

## POSITION DESCRIPTION – ACADEMIC

### POSITION INFORMATION

<b>Position Title</b>	Research Fellow or Senior Research Fellow (Latin Christianity in Late Antiquity)		
<b>Institute</b>	Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry		
<b>Nominated Supervisor</b>	Director, IRCI	<b>Campus/Location</b>	Melbourne
<b>Academic Level</b>	B or C	<b>Academic Career Pathway</b>	Research Only
<b>CDF Achievement Level</b>	1 All Staff	<b>Work Area Position Code</b>	HR to Assign
<b>Employment Type</b>	5-year, fixed term, or ongoing	<b>Date reviewed</b>	September 2017

### 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.

The Australian Catholic University (ACU) is both a Catholic University and a public institution within the Australian higher education sector. ACU is an inclusive community that welcomes students and staff of all faiths and no faith. The University is committed to a strong Catholic ethos and seeks to foster and promote teaching and learning, research and scholarship, and community engagement in the Christian tradition. As valued members of our community, all staff members are expected to have an understanding of ACU's [Mission](#) and values and to demonstrate an active contribution to them.

The University shares with universities worldwide a commitment to quality in teaching, research and service. It aspires to be a community characterised by free enquiry and academic integrity.

The University chooses to focus on areas of teaching and research that are closely connected with its particular character as a University that is Catholic, public and national. The focus areas are Theology and Philosophy, Health, Education, and the Common Good and Social Justice.

ACU has over 2,500 staff supporting more than 35,000 students across seven campuses – Adelaide, Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, North Sydney, and Strathfield (Sydney).

The structure to support the University consists of:

Vice-Chancellor and President

- Provost
- Chief Operating Officer & Deputy Vice-Chancellor
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students, Learning and Teaching

- Vice President
- Pro Vice-Chancellor Assisting the Vice-Chancellor

Each portfolio consists of a number of Faculties, Research Institutes or Directorates. The Directorate of Identity and Mission drives both the Identity and the [Mission](#) of the University. In addition, five Associate Vice-Chancellors and Campus Deans focus on the University's local presence and development of the University at the local 'campus' level.

The University pursues performance excellence and offers an environment where staff are valued and rewarded. Staff are expected to demonstrate a commitment to continuous improvement and to participate fully in resolving issues to achieve and maintain quality standards relevant to role. Further information about a career with ACU is available at [www.acu.edu.au](http://www.acu.edu.au).

ACU is committed to diversity and social inclusion in its employment practices. Applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with disabilities, and people from culturally diverse groups are encouraged.

## ABOUT THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY

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The Faculty of Theology and Philosophy is comprised of two national schools: the School of Theology, and the School of Philosophy, as well as the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry. In the recent ERA 2015 assessment, the University was ranked at above world standard (ERA score of 4) in the Religion and Religious Studies and in Philosophy, and at world standard (ERA score of 3) in Applied Ethics, placing it among the best universities in Australia in these fields. The 2017 QS Subject Rankings placed ACU 36th in the world in Theology, Divinity, and Religious Studies. The Faculty offers undergraduate and postgraduate courses and higher degree research studies across six campuses.

## ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR RELIGION AND CRITICAL INQUIRY

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The IRCI promotes collaborative research on religion and critical thought from multiple disciplinary perspectives, including philosophy, theology, history, and literature. Focusing on Christian thought and practice from antiquity to today, the Institute explores the inter-relationships between religion and its cultural contexts, and contributes to contemporary theological, philosophical, ethical, and political debates. In this way, the IRCI aims to advance understanding of our world and imagine ways to improve it.

Established in 2014 to contribute to the University's strategic goal of making ACU one of Australia's leading institutions for religious and philosophical studies, the IRCI currently comprises four research centres: the Centre for Biblical and Early Christian Studies; the Centre for Catholic Thought and Practice; the Centre for Religion, Philosophy and Culture; and, the Centre for Moral Philosophy and Applied Ethics. As the Institute develops, we expect the configuration of these Centres to evolve.

Including current expertise and planned appointments in Early Christianity, by the end of 2018 we expect to have built a strong research team including scholars with expertise in Greek, Latin and Syriac Christianity, Early Christian Intellectual, Cultural and Social History, History of Doctrine, Ancient Philosophy, Classics, Late-Antiquity, and Byzantine Studies. Research in Early Christianity is also supported by a large team of New Testament scholars, and two large-scale research projects: *Modes of Knowing and the Ordering of Knowledge in Early Christianity*; and *Texts, Traditions, and Identities in Early Christianity*. In addition, the Institute has developed strong international partnerships with leading Universities in Europe, the UK and North America and has also established a series of research seminars each year at ACU's Rome Campus.

The Institute has an international outlook, seeks a diverse staffing profile, and welcomes applications from all suitably-qualified scholars.

For further information, please see <https://irci.acu.edu.au>.

