



## **Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst**

### **Financial support for tertiary studies**

“Sandhurst Theology Scholarships – Semester 1 2025”

#### **1. Purpose**

To support the mission formation of parishioners through formal theological studies and other ministry related courses, especially parishioners with pastoral leadership roles in the diocese of Sandhurst or parishioners who are seeking pastoral leadership roles.

#### **2. Objectives**

To provide parishioners with financial support in the form of a scholarship to study approved post-graduate level theology coursework and approved programs in ministry and spiritual leadership.

#### **3. Eligible Education Providers and Courses**

Refer to **Appendix A** ([Flyer for Semester 1, 2025](#)) for list of providers and available courses.

#### **4. Nature of support**

Financial reimbursement towards one of the following:

- 50% of the advertised tuition fee per post-graduate unit for up to four units; or
- 50% of the advertised cost of the Damascus Spiritual Leadership Program at Heart of Life, Melbourne; or
- 50% of the advertised cost of one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (Shepparton); or
- 50% of the advertised tuition fee for 2 CPE post-graduate units at the University of Divinity, Melbourne (if undertaken as part of the Shepparton CPE unit offering).

#### **5. Application Criteria**

- Prospective applicant is a parishioner in the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst
- Recognised institution and approved course clearly identified
- Clear statement of reason(s) for study
- State current involvement in Parish life, including any leadership roles
- Endorsement of Parish Priest
- Proposed unit of study, for credit or audit, or course (Spiritual Leadership)
- Priority will be given for groups of two or more parishioners applying together and providing mutual support through shared discussions, etc.
- Indication of any previous tertiary studies

## 6. Key dates

- 23 October 2024: advertising of financial support/scholarships
  - Flyer to parishes and email to parish priests
  - Advertisement in eNews
- 6 December 2024: applications close for Semester 1 2024
- 13 December 2024: successful applicants notified.
- Dec 2024- Jan 2025: applicants contact tertiary provider.
- Students present evidence of enrolment, payment receipt and bank account details
- Students reimbursed via direct credit to bank account or FEE-HELP students reimbursed direct to Australian Taxation Office.

## 7. Scholarship Rules

- 7.1. Scholarships are granted for approved post-graduate level tertiary units per **Section 3**.
  - a) Tertiary units and programs will be approved by the bishop or his delegate.
  - b) The list of approved units or programs will be published prior to the beginning of each semester in the academic year.
  - c) Up to twenty scholarships may be granted per academic year.
- 7.2. Prospective students may apply for four scholarships in total over four semesters, providing that the fourth and final unit is completed no more than three years after the first (For example, if the first unit is completed in June 2024, the fourth unit must be completed by June 2027).
- 7.3. Excepting those who enrol in the *Clinical Pastoral Education (Award)* prospective students may apply for four scholarships in total over four semesters, providing that the fourth and final unit is completed no more than three years after the first (For example, if the first unit is completed in June 2024, the fourth unit must be completed by June 2027).
- 7.4. Students who gain a scholarship to complete the Clinical Pastoral Education (Award), may apply for up to two additional scholarships for semester long units at a post-graduate level, providing the fourth and final unit is completed no more than three years after the first (For example, if the two *Clinical Pastoral Education* units are completed by December 2025, the final unit must be completed by December 2028).
- 7.5. Prospective students are to use the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst online form to apply for a scholarship.
- 7.6. Applications will be reviewed on a competitive basis and priority will be given to parishioners in pastoral leadership roles and parishioners studying in a group.
- 7.7. Applications will be reviewed and approved (or rejected) by the bishop or his delegate. All decisions are final and there is no appeal process.
- 7.8. Applicants who are successful in gaining a scholarship will be contacted by the Director of Mission and Pastoral Life.
- 7.9. The student is responsible for completing all enrolment requirements and for the full payment of tuition fees.
- 7.10. Failure to complete unit of study:
  - a) There is no financial consequence for failing to successfully complete a unit of study and no compensation will be sought by the diocese.
  - b) Failure to complete a unit of study will be considered in considering any application for support in undertaking subsequent units of study.
- 7.11. Withdrawal from enrolment after the University of Divinity census date:

- a) There is no financial consequence in relation to the scholarship for withdrawal from enrolment after the University census date for a unit of study and no compensation will be sought by the diocese.
- b) Withdrawing from a unit of study will be taken into account in considering any application for support in undertaking subsequent units of study.

*Finalised for Semester 1 2025 on 23 October 2024*

Office for Mission and Pastoral Life, Sandhurst