Founded as Melbourne Bible Institute in 1920 by Rev C.H. Nash and a small group of Christian businessmen, later becoming Bible College of Victoria, Melbourne School of Theology has been training men and women to serve God in Australia and abroad for nearly a century.

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him will bear much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

JOHN 15:5
Welcome to MST, we’re glad you’ve decided to check us out.

As you’ll discover in the following pages, we want to equip you to live out and declare the gospel in whatever context the Lord has placed you.

That’s why we’ve introduced a new, more flexible student-empowered-learning model, with greater freedom for you to shape your studies to reflect the vocational and ministry outcomes you feel called to. In practical terms, this means more choice among a growing and diverse suite of electives. It also provides the opportunity to pursue ‘major’ and ‘minor’ areas of focus in your Award.

It will also place you in a virtual cohort of students, full and part-time, on campus and online, preparing for similar areas of ministry.

As outlined in the suite of brochures we offer training that emphasises five key areas of ministry:

- **Pastoral and Organisational Leadership** for those preparing for local church, pastoral, mission and para-church leadership.
- **Teaching Ministry** for those wishing to prepare specifically for teaching ministry, either in the church or academic world, by going deeper into Biblical and theological studies.
- **Intercultural Ministries** for those going into cross-cultural ministry, or wishing to focus on areas of specific interest, such as Islamic studies.
- **Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care** for those interested in chaplaincy and pastoral care to serve churches, schools, campus ministry, sports clubs and to the wider community.
- **Creative Arts, Worship and Spiritual Formation** for those whose sense of calling and passion lies in the creative arts, and spirituality.

We pray that, as you read through this Prospectus and the attached ‘Streams’ brochures, you will prayerfully consider joining us at MST and set down deep roots in Him.
OUR MISSION

MST exists to equip God’s people with transformational theology, Biblical depth and a missional heart, to effectively communicate the Gospel of Christ to a diverse and changing world.

Our Core Values

A Passion to Glorify God
Our single greatest motivation, and the driving conviction behind all we do, is to bring glory to the Lord Jesus Christ and to declare His praise to the nations.

Unwavering Commitment to the Scriptures
We are unashamedly committed to the Bible and want our students to grow in their love for the Scriptures, learning how to know them more intimately, treating them with respect and developing the skills to share God’s Word with relevant application in a contemporary world. While this is a central element of a Christian’s spiritual life, it is a crucial component of the training of Christian leaders.

Active Engagement in World Mission
MST’s story has always been the story of people with a heart and a passion for global missions. Generations of men and women have been trained here and have gone on to shape the work and world of global mission in remarkable ways. Mission remains central to the heart and purpose of MST.

A Servant and Partner to the Church
We’re not only an expression of the church, but a servant to the church. We celebrate a strong relationship with many churches and count it a privilege to partner with them in the training and equipping of men and women for ministry.

Academic Excellence
We are committed not only to equipping people with highly practical, foundational ministry and life skills and to spirit-empowered teaching, but to sound and rigorous scholarship of the highest standard. For those interested in postgraduate studies, or planning on a longer-term teaching ministry, our postgraduate Awards reflect the very highest standards in Biblical scholarship.

Character and Spiritual Formation
We are not just about producing academics. Our purpose and hope is that every single student who passes through the doors of MST will be profoundly impacted in heart and soul, experiencing not only spiritual growth but also spiritual renewal. We believe that theology must not be simply be informational, but transformational.

“\nIt has been a privilege to see so many members of our church start and then graduate from study at MST – many now working and serving in full time ministry – making an impact for Christ – right around the world. As a church, we continue to recommend MST as the place to study because we believe it’s a great place to prepare for ministry and know the Word of God better through excellent teaching."

Tim Dyer, Senior Pastor, Kilsyth South Baptist Church

WHAT’S THE LOGO?
The logo includes the name and a ‘pages motif’ which represents the tangible nature of the Bible, the living Word of God.

RECOGNISING OUR HERITAGE

Melbourne School of Theology is built on a rich heritage of nearly one hundred years of educating and training men and women to serve Christ in Australia and abroad. Today, every aspect of MST honours the past and endeavours to stay true to its founders’ vision.

