

Graduate Certificate in Teaching Religious Education Lutheran Strand postgraduate program

Frequently asked questions

What exactly is the Graduate Certificate in Teaching Religious Education and at whom is it aimed?

The ALC Graduate Certificate in Teaching Religious Education (GCTRE) prepares students in graduate initial teacher awards such as a Master of Teaching or Graduate Diploma in Education to teach Christian Studies. For these students the GCTRE is taken concurrently with the initial teacher award.

It is also undertaken by teachers early in their career or outside of the Lutheran system who wish to become qualified to teach Christian Studies within a Lutheran school. To this end it partially fulfils the [Lutheran Education Australia](#) requirements for accreditation as a teacher of Christian Studies.

By arrangement with their home university, students who are also enrolled in an initial teacher award will generally complete their final professional experience placement in a Lutheran school in order to complement the learning in their GCTRE.

I am in my final year of my Bachelor of Education—do I have to wait until I have finished?

As a graduate certificate, the GCTRE assumes that you have completed an undergraduate qualification. However, it is possible to gain permission to start the GCTRE in the final year of your Bachelor of Education.

What are the benefits of completing this course?

This award is effectively a minor in Christian Studies. It allows you to add Christian Studies to your list of teaching subjects. All primary teachers and some secondary teachers in Lutheran schools are required to be accredited to teach Christian Studies. This course partially fulfils the accreditation requirements and means that you are exempt from the majority of the in-service accreditation program.

Will the qualification be recognised and will it help me get a job?

The GCTRE is a recognised qualification and is likely to be an advantage for gaining a position in a Lutheran school. However, it is not a substitute for being a good teacher. All Lutheran schools are autonomous employing bodies—no one can tell them who to employ. Teachers with a GCTRE are attractive to schools because its attainment indicates commitment to being a good Christian Studies teacher. It also means you do not have to undergo the in-service Christian Studies professional development program, which causes less disruption to your classes and saves the school money. However, schools will also be looking at your professional experience reports and other indicators that you are a competent teacher, are able to live out the Christian worldview of the school and will contribute in meaningful ways as an employee.

I am working part-time, so how much work is involved in the units?

The GCTRE is the equivalent of a full-time semester, so you can reasonably expect that each of the three individual units is one third of a full-time load. To do them well requires commitment. This is not an award for those planning to cram all the work into the weekend before an assignment is due.

Can I get FEE-HELP?

FEE-HELP is available for students who plan to complete the GCTRE or for those doing individual units which will be cross-credited into an initial teacher award.

Does ALC help me with looking for a job?

ALC runs sessions to assist graduating students to write job applications and practise interview techniques. Graduate information is circulated to Lutheran schools, and principals also contact ALC at times to seek recommendations. Students who show themselves to be competent and who are willing to travel to where the jobs are—which may be rural or interstate—tend to get work, although sometimes this requires some initial patience.

How do I obtain more information?

You can telephone ALC on 08 7120 8200 and ask to speak with the Dean's Administrator, or email enquiries@alc.edu.au for further information.