## **ABOUT THE MODES OF KNOWING AND THE ORDERING OF KNOWLEDGE IN EARLY CHRISTIANITY PROJECT**

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The project investigates 'modes of knowing' constructed by Greek, Latin and Syriac Christians c.100-800 CE and the theological claims supporting those epistemologies. It relates them to contemporary philosophical, medical and rhetorical discourses, social practices (asceticism, pilgrimage, liturgies), imperial and institutional power structures, and the material world of early Christianity (relics, sacred texts). It also asks how this construction of Christian epistemologies through cultural and intellectual appropriations might inform modern theological reflection on Christian traditions and theological engagement with modernity.

The project is led by Professor Lewis Ayres (Durham/ACU), Dr Michael Champion (ACU), Dr Matthew Crawford (ACU), Dr Jane Heath (Durham) and Dr Andrew Radde-Gallwitz (Notre Dame). Three research fellows have already joined the team, and we plan to attract PhD students to the project. In addition, a number of other scholars from Australia, Europe, the UK, and the USA provide advice and contribute to the project's publications. Key components of the project are annual symposia at ACU's Rome Campus, panels of papers at international scholarly conferences, and publications including a series of edited volumes, monographs, and journal articles. For further information, please see [here](#).

## **POSITION PURPOSE**

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To produce high-quality research in the Latin-speaking Christianity of Late Antiquity to contribute to and strengthen the University's research profile, and more specifically the research profile of the Institute.

The position contributes to the 'Modes of Knowing and the Ordering of Knowledge in Early Christianity' project, which runs to December 2021. The successful applicant will develop a research plan related to this project, and will also be expected to develop other research interests over the course of the appointment.

We seek applicants with research interests in Latin literature, culture, and ideas. Applicants with expertise in all areas of Latin Christianity in Late Antiquity will be considered, with a preference for scholars working on later Latin authors from Augustine to Bede.

Applicants will work collegially and collaboratively to build their own research profile and contribute to team projects within their areas of specialization and across traditional disciplinary boundaries as appropriate. The Institute includes scholars of Christian Theology, Early Christianity, History, Literature, New Testament, Philosophy, and Religion, and we expect that applicants will be motivated to join a community of scholars interested in fostering and sustaining conversations between these different disciplines.

## **POSITION 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 Strategic Plan 2015-2020
- Catholic Identity and Mission

- Learning For Life Framework 2014-2017
- ACU Teaching Criteria and Standards Framework
- Research Quality Standards
- Academic Performance Matrices and Evidence Framework
- ACU Capability Development Framework
- Minimum Standards for Academic Levels (MSALs)
- Higher Education Standards Framework
- ACU Service Principles
- ACU Staff Enterprise Agreement including provisions in relation to Performance Excellence and Academic Career Pathways.

The following two frameworks in particular 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.

## Key responsibilities

Broad area of academic activity	Key responsibilities specific to this position	Relevant Core Competencies ( <a href="#">Capability Development Framework</a> )
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct high-quality research of an excellent international standard through peer-reviewed publications, including, where appropriate, jointly-authored publications;</li> <li>• Consult on and as appropriate submit grant applications;</li> <li>• Supervise research students as required;</li> <li>• Contribute collaboratively to the intellectual and collegial life of the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry, including through interdisciplinary research and team projects, and by fostering and sustaining conversations across the different areas of the Institute as appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be Responsible and Accountable for Achieving Excellence</li> <li>• Communicate with Impact</li> <li>• Collaborate Effectively</li> <li>• Adapt to and Lead Change</li> </ul>

## QUALIFICATIONS AND CAPABILITY OF THE POSITION HOLDER

This section sets out the qualifications, skills, knowledge, experience and competencies expected of the position holder, collectively referred to as 'qualifications and capability'. These are informed by the evidence and performance standards for the relevant Academic Level and Academic Career Pathway and Academic

Level drawn from the [Academic Performance Matrices and Evidence Framework](#) and the Core Competencies set out in the [Capability Development Framework](#).

Opportunities to develop capability are provided through the development programs coordinated by internal providers of professional development. See the [Training and Development website](#) for more information.

In recruiting and selecting a candidate for the position, a subset of the qualifications and capability will form the Selection Criteria, **to a maximum of 10**.

<b>Qualifications and Capability</b>		
<b>Qualifications and other credentials</b>		
1.	A PhD related to Latin-speaking Christianity in Late Antiquity, for example in fields such as Classics, History, Early Christianity, or Late-Antique Studies.	
<b>Research</b>		
2.	A track record of excellent peer-reviewed publications in the field.	
3.	Ability to work effectively both individually and collegially as part of a collaborative and interdisciplinary research team.	
4.	Ability to supervise research students.	
<b>Core Competencies</b>		
5.	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.	
<b>Other attributes</b>		
6.	Experience in undergraduate teaching is desirable.	
7.	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.	