Founded as the Melbourne Bible Institute by Rev C.H. Nash and a small group of Christian businessmen in 1920, the organisation initially trained men and women for the China Inland Mission. As its reputation grew, many more missionary societies turned to the Institute to train their recruits.
Make Friends for Life.

Studying at theological college is a significant part of your life, so we’d like you to remember it as more than merely time spent gaining knowledge. Ours is a community which will help you to develop spiritually and academically through the bonds of strong, close friendships – friendships which will remain as you journey throughout life.

Regular social activities also ensure the student body has ample opportunity to meet and form a strong, supportive community. Our shared lunches and Chinese banquets, community nights, film events and missional activities give students the opportunity to balance and round out their study routines.

CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH FACULTY

Small class sizes give you the opportunity to develop supportive personal relationships with both students and Faculty. You’ll regularly find lecturers gathering with students over lunch, on the lawns outside, or even at the table tennis table.

RELAXED AND DIVERSE

We’re proud to welcome students from all corners of the globe and from various cultures and linguistic backgrounds. It adds richness to student discussions and shared experiences, opening up incredible opportunities for the future.

LINKED GLOBALLY TO OUR NETWORKS

Our community extends beyond our current full and part-time student body to a network of thousands of men and women who’ve gone before you and now serve the Lord through countless churches and mission agencies around the world. MST’s global community will provide opportunities for your future growth and service in His Kingdom.

“I’m finding that having a better knowledge of the Bible is encouraging and enables me to more practically live out my faith. Although originally nervous about writing essays and trying to understand theological concepts, the teaching faculty and fellow students are really supportive. So, even though it’s challenging, it is all set up to help me succeed.”

David, Diploma Student
Your Experience: Shaped to Fit

A THOUSAND WAYS TO SERVE

We believe that every single Christian is called to ministry.

For some, that clearly involves formal training for leadership and pastoral ministry within the local church. For generations, MST has been faithfully and effectively training church leaders, pastors, preachers, evangelists and lay leaders from within virtually every evangelical denomination.

For others, God’s call into ministry might be one that leads them into a cross-cultural setting, perhaps in church planting, Bible teaching or translation, medical work, business-as-mission, teaching, community development or technical ministry.

For many, the call of God is expressed in any one of countless roles within the local fellowship; where every week, day after day, men and women use their spiritual gifts and talents, personal interests and creativity in areas such as:

- Teaching and preaching
- Small group leadership
- Community outreach and church planting
- Counselling and pastoral care
- Chaplaincy / Sports ministry
- Children’s ministries / Youth and Young Adults

Many people want to serve God and live more effectively for Christ right where they are; perhaps in their home, neighbourhood, classroom, building site, marketplace or office. Their desire to study the Scriptures simply reflects a passion to get to know God more, discover and use their spiritual gifts, and be better equipped to share the Gospel with friends, colleagues and family.

“I enjoy being at MST because it’s a relaxed, informal atmosphere where everyone is willing to help. Studying at MST has contributed amazingly to my ministry. It’s matured my biblical knowledge, impacted my preaching and brought the lessons learned into real life pastoral care situations.”

Heather Packett, Crossway Church

Being part of a team of people who are highly qualified, uniquely skilled, passionate about serving Christ and clearly called to the roles they are fulfilling, is one the great joys of leadership.

Far from simply being a workplace, MST is a community; a place where men and women not only learn together, but encourage and pray for one another, worship God together and acquire skills and understanding to assist them in proclaiming the gospel to a world of people so in need of Jesus.

To be involved in the task of equipping and preparing men and women to find their own place of ministry is one of the great privileges we all enjoy. We look forward to getting to know you!

Timothy Meyers, Principal
Immerse yourself in God’s Word and see how it will shape, prepare and equip you to serve Him faithfully and effectively throughout your life.

Grow in your confidence to correctly handle the Scriptures (2 Timothy 2:15).

Study alongside men and women from all over the world and from a variety of denominational backgrounds.

Discover God’s leading in your own life, as we grapple together with the big issues of faith, spiritual life and ministry.

Sharpen your mind, deepen your heart for the lost and develop skills that will serve you in ministry, whether locally, globally, in the church or outside in the workplace.

