

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

<b>Position Title</b>	Fethullah Gulen Chair in the Study of Islam and Muslim-Catholic Relations		
<b>Organisational Unit</b>	Faculty of Theology & Philosophy		
<b>Functional Unit</b>	National School of Theology		
<b>Nominated Supervisor</b>	National Head of School, Theology		
<b>Career Pathway</b>	Teaching and Research		
<b>Classification</b>	Academic Level E Increment 1		
<b>CDF Level</b>	CDF1	<b>Position Number</b>	10606588
<b>Attendance Type</b>	Part Time	<b>Date reviewed</b>	19-SEP-2024

### 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 and Deputy Vice-Chancellor
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise)
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)
- Vice President and Director (Mission and Identity).

## **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 intensification and has developed a strategy designed to achieve excellence in a number of areas of strategic priority, including theology and philosophy. The outcome has been a remarkable transformation in the research standing of the University. 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 NATIONAL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**

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The School of Theology has a presence on every ACU campus, offering learning opportunities informed by innovative and responsive curriculum design, and internationally recognised research expertise. Led by a National Head of School, and comprising 31 academic staff, our staffing profile is the rival of any theological faculty in the world.

Theology at ACU is accessible at any level of study and is shaped by learning design that is fully responsive to emerging questions and contextual need. Across our suite of learning opportunities - short courses, certificate and undergraduate programs, postgraduate coursework degrees, higher degree research, as well as

international study tours and learning abroad opportunities - we seek to equip students with a capacity to think theologically.

## **POSITION PURPOSE**

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This position promotes the study and practice of interfaith dialogue between Muslims and Catholics, by designing and delivering units on Islam, conducting research, seeking grant income, and supervising higher degree research students. The Chair also contributes to public and online engagement, as possible, by convening activities, panels, symposiums and/or conferences.

## **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

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### **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

<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Broad Area of Academic Activity</b>
Contribute to the design and delivery of the faculty's undergraduate and/or postgraduate coursework units in Islamic theology, Muslim-Christian Dialogue, and related areas.	Teaching/curriculum development/scholarship of teaching
Attract and supervise Higher Degree by Research students, in Islamic theology and Muslim-Christian Dialogue.	Research
Conduct high-quality research in the areas of Christian-Muslim Dialogue and Comparative Theology for publication with highly-ranked international journals and publishers	Research
Seek competitive grant funding to support research and research training.	Research
Design and support the delivery of research seminars, public events and other profiling initiatives that are aligned with the goals and objectives of the Fethullah Gulen Chair agreement, including the promotion of interdisciplinary collaboration.	Research
Contribute to academic administration within the faculty as appropriate and helpful.	Academic Leadership and Service
Contribute to a range of community and stakeholder engagement initiatives (e.g. Open Day and other promotional activities) to facilitate the achievement of the University's strategic goals.	Academic Leadership and Service

## SELECTION CRITERIA

<b>Qualifications, skills, knowledge and experience:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qualification - Doctorate by Research (PhD) in Islamic theology, law and/or qur'anic exegesis, or an equivalent qualification.</li> <li>• Knowledge - Advanced understanding of current issues in Islamic scholarship, Muslim-Catholic relations and inter-religious dialogue.</li> <li>• Knowledge - Understanding of the writings of Said Nursi, with a particular focus on Fethullah Gülen and the Hizmet movement.</li> <li>• Experience - Evidence of excellence and innovation in curriculum design, review and renewal, including leadership in this area, especially as related to Islamic scholarship, Muslim-Catholic relations and inter-religious dialogue.</li> <li>• Experience - Evidence of high-quality, innovative teaching (in English language), informed by reflective practice at undergraduate and/or post-graduate levels, using a variety of delivery methods (including online), including evidence of leadership in this area.</li> <li>• Experience - Track record of publication in leading international journals and presses in areas relevant to the position, and of effective</li> </ul>
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	<p>supervision of research students, including collaborative research initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience - Demonstrated experience in building strategic relationships internally and externally, working collaboratively with colleagues, and of designing and supporting research seminars, public events and other profiling initiatives.</li> <li>• Skill - Additional desirable criterion: Proficiency in Arabic, Turkish, and Persian languages</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>• Keep stakeholder interest at the core of ACU business decisions and ACU service excellence as a top priority.</li> <li>• Work collaboratively internally and externally to ACU to capitalise on all available expertise in pursuit of excellence.</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>• Take personal accountability for achieving the highest quality outcomes through understanding the ACU context, self-reflection, and aspiring to and striving for excellence.</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>

