academic Career Pathway and Academic Level.

- Teaching
- Curriculum Development and Scholarship of Teaching
- Research
- Academic Leadership/Service

Responsibility	Broad Area of Academic Activity
Conduct innovative and interdisciplinary research related to early Christianity.	Research
Produce high-quality publications as sole author and in collaboration with other researchers in top international peer-reviewed outlets.	Research
Contribute actively to the collegial life of the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry, including leading research seminars.	Academic Leadership and Service
Prepare and submit research grant applications and actively identify and seek funding from external	Research

Responsibility	Broad Area of Academic Activity
bodies in consultation with other researchers within and outside of the Institute.	
Engage in research-led teaching, including curriculum development and delivery of existing units.	Teaching/curriculum development/scholarship of teaching

## SELECTION CRITERIA

<b>Qualifications, skills, knowledge and experience:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qualification - A PhD related to New Testament studies, early Christian studies, or late antique studies (including Theology, Philosophy, Classics, History or cognate disciplines).</li> <li>• Skill - Ability to work with primary texts in at least one of Greek, Latin or Syriac.</li> <li>• Skill - Ability to contribute to teaching activities including lecturing and course (re)design for courses in FTP and the core curriculum.</li> <li>• Experience - A track record of scholarly publications of an excellent international standard.</li> <li>• Experience - Ability to work effectively both individually and collegially as part of a collaborative research team.</li> <li>• Skill - Commitment to equity and diversity principles, including understanding of cultural diversity and ethical practice, equal employment opportunity and workplace health and safety.</li> <li>• Skill - Awareness of the University's Mission and Catholic ethos, including the capacity to demonstrate an understanding of how this role serves the Mission.</li> </ul>
<b>Core Competencies:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate confidence and courage in achieving ACU's Mission, Vision and Values by connecting the purpose of one's work to ACU's Mission, Vision and Values.</li> <li>• Communicate with purpose. Gain the support of others for actions that benefit ACU. Negotiate for mutually beneficial outcomes that are aligned with the Mission, Vision and Values of the University.</li> <li>• Coach and develop self and others through setting clear expectations, managing performance and developing required capabilities to establish a culture of learning and improvement.</li> <li>• Take personal accountability for achieving the highest quality outcomes through understanding the ACU context, self-reflection, and aspiring to and striving for excellence.</li> <li>• Plan work activity, prioritise time and resources using established ACU processes and technology to achieve optimum efficiency and effectiveness.</li> </ul>
<b>Essential Attributes:</b>	Demonstrated commitment to cultural diversity and ethical practice principles and demonstrated knowledge of equal employment

	opportunity and workplace health and safety, appropriate to the level of the appointment.
<b>Working with children and vulnerable adults check</b>	This role does not require a Working with Children Check.

## REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS

For further information about the structure of the University, refer to the Organisation Chart  
<https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/leadership-and-governance/leadership/organisational-structure>