... Study at MST will change your life!!

“I’ve watched and celebrated the renewal and rebirth of BCV into MST with its new location and new Principal, who I hold in very high regard. I studied at MST and expect that it will make a very positive contribution to all who prepare for ministry and life there.”

Dale Stephenson, Senior Pastor, Crossway

Student: Timothy Wood
DIPLOMA PROGRAM

Would you like more confidence in sharing your faith, teaching the Bible or understanding how to respond to some of the big issues facing the Church?

MST’s Diploma of Christian Studies has been specifically designed for people who haven’t studied for a while, or who may not be quite ready for degree-level Biblical studies. Many are attracted to our diploma streams because they easily fit into a busy schedule and at the same time lay a solid, scriptural foundation for your life.

Within the diploma course, you will study some of the most important and foundational themes relating to Christian life and practice. Discover how theology has developed throughout history, gain an understanding of the social and political contexts in the Early Church, and learn how to understand scripture in light of both Old and New Testaments. The MST Diploma will deepen your faith and strengthen your confidence in the Scriptures while it equips you for a variety of exciting ministry opportunities.

A wide range of assessment methods are used within the course. As MST is governed by the Australian College of Theology, your studies will also be recognised internationally and will give you credit points towards a degree if you choose to further your training. Fee-Help is available to Australian residents.
BACHELOR PROGRAM

MST’s Bachelor degrees are designed to provide the essential theological and Biblical training for a lifetime of Christian ministry. These awards aim to equip men and women to confidently handle the Scriptures and to engage actively and thoughtfully with the challenges of faith and life.

Students in the Bachelor program interact deeply with the Bible. They are instructed in how to read and interpret the Scriptures in light of contemporary culture and to apply Biblical principles to a range of ethical, theological and practical issues facing the Church. There is also a significant focus on spiritual and character formation, with various elective subjects aimed at providing unique, flexible and personally relevant areas of focus within the overall program.

Students first enrol in the Diploma of Christian Studies and must complete the 5 required subjects at 200 level. If a Credit grade or above is achieved the student may transfer to the Bachelor of Ministry or Bachelor of Theology and gain full credit for those core subjects.

Graduates of the Bachelor program at MST are sought after by the Christian community. They often go on to become pastors, mission and cross-cultural professionals, chaplains or take on a broad range of ministry leadership positions in the church and workplace.

You have the option of electing which Bachelor program suits your calling:

› Bachelor of Ministry to focus on ministry skills;
› Bachelor of Theology to focus on Biblical language and more in-depth Biblical study;
› Bachelor of Christian Studies to integrate your Biblical studies with your professional university studies;
› Associate Degree in Theology if you only have a couple of years to devote to study.

More than 25 individuals or couples who are currently serving with Pioneers are graduates of MST – at least 20 in the past decade. MST graduates are often people with life-experience, bringing a certain maturity which helps to ground them in a cross-cultural situation. We’ve found MST graduates to be steadfast men and women who long to reflect the character and nature of Jesus Christ to others, who are committed to the Word and sharing God’s heart for the unreached of this world.

Kate Pocklington, Facilitator of Learning, Growth & Development, Pioneers Australia
Graduate Study at MST

MST Graduate level Degrees are designed for those who have already completed a tertiary qualification. They provide a thorough grounding in Biblical theology, preaching and teaching, along with a range of practical subjects and electives aimed at developing spiritual life.

Many of our Graduate level students are preparing for pastoral and local church ministry, cross-cultural mission, or various roles in Christian leadership; others simply want a solid Biblical and theological foundation for their professional and personal life.

The Graduate Diploma of Divinity – by far our most popular course – has been designed for students who are looking for a flexible course that will deepen their understanding of Scriptures and the Christian faith. The Master of Divinity and Master of Ministry courses are ideal for those who are seeking a rigorous theological formation that will equip you for either leadership ministry or higher theological studies.

"As a mature age student from a diverse professional background coming to study later in life, I thought I didn’t fit the ‘conservative mould’ for a theological school. I’ve been pleasantly surprised by the sheer diversity of students here – no-one fits any mould at MST. My favourite experience has been learning and worshipping together with Christians from such varied backgrounds and different parts of the world."

