

Applications for the 2025 Damascus Spiritual Leaders Program close on 1 November 2024.

On receipt of an application, arrangements will be made for a personal interview.

Please address applications to:

*Director
Heart of Life
69 Alto Avenue, Croydon VIC 3136
Australia
Email: info@heartoflife.melbourne*

DAMASCUS TIMETABLE 2025

Orientation:	<i>Saturday, 15/2/2025</i>
<i>Leadership Formation & Praxis:</i>	<i>Monday, 24/2 - 26/5 (Mid-sem break 14/4 - 27/4)</i>
<i>Unit 2 (TBC):</i>	<i>Friday-Saturday, 13-14/6; 27-28/6; 11-12/7</i>
<i>Personal Awareness & Development:</i>	<i>Monday, 28/7 - 27/10 (Mid-sem break 22/9 - 5/10)</i>
Final Retreat Day:	<i>Saturday 8/11/25</i>
End-of-Year Commissioning:	<i>Monday, 17/11/25 (evening)</i>



Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation

69 Alto Avenue, Croydon VIC 3136, Australia

T: (+61 3) 9890 1101

E: info@heartoflife.melbourne

W: www.heartoflife.melbourne

Heart of Life is an apostolic work of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart



Heart of Life

Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation



**Damascus
Spiritual Leaders Program
(Graduate Certificate in Divinity)**

2025: on campus and online (blended classes)

One -year Part-time Formation Program

*To enliven the divine spark in people's hearts
through contemplative formation*

The Apostle Paul's leadership journey

began on the road to Damascus. Saul, as he was known then, was on his way to carry out what he believed was the work of God, however, Jesus interrupted his plan, and Saul was confronted with his own blindness and need for change.

Saul's journey towards becoming Paul, was one of formation and transformation. His blindness led him to a place of surrender where the Holy Spirit touched his heart and set him on a new leadership pathway that would impact generations.

The Damascus Spiritual Leaders Program at Heart of Life invites you to take this same journey of formation with us. As you travel the Damascus road, you will discover your own growth areas and learn to listen, pray, and understand your spiritual pathway towards genuine heart-led leadership.

Participants will engage with areas of spirituality including: understanding your emotional inner life; stages of faith formation; discernment; contemplative practices; leadership influence; and meditation and prayer.

Like Paul, your Damascus experience will set you on a new course for spiritual maturity and an increased impact in the world.

Aim

The Damascus Spiritual Leaders Program focuses on personal integration of the theory and practice of a contemplative

and discerning approach to spiritual and pastoral leadership.

For Whom is this Program Designed?

This program is a one-year, part-time program for people in various positions of leadership, spiritual formation and outreach ministries.

It is designed for the following people:

- formators, clergy, ministers and members of Religious Orders
- spiritual health workers
- lay ecclesial ministers, pastoral associates
- school principals, teachers, school mission leaders, and others in education
- pastoral care practitioners, chaplains
- parish co-ordinators, special ministers, youth leaders and others in the parish leadership team
- nurses and others in health and aged care
- community and spiritual leaders.

Pre-requisites

Applicants should be involved in some form of ministry, formal or informal.

Graduate Certificate in Divinity

Participants who meet the 'previous Degree' and other criteria, may undertake the Damascus Program as a fully-accredited *Graduate Certificate in Divinity*. Enrolment is made through Yarra Theological Union after an Offer of a Place is provided by Heart of Life.

On successful completion of the program, the *Graduate Certificate* is awarded by the

University of Divinity.

Students applying to study the *Graduate Certificate* must provide YTU with the original or certified copies of relevant transcripts.

Damascus Spiritual Leaders Program

This formation program can be undertaken as an audit student. Participants who audit the unit are encouraged to complete the written tasks to gain full benefit.

Kindly note that for those who choose to complete the unit as an audit participant, no academic credit can be claimed for the unit, either at the time of enrolling or retrospectively.

Attendance Timetable

The Damascus Program is a one-year part-time program from February to November.

Students will also receive 4 x one-hour supervision sessions at a mutually-agreed time during the program.

Content

Damascus consists of three units of study spread across 10 months.

Assessment

Assessment is based on essays, reports, word response; word essay, word report and word portfolio.

Program Recognition

Catholic Education Commission of

Victoria (CECV)

This course is accredited by the CECV for professional learning hours towards 'gaining/maintaining accreditation to teach, and maintaining accreditation to teach religious education or lead in Catholic Schools'.

Fees (Australian Dollars)

[Graduate Certificate in Divinity](#)

The fee for students studying the *Graduate Certificate in Divinity* in 2025 is approximately \$10,104.

Government FEE-HELP is available for Tuition fees to qualifying Australian citizens. For more information on FEE-HELP, see www.studyassist.gov.au

To apply, applicants must select 'FEE-HELP' as their payment method when completing their course enrolment forms. Proof of Australian citizenship must be provided. After processing, applicants will receive an email that enables them to apply for FEE-HELP through the online eCAF portal.

[Damascus Spiritual Leaders Program](#)

The fee for undertaking the program as an audit student is approximately \$7,843.

Refund / Cancellation Policy

Heart of Life's Fee Refund Policy provides for the refund of student tuition fees or the recrediting of a FEE-HELP balance before Census Date, or after Census Date when special circumstances apply. See our Fee Refund Policy at www.heartoflife.melbourne