



# The Ecclesial Futures – LOTE PhD Scholarship

WHITLEY RESEARCH   
Whitley College, Victoria



The Baptist Union of Victoria and Whitley College have served the Baptist community of Victoria for a combined total of just over 200 years. Their shared legacy of ministry committed to the leadership and pastoral care of women and men, throughout that period, leads to this bold, new, collaborative 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. Our *Ecclesial Futures* 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 LOTE (Language Other Than English) churches of Victoria.

The future of the church is a strategic focus for Whitley College's 'Ecclesial Futures' Research Programme. Whitley College is committed to the sort of critical innovation and creativity that will birth and sustain communities of Baptist Christians wherever, and however, they gather together for mission and ministry. The BUV 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 BUV and Whitley College in understanding and engaging with the LOTE churches, congregations, and initiatives in the state of Victoria.

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 of the BUV and the LOTE churches of Victoria.
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 LOTE churches, congregations, or initiatives in Victoria.
2. Both forms are available on request by emailing the Director of Research [djackson@whitley.edu.au](mailto:djackson@whitley.edu.au) or the Academic Registrar, [dmorgan@whitley.edu.au](mailto:dmorgan@whitley.edu.au)
3. Applications will be considered by a Selection Panel representing the interests of BUV and Whitley College. 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/sgr/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 both Whitley College and BUV, 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 spiritual care and ageing, in its various dimensions, and/or improving the provision of aged-care at an operational level within Baptistcare.
5. For scholarship application and enrolment deadlines, please refer to the Ecclesial Futures (LOTE) 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 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](mailto:djackson@whitley.edu.au)

**Whitley College**

50 The Avenue, Parkville  
VIC 3052.

[whitley.edu.au](http://whitley.edu.au)

## Enquiries

All enquiries should be directed to the Director of Research at Whitley College,  
**Rev Associate Professor Darrell Jackson:**  
[djackson@whitley.edu.au](mailto:djackson@whitley.edu.au)