Jim Raistrick, BMin student

... Learn more about your faith!
Subjects Available

**CORE UNITS**

Old Testament Foundations
Old Testament Prophets and Writings
Jesus and the Gospels
Early New Testament Church
Church to 1550
Church from 1550 to modern times

**ELECTIVES**

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MST’s Postgraduate Institute offers one of the largest theological and ministry-related research concentrations in Australia. Candidates come to MST to up-skill in order to meet the challenges they face in their high-impact ministries around the nation and beyond.

We offer best practice research and scholarship opportunities through our supervision, library resources, monthly research seminars and cohort groups. The newly established MST Press offers a pathway towards publication during and on completion of research.

Our Postgraduate program aims to generate a stream of top shelf leaders who have the capacity to influence the public conversation about faith, morality and the purposes of God.

Candidates can tailor their training and development through either the coursework or research streams.

**POSTGRADUATE COURSEWORK**

› **Master of Missional Leadership**
  (1-1.5 years full-time; 4-6 years part-time)

Designed for professionals and practitioners who already have some ongoing experience, or for initial spiritual professional development, with a focus on ministry and practice.

› **Master of Arts (Theology)**
  (1-1.5 years full-time; 4-6 years part-time)

Designed for theology graduates to consolidate and enhance an area of specialty with a focus on Biblical and Christian Thought studies.

**POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH**

› **Master of Theology**
  (1 years full-time; 2.5 years part-time)

A research degree that specialises in Bible and Language, Christian Thought or Ministry and Practice.

› **Doctor of Ministry**
  (3 years full-time; 6 years part-time)

This is a degree for ministry practitioners, combining coursework and culminating in a thesis.

› **Doctor of Theology**
  (3 years full-time; 8 years part-time)

Constructed around a 100,000-word thesis focusing primarily upon the Christian traditions, documents or doctrines.

› **Doctor of Philosophy**
  (3 years full-time; 6 years part-time)

Constructed around a 100,000-word thesis exploring cultural phenomena examined through a Christian worldview.

“I have been really impressed with MST. Even though our course is mostly offered through an intensive, it certainly has that ‘family feel’ about it. Being a senior pastor, I find that I can apply almost everything I’ve learnt to the ministry immediately, especially in preaching and pastoral care. And being lectured by someone of the calibre of Colin Kruse has made the class very exciting and insightful.”

Bram Manusama, Senior Pastor, Melbourne Life Church
What’s Distinctive About MST?

While there are many places to study the Bible and theology in Australia, MST has some distinct elements that make the difference.

But who are we to tell you... The best people to ask are our students:

“ It’s genuinely interdenominational – the Faculty, Leadership, staff and students.”

“ The small class sizes lead to supportive personal relationships with Faculty. You are never just a number here.”

“ There’s a central focus on mission in Australia and abroad, and that’s where I want my future to be.”

“ A real commitment to academic excellence.”

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES

MST provides a broad range of unique opportunities for students, which are world-class, and preeminent in theological education:

Arthur Jeffery Centre for the Study of Islam – offering world-standard units.

MST Chinese – the only place to offer accredited degree-level theology courses in Chinese (Mandarin) in Australia.

MST Postgraduate Institute – promoting research that genuinely serves the church and mission agencies around the world.

DIVERSE WITH A SINGLE PURPOSE

From the beginning, MST has been genuinely interdenominational, with Faculty, students and the Board representing most mainstream evangelical Christian traditions. This diversity has strengthened our students’ faith, deepened on-campus community relations and given them a broader knowledge base for their future Kingdom work.

“ I didn’t want to go to a denominational training college and be moulded into their ways of thinking. I wanted to be moulded by what the Bible had to say and to discover what God is thinking.”

Kirsty McKane, BTh Graduate

BIBLICAL DEPTH

We believe that the Bible is the core text of the Christian life and therefore, shouldn’t merely be an elective. At MST, God’s Holy Word is central to everything that is taught because we want your education to go deep, not just broad.

“My studies at MST prepared me for life. I would recommend anyone wanting Biblical depth to study at MST...”

