



The Ecclesial Futures – Cities of God PhD Scholarship

WHITLEY RESEARCH

Whitley College, Victoria



Whitley College has been serving the Baptist churches of Victoria and beyond for over 100 years. Its commitment to ministry and mission, congregational flourishing, and the pastoral formation of women and men leads to this bold, new, research initiative.

Predicting the church of the future is beyond any human ability to foresee or anticipate with absolute certainty. However, preparing for the likelihood of change is a vital ingredient in any movement of flourishing churches. Imagining the range of possibilities is an exercise that combines faithful creativity with the prayerful observation of current practices. The *Ecclesial Futures – Cities of God* scholarship anticipates the need for such faithful imagination in three or four areas of research activity. This current scholarship is intended to directly contribute to improving the practices of mission and ministry by, with, and among the churches of today's globally significant cities.

The future of the church is a strategic focus for Whitley College's 'Ecclesial Futures' Research Programme. Whitley College is committed to the critical innovation and creativity that will birth and sustain communities of Baptist Christians wherever, and however, they gather together for mission and ministry. The Cities of God scholarship is intended to assist Whitley College's ministry among the churches of Victoria. More immediately, it will support a Whitley College student studying towards a PhD at the University of Divinity that makes a demonstrable contribution to the strategic research objectives of the Baptist Churches of Victoria and Whitley College in understanding and engaging with the city as a site or place for Christian presence and ministry.

The Scholarship is composed of an award of up to \$10,000 per annum.

Eligibility Criteria

1. The candidate must be successfully admitted to commence a PhD in a relevant theological discipline of at the University of Divinity.
2. The candidate must be willing to collaborate with a team of researchers, industry practitioners and stakeholders.
3. The candidate must have capacity to make a contribution to the future of Australian theological scholarship and education in this area.
4. The candidate must have the capacity to collaborate with others in developing industry-

standard resource that makes an impact upon, and engages with, the strategic objectives involved in understanding the city as a place or site of Christian presence and ministry.

5. Students who have already commenced a PhD at the University of Divinity and meet the other criteria are eligible to apply.

Applications

1. Request an *Ecclesial Futures* Scholarship application form and return, along with a completed HDR enquiry form, to the Director of Research at Whitley College, Associate Professor Darrell Jackson. You should also include with your application a statement of up to 650 words on your capacity to contribute to the future of Australian theological scholarship and, secondly, your capacity to collaborate with others in developing industry-standard resources that will potentially impact upon the presence and ministry of churches, congregations, and initiatives in Greater Melbourne
2. Both forms are available on request by emailing the Director of Research djackson@whitley.edu.au.
3. Applications will be considered by a Selection Panel representing the interests of Whitley College, ministry partners, and research partners. The successful applicant will be invited by the Selection Panel to complete an HDR application form for PhD entry (download from <https://divinity.edu.au/ser/future-research-students/>) return this to the Director of Research for signature and forwarding to the School of Graduate Research of the University, for consideration by the Research Committee of the University.
4. Applicants for the *Ecclesial Futures* PhD Scholarship must be able to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of Whitley College that the proposed research topic and/or research question has academic merit and has demonstrated potential for real and direct benefit to the development and advancement of understanding the city as a place or site for Christian presence and ministry.
5. For scholarship application and enrolment deadlines, please refer to the *Ecclesial Futures* (CoG) Scholarship page on the Whitley College website.
6. The short-listed applicant may be interviewed by members of a Selection Panel. The outcome of the award will be announced in time to allow University application in either November or April. HDR application deadlines are published on the University of Divinity's website at <https://divinity.edu.au/sgr/> Late submissions cannot be accepted.

The Ecclesial Futures Scholarship Fund

The *Ecclesial Futures* Scholarship Fund promotes research-led activity that anticipates the Future Church. This includes the provision of scholarships for PhD study, publishing activity for peer review, and the development of 'industry-standard' resources.

Support the Fund

Support the work of the *Ecclesial Futures* Scholarship Fund by making a tax deductible (AUD \$2 or more) donation.

Donation forms are available from:

Rev Associate Professor Darrell Jackson

The Director of Research

djackson@whitley.edu.au

Whitley College

50 The Avenue, Parkville
VIC 3052.

Enquiries

All enquiries, in the first instance, should be directed to the Director of Research at Whitley College, the **Rev Associate Professor Darrell Jackson**: djackson@whitley.edu.au

