



## **Lecturer in Baptist Studies and Academic Dean – Full-time (1.0EFT)**

### **Whitley College**

As an affiliated College of the University of Divinity and an agency of the Baptist Union of Victoria (BUV), Whitley College:

- provides a safe, pastoral, yet dynamic and creative learning environment for students;
- provides high quality theological education through a comprehensive range of diplomas, degrees, and advanced research programs accredited by the University of Divinity;
- provides flexible and innovative formation programs and professional development opportunities in fulfilling its purpose to equip men and women for leadership and service in the ministries and public witness of the Church in a rapidly changing society, and;
- works closely with partners and stakeholders to ensure its programs are of the highest educational quality, relevant to ministry practice where appropriate, and practitioner-engaged.

### **University of Divinity**

Whitley College is one of the colleges of the University of Divinity and part of its collegiate structure. The University of Divinity promotes the highest standards of scholarship in theology, philosophy and ministry. Through scholarship, the University aims to address the issues of the contemporary world.

### **Primary objectives**

Whitley College, as an agency of the BUV, has a primary responsibility for providing high quality theological education and ministry formation for students and ordination candidates of the BUV.

The College seeks to fill the role of Academic Dean and Lecturer in Baptist Studies to ensure a high quality and relevant theological curriculum and, in particular, to encourage student appreciation for the Baptist tradition and the formation of students for Baptist ministry.

The Lecturer in Baptist Studies and Academic Dean will:

- coordinate the Academic program of Whitley College, resourcing and facilitating regular and collaborative Faculty Meetings;
- lead and participate in the development and delivery of teaching in the area of Baptist Studies;
- maintain a research interest in the field of Baptist studies, supporting strategic College initiatives in this area.

### **Key responsibilities**

With administrative support, the Lecturer in Baptist Studies and Academic Dean will, in their role as the **Academic Dean (0.5)**:

- a. facilitate and nurture a robust collegial faculty culture that fosters academic leadership, educational innovation, promotes academic quality assurance and alignment with academic

policies.

- b. fulfil this through membership of the College's Academic Committee, College Faculty meetings, the College's Strategic Leadership Team, the University's Academic Board and, where invited and available, its Committees or working groups.
- c. oversee/ensure the administration of admissions, enrolments, course advice, assessment moderation, student unit evaluations, academic staff accreditation, course modification, development, revision and approval of unit records, student appeals, student progress, students at risk, academic integrity, Dean's extensions, graduation, and the unit approval process.

as the **Lecturer in Baptist Studies (0.5):**

- a. teach up to a maximum of two units per year, within the annual cycle of units offered.
- b. propose and develop new Baptist Studies units and programs, where considered appropriate.
- c. carry out research for presentation and possible publication that advances knowledge and understanding in the field of Baptist Studies, with national and international audiences in view.
- d. provide pastoral support to students.
- e. participate in the College community's devotional life of prayer, worship, and attention to God's word.
- f. develop and maintain effective relationships with the churches and agencies of the BUV.
- g. be prepared to fulfil other necessary organisational tasks, from time to time, within the public-facing and educational programs of the College.

### **Essential skills, knowledge, and experience**

- a. A completed Master's degree in a theological discipline relevant to Baptist Studies, with a willingness and the capacity to pursue a doctoral program as soon as is practicable.
- b. Significant capacity for academic leadership and administrative oversight.
- c. A dynamic and creative approach to engaging students with Baptist history, convictions, and identity.
- d. Membership of a Baptist church, or demonstrated alignment with and commitment to the Baptist tradition and aims of the BUV.
- e. Willingness to affirm the values and strategic purposes of Whitley College.

### **Preferred skills, knowledge, and experience**

- a. Understanding of, and sympathy with, the baptistic identity, affiliations, and context of Whitley College.
- b. Highly developed interpersonal skills and a helpful and professional manner supporting the ability to communicate effectively, clearly and sensitively with a diverse range of people.
- c. Active membership of relevant scholarly associations and bodies.
- d. Completion, or progress towards it, of a doctoral degree.

### **Process for applications**

Beginning August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, Whitley College will begin interviewing for this permanent appointment and is inviting applications from current staff of the College, the University, and beyond. International applicants may be considered according to individual circumstances.

The following is offered for your guidance.

- a. Familiarise yourself with this document and any attachments, and the websites of Whitley College and the University of Divinity.

- b. Prepare a covering letter, supported by a CV/resumé, in which you show how you are suited to undertake and fulfil this position and its responsibilities a, skills. We especially welcome candidates able to offer tangible examples of competency and experience.
- c. We welcome contact from interested parties seeking clarification about the role as they prepare their application, likely to involve conversation with the Principal. This is an invitation to mutual discovery and exploration moving towards a closer match of person and role.

Applications should have arrived by 5pm on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2025.

A shortlist of applicants will be invited to interview by a committee representing the interests of Whitley College's stakeholders, with an invitation to interview at a time and place mutually agreeable to both applicant and the selection committee.

Following successful interview and offer of appointment, a contract will be offered beginning on a date towards the end of 2025 or otherwise negotiated according to individual circumstances.

### **Contact details**

Applications should be addressed to Carrie Chiu, the Executive Assistant to the Principal of Whitley College, Rev Associate Professor Darrell Jackson. Carrie Chiu can be contacted by email at [cchiu@whitley.edu.au](mailto:cchiu@whitley.edu.au) and can put you in touch with the Principal at your request.

*Rev Associate Professor Darrell Jackson,  
Principal, Whitley College, June 2025*