

# Leadership for Mission

## Availability

Available to participants from across Australia

## Duration

18 months part-time

## Contact

Ms Sharon Brewer, National Centre for Evangelisation, [info@nce.catholic.org.au](mailto:info@nce.catholic.org.au) or (02) 6201 9829

CRICOS registered provider: 00004G

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Leadership for Mission is a project of Australian Catholic University in partnership with the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and the National Centre for Evangelisation.



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.

“For the good of society as a whole, it is critical that we raise up Catholic women leaders who will bring the Good News of Christ into the multitude of forums that they enter. This graduate program provides an opportunity for a group of young women to receive excellent academic and formative input, as well as the chance to build strong and supportive relationships with other Catholic women.”

**Bishop Michael Morrissey**  
Australian Bishops Delegate for Women

Recently acknowledged by the Vatican Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life as promoting “best practice” in lay formation, Leadership for Mission is a joint initiative of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, the National Centre for Evangelisation 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 innovative 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.

## PROGRAM STRUCTURE

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

The academic component of this program consists of a total of 40 credit points (cp), comprising three compulsory units (10 cp each) along with various exposures and experiences and a purposefully tailored introductory module that provides theological frameworks for learning across the other units (10cp). 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  |
|--------------------------|---|
| 13 February 2021 3 – 6pm | <b>Introductory Formation online module (first formal gathering and introduction to the academic and formation team. Includes dialogue with all participants)</b> |
| 18 – 21 March 2021       | <b>Unit 1: Interpreting the Bible for Leadership and Mission</b>  |
| 19 –22 August 2021       | <b>Unit 2: Theology for the Future: Reimagining Leadership</b>  |
| 17 – 20 March 2022       | <b>Unit 3: Theology as Leadership for Mission</b>   |
| TBC                      | <b>Participants will gather for the September/October 2022 graduations (date to be confirmed) and participate in a final formation session.</b>                   |

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants are required to provide a one-page curriculum vitae, a copy of their academic transcript and a one-page statement reflecting on their:

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

They will also be required to submit two referee reports – one of whom should be a Catholic in a key leadership role in their parish or Church organisation.

Applications are to be submitted to Ms Sharon Brewer at [info@nce.catholic.org.au](mailto:info@nce.catholic.org.au) no later than **Friday 30 October 2020**. Interviews will be conducted by 20 November, and successful applicants will be notified by 30 November.

## PROGRAM COST

This is a sponsored program. However, participants will be required to contribute \$4,500 towards the cost of the program. Students will be invoiced in three instalments of \$1500, payable at the commencement of the three units. Queries relating to payment can be discussed at the interview stage.

## UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

### Introductory Formation

In this introductory component of the program, participants will explore the theological frameworks for learning during the program. More specifically, participants will be introduced to religion and theology in general, particularly contemporary sources and approaches in theology. This component of the program will also introduce participants to the challenges and opportunities for women's leadership in Church and society in conversation with theologies or theological works that engage women's experiences and perspectives.

### Interpreting the Bible for Leadership and Mission

In this unit, participants will have the opportunity to bring the experiences and questions of their own contexts into dialogue with texts concerning figures of leadership within the biblical tradition. Learning is structured to support participants to approach an encounter with the Bible as a key dimension of theological reflection. Participants will be given opportunities to employ the skills, tools and resources for critical biblical interpretation in conversation with issues in the context of their current situations and to identify the subsequent implications for action. This unit is aimed at supporting participants to understand the function of a critical and reflexive approach to interpreting the Bible in the process of theological reflection for leadership and mission.

### Theology for the Future: Reimagining Leadership

Participants will be called to imagine and propose future models of Church leadership capable of grappling with

the challenges of the contemporary context, now and into the future. Having journeyed through scripture and contemporary theological reflection, participants now focus on articulating visions for leadership that are grounded in their own personal and professional contexts. Participants will explore models of Church and leadership. They will engage in dialogue with contemporary Australian and international sources, as well as emerging and established female leaders. The unit will involve mentored reflection and creative theological work on designing approaches and strategies for women's leadership for the future of the church. The aim of this unit is for participants to begin to reimagine and to sketch theological understandings of leadership that are empowering for their own professional and personal context, and that can inspire and foster greater participation for all.

### Theology as Leadership for Mission

This unit focuses on the missionary dimension of leadership, particularly in Catholic theology and practice. In this unit students will explore the tools and principles of Catholic Social Teaching, including the Pastoral Circle, and their implications for leadership from socio-ethical and practical theological perspectives. The unit will explore the sources, key themes and principles of Catholic Social Teaching and their implications for the exercise of leadership in the Church and in the world today. The unit serves as a practical application of the contemporary modes of theological method and hermeneutical reflection engaged throughout the course, and the unit itself, by helping the students construct a credo of leadership from a missiological perspective.