

## Lutheran Strand undergraduate program

(Concurrent with enrolment in a Bachelor of Education)

### Frequently asked questions

#### What is the Lutheran Strand?

Effectively it is a minor in Christian Studies that fast-tracks your accreditation with [Lutheran Education Australia](#) as a Christian Studies teacher. All primary teachers in Lutheran schools must be accredited as a Christian Studies teacher and all secondary teachers who teach Christian Studies must be accredited.

#### Do I have to be Lutheran?

No. Lutheran schools employ teachers prepared to support the Lutheran ethos. The Lutheran Strand contains biblical and theological content viewed from a Lutheran perspective. You will be required to engage with Christian texts and traditions but do not need to be Lutheran.

#### What is required of a Lutheran Strand student?

As a Lutheran Strand student you will be enrolled simultaneously in a Bachelor of Education at any university offering initial teaching degrees and as a Lutheran Strand student at Australian Lutheran College. There are four semester-length ALC units which you complete over the four years of your Bachelor of Education at a rate of roughly one per year. In your final year you complete your major professional experience placement in a Lutheran school. There are also other professional development opportunities and school visits which you may choose to take part in.

#### Can I count my ALC units in my Bachelor of Education?

Each Bachelor of Education degree is structured a bit differently. In some you can include all four units and cross-credit these back to your education degree; in others you can cross-credit some of the units. A number of our students complete the Lutheran Strand as overload by choice, so that they are qualified with an additional teaching subject which enhances their employment prospects.

#### Do I have to come to ALC for classes?

All our units are designed to be accessed online from anywhere in Australia. However, some units will offer livestream sessions or three-day intensive webinars which you are encouraged to attend to broaden your learning experience.

## **Is the Lutheran Strand a lot of work?**

Well, yes it can be. Each unit is a full university-level unit of work, so the equivalent of 25% of a full-time load (around 12 hours per week study commitment).

Some students try to take short cuts with the work because the lecturer isn't there on their case every minute, but this rarely works. You need to stay on top of the work if you are going to do a good job of the assessment tasks. If you are taking the Lutheran Strand on overload, you need to think carefully about how you are going to manage the increased workload for that semester.

## **Can I get FEE-HELP for the Lutheran Strand?**

Provided you are enrolled in an eligible course and meet the citizenship and residency requirements, FEE-HELP is generally available.

## **Will the Lutheran Strand help me to get a job?**

Generally yes, Lutheran Strand graduates are attractive to Lutheran schools both because they arrive already trained in teaching Christian Studies and because they have a much greater understanding of the core culture of Lutheran schools than other graduates—but there are a couple of other key factors to keep in mind. Firstly, you must be a competent teacher. The Lutheran Strand won't help you to get a job if you can't teach. Secondly, you need to be flexible about where you are prepared to go. If you don't want to move more than five minutes from home, then you will have many less opportunities than if you are flexible about where you start your teaching career. At the end of your fourth year we run information sessions on preparing yourself for the marketplace with topics such as writing CVs and mock interviews. We also promote our graduates to the wider Lutheran school community across Australia.

In recent years, first-year teachers who had completed the Lutheran Strand were employed in Lutheran schools in places such as Alice Springs, Biloela, Ceduna, Darwin, Gawler, Gold Coast, Maitland, Mildura, Murray Bridge, Port Lincoln and Werribee.

A significant number of first-year teachers also found positions in the wider Christian school sector.

## **How do I obtain more information?**

For further information, email [enquiries@alc.edu.au](mailto:enquiries@alc.edu.au) or telephone the Dean's Administrator on 08 7120 8222.

## **How do I enrol?**

To apply for admission into the Lutheran Strand, complete the 'Application for Admission – Domestic Coursework'. For future year enrolments, use the 'Re-enrolment – Domestic and Overseas Coursework Students' application. Both forms are accessible at [alc.edu.au/study/higher-education/enrolments](http://alc.edu.au/study/higher-education/enrolments). Under 'Course and College', select 'Diploma in Theology'.