

POSITION DESCRIPTION – ACADEMIC

POSITION INFORMATION

Position Title	Professor or Associate Professor (Medieval or Early Modern Studies), and Program Director, Medieval and Early Modern Studies		
Faculty	Faculty of Theology and Philosophy		
Institute	Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry (IRCI)		
Nominated Supervisor	Director, IRCI	Campus/Location	St Patrick's, Melbourne
Academic Level	D or E	Academic Career Pathway	Research Only
CDF Achievement Level	1 All Staff	Work Area Position Code	TBC
Employment Type	Full-time, continuing	Date reviewed	30 April 2018

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.*

At ACU we pride ourselves on offering a welcoming environment for everyone. At the same time, we are a university committed to standing for something clear. We stand up for people in need and causes that matter. ACU's Mission is central to the University, and informs every area – integrating the dignity of the human person, the common good, and ethical and social justice considerations into our core activities of student learning and teaching, research and service.

We are a publicly-funded university which has grown rapidly over the past few years. We're young, but we are making our mark: ranking among the top universities worldwide. We have got seven campuses around Australia, more than 200 partner universities on six continents, and a campus in Rome, Italy.

We know that our people make us a university like no other. It's your values, action and passion that makes the difference. Whatever role you may play in our organisation: it's what you do that defines who we are.

We value staff, offering excellent leave and employment conditions, and foster work environments where they have the ability grow and develop. We continue to invest in our facilities and workplaces, and actively involve staff in shaping the future direction of the organisation.

In order 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.

We hope that you might champion these values, and work with us to create a place of learning that is not only the envy of the world, but the making of it.

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

Each portfolio consists of a number of Faculties, Research Institutes or Directorates. The Vice President 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.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR RELIGION AND CRITICAL INQUIRY (IRCI)

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 theological, philosophical, social, and political debates. In this way, the IRCI aims to advance understanding of our world and imagine ways to improve it.

Founded in 2014, the Institute is still in a growth phase but has three established research programs: Biblical and Early Christian Studies, Philosophy, and Religion and Theology. Each program includes full-time researchers and research students. Several scholars across these areas have research strengths in medieval and early modern studies, and we have therefore decided to build a new research program with dedicated specialists in the period.

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 six campuses. In the recent ERA 2015 assessment, the University was ranked at above world standard (ERA score of 4) in Religion and Religious Studies and in Philosophy, placing it among the best universities in Australia in these fields.

ABOUT MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN STUDIES IN THE IRCI

The modern world has been built on self-conscious rejections of religious Byzantine and medieval pasts, and narratives of progression from the age of Renaissance and Reformation to the glories of the Enlightenment, the triumph of free-market capitalism, and liberal democratic secularism. We aim to build a team to help advance understanding of this history, and to reframe it through dynamic reinterpretations of the medieval and early modern past.

We expect to attract an experienced scholar to lead a group of researchers with expertise across diverse disciplines, periods, and regions of the medieval and early modern world. Specialisations of the team members might include areas such as philosophy and theology, aesthetics, the body, Classical receptions, devotion, emotions, literature, temporalities, material and visual cultures, music and sound, religion and violence, and the senses. We currently have scholars with primary affiliations in early Christianity and theology who have research interests in areas like these in the period. We would hope that new members of the medieval and early modern studies program will be interested in collaborating with scholars across one or more of the Institute's other research programs, while also developing a distinctive research profile for the program which sets it at the forefront of the field internationally.

POSITION PURPOSE

The primary purpose of the position is to foster a collegial and vibrant culture of excellent research within the new Medieval and Early Modern Studies program by leading a group of scholars, mentoring them, and helping to develop a collaborative, coherent, and high-quality research program across the team. Through this academic leadership and service, and through his or her own outstanding research, the Director of the program will contribute to and strengthen the University's research profile, and specifically the research profile of the Institute.

We seek a dynamic and collegial scholar with an international reputation in the field to lead and mentor scholars within the program. Working with and reporting to the Institute Director, the Program Director will have a proven track record of internationally-recognised research in medieval and early modern studies broadly conceived. He or she will join a vibrant research environment and help to shape a new research program within the IRCI. The successful applicant will work collegially and collaboratively to build his or her own research profile and initiate and contribute to team projects within the various areas of specialisation 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 the applicant will be motivated to join a community of scholars interested in fostering and sustaining conversations between these different disciplines.

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 Delivery Model
- 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 of an excellent international standard through peer-reviewed publications, including, where appropriate, jointly-authored publications; • Consult on and submit grant applications; • Supervise research students; • Initiate and lead collaborative research projects with scholars from ACU and other universities in Australia and internationally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be responsible and accountable for achieving excellence. • Communicate with impact. • Collaborate effectively. • Adapt to and lead change. • Coach and Develop
Academic leadership and service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the development of the Medieval and Early Modern Studies program and establish and sustain a culture of high-quality research in consultation with the Institute Director; • Mentor staff and facilitate the research of other members of the program; • Manage academic professional development and performance reviews for members of the program in consultation with the Institute Director; • Develop and sustain the program's international and national research partnerships; • Contribute collaboratively to the intellectual and collegial life of the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry and the University as a whole. The Director may also be expected to take on other leadership and service roles across the University from time to time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be responsible and accountable for achieving excellence. • Communicate with impact • Collaborate effectively. • Adapt to and lead change. • Coach and Develop

SELECTION CRITERIA

Qualifications and other credentials

1.	A PhD in any discipline within Medieval or Early Modern Studies.
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Research

2.	A track record of outstanding publications in highly regarded scholarly outlets relevant to the field.
3.	Successful collaborative research experience, including through successful competitive research grants.
4.	A successful track record of supervision of research students and of research-informed undergraduate and postgraduate teaching.

Academic Leadership and Service

5.	Successful experience in leadership and academic service roles, including the ability to mentor and develop capabilities of staff, and motivate them to sustain a collegial, creative, and high-quality working environment.
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Core Competencies

6.	Live ACU's Mission, Vision and Values: 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.
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Other attributes

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.
8.	Experience in leading an academic unit, such as a Department, School, or Faculty is desirable, as is experience in international research service roles, such as editing journals or book series, or leadership of professional associations.