Dorinda Edwards, well-known health worker with SIM in Nigeria.

MISSION IN OUR DNA

For nearly a century, mission workers have been trained and equipped at MBI, BCV, and now MST. Is God calling you to engage with His world?

Mission is an integral part of our life as Christians. We are all called to proclaim the gospel wherever God has placed us. That’s why cross-cultural mission and outreach are woven into the fabric of each subject and course offered at MST.

“I got to rub shoulders with other students who were heading on the same crosscultural path as me and I got to sit under lecturers who not only taught me the Bible but who also had experience on the mission field themselves.”

Kristen, Graduate from Grad. Dip. Div.

MST CHINESE

MST Chinese is the only place in Australia offering fully accredited degrees in Bible or Theology in Chinese, with dozens of Chinese-speaking graduates now serving as pastors and leaders across Australia.

David Xu, an MST Chinese Bachelor of Ministry graduate, says he now has a desire to become more like God, and to serve Him via pastoral ministry to the 500,000 Chinese speakers in Australia.

“MST Chinese is the best place to study for any Chinese-speaker who wants to go into Christian leadership. Not only does it prepare you to study but it brings you close to a range of Christian colleagues in ministry.”

David Xu, MST Chinese graduate

CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF CHINESE CHRISTIANITY (CSCC)

With the launch of the Centre for the Study of Chinese Christianity in 2012, this specialist team, led by Director, Rev. Dr. Justin Tan, is the only Australian Faculty that focuses on the phenomenal growth of the Chinese-speaking church, especially in Australia and China. MST Chinese now hosts and facilitates visiting scholars doing research from across Australia, China and South East Asia.
The main aims of MST Chinese are:
› To foster advanced research in contextual theology, solid Biblical study and deep spirituality amongst the Chinese Christian community.
› To establish credible advanced level research in Christian Theology in the Chinese context.
› To conduct research into the growth and mission of the Chinese Church, and;
› To provide facilities for exchange of scholarship both within Australia and overseas.

ARTHUR JEFFERY CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF ISLAM

Since its inception in 2008, the Arthur Jeffery Centre for the Study of Islam (AJC)* has proven to be one of MST’s greatest strengths and unique differences. It provides world-class education, training, and academic scholarship to:
› Develop people in their own unique gift mix and calling in order to engage the world of cross-cultural ministry.
› Be a resource for the Church, providing understanding and practical ways to engage people of other faiths and share the Gospel of Christ in fruitful ways.
› Equip people to be a positive voice in shaping the national, political and the religious landscape of their nation.

Led by Dr Richard Shumack, Professor Peter Riddell - Vice Principal (Academic) and our Missiologist, Dr Bernie Power, the AJC is a specialist centre within MST, the only one of its kind in Australia, offering community courses, undergraduate study and postgraduate research into Islam and other faiths from a Christian perspective.

*Previously known as CSIOF (Centre for the Study of Islam and Other Faiths).

RESEARCH THAT SERVES THE CHURCH

With one of the largest postgraduate enrolments for any theological college in Australia, MST Postgraduate Institute is an innovator. We provide rigorous scholarship and research at the very highest level.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to engage in postgraduate studies like this and for the support of the postgrad faculty and staff at MST. But I particularly value the approach to research and expect significant theological reflection.”

David Nicholls, Summer Institute of Linguistics, PhD student researching cross cultural tensions in leadership styles.

HOW TO APPLY

Applying to study at MST is easy. Simply follow these steps:
1. Visit www.mst.edu.au and read through the Courses we offer and subject descriptions.
2. Visit us on Open Day or make an appointment to discuss your application with our Enrolment Coordinator: +61 3 9881 7800.
3. Submit your application form, available online, 30 January for Semester 1 and 30 June for Semester 2.
4. We will notify you that your application has been successful.
5. Enrol in your subjects.*

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The only institutional requirements for study at Melbourne School of Theology are that each applicant is a committed Christian, has a written character reference from their pastor or church leadership, meets the educational and English requirements for their course* and is at least 18 years of age.

*N.B. Courses and subjects may have specific criteria for entry. Please speak to our Enrolment Coordinator for details and advice.