

Dear students of BBI-TAITE

You are only too well aware of the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on the life of a teacher, REC and school leader. The pandemic has exacerbated the systemic effects of the teacher shortage and decreased supply of casuals. All this affects your time and availability for professional development and study for advancement.

In response we have modified our pedagogy and worked with you to facilitate study. You have indicated in surveys and personal responses that this has been helpful, and there remains a high level of satisfaction with our courses.

However, many have been unable to continue study at present, or circumstances have prevented them from beginning required programs. This has led to a drop in enrolments in our key programs. Over the last 12 months the Board of Directors has worked with us to implement a number of measures to ameliorate the situation, however the position at census date for Session 2 was such that we needed further measures.

On Wednesday 30 August the Chair of the Board of Directors has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sydney College of Divinity: A University College (SCD) enabling BBI-TAITE to join the SCD as a full Member Institute. Our awards will now be taught through the SCD.

When does this take effect?

We will cease teaching our BBI-TAITE stand-alone awards at the end of this session. Students who complete their program will be graduates of BBI-TAITE. New students and those currently in programs will be invited to enrol in the equivalent award in the University College.

Beginning Session Three, we will be teaching the same units as programmed, with the key change that your enrolment will be into the equivalent SCD award.

What does this mean for you?

For students who will graduate at the end of Session 2, nothing will change, you will receive your graduation documents electronically from BBI-TAITE.

For those continuing their study for completion in Session 3, 2023, or later, most things will be the same, but a few will be different. Let's start with the differences. On graduation you will be awarded your degree by the SCD under its name but with reference to BBI-TAITE. As a student your studies take place under the SCD academic policies and regulations, which closely correspond to the policies you are currently under.

However, much will be the same. We will teach the same awards, with the same units and the same structure. The unit names will be the same, though the code for each unit will be different. The unit outline will reflect these changes but contain the same content. The non-academic policies of the Institute remain in place.

Upon accepting enrolment in the comparable SCD award, your completed units, along with any credit granted and recognition of prior learning will be accepted by the College in full. In effect, all your studies are brought into the new award without any loss.

The unit outline will have a different look but contain all the same information. Your access to the Digital Theological Library (DTL) remains the same. All BBI-TAITE lecturers have been accepted as online lecturers in the University College. Our online tutor, Ennis McLeod, remains available.

What are the advantages?

Membership of the SCD brings advantages. The University College holds live graduation ceremonies and provides students with a testamur and transcript. It is possible to take units from other graduate programs in the consortium, broadening the choice of offerings. As a graduate you have entry into the research programs of the college. Belonging to the SCD also allows BBI-TAITE to rein in the cost of study.

What are my choices?

We are very keen for you to continue your studies with us from within the SCD! However, you may wish to move to another tertiary provider. We will help you with that.

Whom can I talk with?

For a discussion of your own program please contact our Registrar Cheryl Martin: cheryl.martin@bbi.catholic.edu.au & 61 2 9030 3104. The Registry will be in touch with each of you about your next units and options in general.

For a discussion about the move into the SCD and its impact on your studies and the opportunities it represents, please contact the Principal Prof Gerard Moore: gmoore@bbi.catholic.edu.au & 0491201214.

Frequently Asked Questions

Over the following weeks we will post on our website and send out responses to FAQs. Keep a look out for them.

Our hope is that the transition will go smoothly, but there will be the inevitable glitch. We appreciate your patience as we move across systems.



06 September 2023
Professor Gerard Moore
Principal & CEO