

POSITION DESCRIPTION – ACADEMIC

POSITION INFORMATION

Position Title	Research Fellow <i>or</i> Senior Research Fellow (New Testament and Early Christian Studies)		
Faculty	Faculty of Theology and Philosophy		
Functional Unit	Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry (IRCI)		
Nominated Supervisor	Director, IRCI	Campus/Location	Melbourne
Academic Level	B or C	Academic Career Pathway	Research Only
CDF Achievement Level	1 All Staff	Work Area Position Code	<i>HR to assign</i>
Employment Type	Fixed term, Five (5) years	Date reviewed	February 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.

Australian Catholic University (ACU) is both a Catholic University and a public institution within the Australian higher education sector. ACU is an inclusive community which welcomes students and staff of all beliefs. 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 34,000 students across seven campuses – Adelaide, Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, North Sydney and Strathfield.

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

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

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.

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.

THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY

The Faculty of Theology and Philosophy is the largest Faculty of its kind in Australia. It 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 the Philosophy Fields of Research, and at world standard (ERA score of 3) in the Applied Ethics Field of Research, placing it among the very best universities in Australia in these fields. The Faculty offers undergraduate and postgraduate courses and higher degree research studies across six campuses and is a leader in the flexible delivery of teaching.

THE INSTITUTE FOR RELIGION AND CRITICAL INQUIRY

The Institute is first and foremost a research organization, which sets its sights on the highest standards of intellectual work, seeking creativity, collaboration and originality as well as rigour and thoroughness in its scholarship at an international level. Established in 2014 to contribute to the University's strategic goal of making ACU Australia's leading institution for religious and philosophical studies, it 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.

The Institute is in an exciting growth stage. In the last two years, a number of appointments have been made in the area of Biblical and Early Christian Studies, Philosophy of Religion and Moral Philosophy. A further tranche of appointments is underway in 2017 across all areas of the Institute. In addition, the Institute has developed strong international partnerships with leading Universities in Europe, the UK and North America. It also has established a series of research seminars each year at ACU's new Rome Campus.

CENTRE FOR BIBLICAL AND EARLY CHRISTIAN STUDIES

Located within the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry, the Centre for Biblical and Early Christian Studies builds on a long history of distinguished work by ACU's world-leading New Testament and Early Christianity scholars. A major focus of research in the Centre is the extent to which different strands of Christianity sought to define themselves in relation to Jewish and Greco-Roman religious, philosophical, social and cultural heritages. This includes attention to the reception, appropriation and transformation of Classical and Jewish thought-systems and ways of life. Scholars within the Centre have expertise in Hellenistic Judaism, New Testament Studies, Early Christianity, and Late-Antique and Byzantine Studies.

POSITION PURPOSE

The Research Fellow and/or Senior Research Fellow will conduct high-level research as a member of the team investigating *Texts, Traditions and Early Christian Identities*. They will pursue their own research within and beyond the program, leading to high-quality publications. Within the program, they will undertake research relating to either the project 'Jewish traditions and the making of Christian identity' or to the project 'Negotiating the primitive Christian heritage.' Through individual and collaborative research and publications, and participating in Centre and Institute activities, the Research Fellow or Senior Research Fellow will help to enhance the national and international research profile of the Centre for Biblical and Early Christian Studies and the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry.

POSITION 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 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 (Capability Development Framework)
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct high-quality research related to New Testament and Early Christianity generally and the 'Texts, Traditions and Identities' program specifically; Produce high-quality publications as sole author and in collaboration with other researchers in top international peer-reviewed outlets; Contribute actively to the collegial life of the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry, including leading research seminars; Prepare and submit research grant applications and actively identify and seek funding from external bodies in consultation with other researchers within and outside of the Institute; Perform other duties as required appropriate to the level of appointment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be Responsible and Accountable for Achieving Excellence Coach and Develop Communicate with Impact Collaborate Effectively Adapt to and Lead Change

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.

SELECTION CRITERIA	
Qualifications, Skills and Experience	
1.	A PhD related to New Testament and Early Christian Studies.
2.	Demonstrated expertise in the study of the New Testament and its early reception.
3.	A track record of scholarly publications of an excellent international standard (Level B). A sustained track record of scholarly publications of an excellent international standard and evidence of a contribution to the discipline (Level C).
4.	Ability to work effectively both individually and collegially as part of a collaborative research team.
Core Competencies	
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.
6.	Demonstrate ability to work collaboratively internally and externally to capitalise on all available expertise in pursuit of excellence.
7.	Demonstrate capability to take personal accountability for achieving the highest quality outcomes through understanding the organisational context, self-reflection, and aspiring to and striving for excellence.
Other attributes	
8.	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.
Desirable	
1.	Interdisciplinary expertise across History, Classics, Theology or Philosophy.
2.	Experience in supervising HDR students and/or in university teaching (Level C).
3.	Experience in public engagement activities and in communicating research to a wide public audience.