



President Catholic Institute of Sydney

Candidate Prospectus



Catholic Institute of Sydney
Australia's Ecclesiastical Faculty for Theology and Ministry

Welcome to the **Catholic Institute of Sydney**



It is with thanks I offer my welcome to all who have expressed their interest in this important role of the future president of the Catholic Institute of Sydney. As Australia's premier ecclesiastical faculty for theology and philosophy, it is a treasure entrusted to the Archdiocese of Sydney for the benefit not only of those in formation for priestly and religious life, but of all those seeking to grow in their understanding of the Catholic Faith. As Chancellor of the Institute I am proud of the calibre of teaching and research conducted at the Catholic Institute of Sydney in philosophy, theology, canon law, scripture, pastoral theology and more.

The incumbent Prof. Sr. M. Isabell Naumann ISSM has led the Institute since 2018 as President while serving on various national and international councils, including two terms with the Pontifical Council for Culture in Rome. I am deeply thankful and indebted to Sr Isabell for the expertise and dedication with which she has led the Institute in that time. My vision for the Institute into the future seeks to unlock the potential I believe it holds, making it more accessible to a broader cohort of the faithful whilst remaining anchored in its prime mission of forming priests and religious. I am most looking forward to appointing the next President who will have a solid understanding of the faith, of the complexities of the Church and tertiary education in our current climate, and the vision to lead a new chapter in the story of the Catholic Institute of Sydney.

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP

Archbishop of Sydney and Chancellor, Catholic Institute of Sydney

About Catholic Institute of Sydney



Mission Statement

The Catholic Institute of Sydney (CIS) seeks to be a community of faith and learning, a community whose members work together through scholarship and service to bring the Gospel into dialogue with Australian Culture. In order to realise its mission, the Catholic Institute of Sydney promotes study in theology, philosophy, and the humanities; it draws upon and develops the intellectual and spiritual heritage of the Catholic Church and the wider Christian tradition; it is enriched by its participation in the Sydney College of Divinity; and it values and learns from other religious traditions. The Catholic Institute of Sydney is committed to the pursuit of excellence, intellectual integrity, and academic freedom. In all its relationships, it is dedicated to co-responsibility, justice and equity.

About the Catholic Institute of Sydney

TCIS, Australia's premier ecclesiastical faculty for theology and ministry, is one of our oldest tertiary institutions. Providing opportunities for students to study for ordination into the priesthood or diaconate in the Catholic Church, CIS also offers opportunities for students who are engaged in Church ministry as well as those seeking to deepen their faith through study.

Located on historic grounds in Strathfield, CIS has highly qualified staff with scholarly interests that embrace the Catholic philosophical and theological tradition together with contemporary teaching and learning excellence across philosophical, theological and biblical disciplines.

CIS offers both domestic and international students a rich and engaging sense of community that focuses on providing the highest quality classroom learning experience. CIS offers courses and programs across the Sacred Sciences as well as civil programs including the Bachelor of Divinity, Master of Theology, and Doctor of Theology programs. CIS also enjoys a close partnership with the University of Notre Dame Australia, notably through the delivery of some civil awards.

Governance

Government of CIS is both personal and collegial. The Chancellor, who is the Archbishop of Sydney, fosters the Catholic Institute of Sydney, promotes its progress and safe-guards its legitimate autonomy within the local and universal Church. He presides at meetings of the Senate. This body is responsible for the ordinary government of the Catholic Institute of Sydney and promotes its vitality. The President is the chief academic and administrative officer of CIS. Key functions include fostering the unity and progress of the Institute, encouraging initiative in teaching and research, and conducting the ordinary administration of CIS. The Academic Board monitors the academic affairs of the Institute and determines the courses to be offered. Its meetings are chaired by the Academic Dean who is responsible for the academic programmes of CIS.

As an ecclesiastical faculty, CIS was canonically erected in 1954 by Papal authority – through the Congregation for Seminaries and Universities – to teach the sacred

sciences and to confer the Baccalaureate, Licence, and Doctorate of Sacred Theology. The Apostolic Constitution of Pope Francis, *Veritatis Gaudium*, provides the universal law for ecclesiastical faculties. The statutes and regulations of each faculty are expected to take account of the “university practice in the local area”. The Statutes of the Catholic Institute of Sydney are those as approved by the Congregation for Catholic Education on the 29th July 2021.

The Catholic Institute of Sydney, like all tertiary institutions in Australia, is subject to the appropriate commonwealth authorities. It relates to relevant bodies as a Partner Institution of the University of Notre Dame, Australia. All University of Notre Dame, Australia undergraduate, graduate, postgraduate, and research programs taught at Catholic Institute of Sydney are accredited by the Australian Government’s Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA).

About the President, Catholic Institute of Sydney

Appointed by the Chancellor, the Archbishop of Sydney, and accountable to the Senate, the President of the Catholic Institute of Sydney is the Institute's chief academic and administrative officer.

The President fosters the unity and progress of CIS, encouraging initiative in teaching and research, and conducting the administration of CIS.

The President is appointed by the Chancellor, upon nomination by the Senate of CIS and confirmation from the Holy See, for a term of five years (renewable for one further term).



Key Responsibilities

The primary responsibilities of the President are to:

- effectively manage the academic, administrative, financial and other affairs of the Institute
- foster the unity and progress of the Institute, encourage initiative in research and teaching, and stimulate cooperation among all the members of the CIS community
- promote the interests and development of the Institute
- represent the Institute before the public
- keep the Chancellor and Senate informed of important developments at the Institute
- consider proposals by the Chancellor in relation to the appointment of Permanent and Non-Permanent Teachers as defined in the Statutes
- ensure that a statistical summary of the Institute's data is uploaded annually to the database of the Dicastery for Culture and Education as required pursuant to the articles of the Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis gaudium*
- prepare and publish each year a report of the work of the Institute, for distribution to the dioceses and religious congregations as shall, from time to time, send their students to the Institute, and to other theological institutions, Catholic and Non-Catholic, in Australia and overseas
- receive and consider the recommendations of the Academic Board in relation to the program of studies taught at the Institute
- submit to the Chancellor, from time to time, the program of studies taught at the Institute as well as recommendations and proposals of the Academic Board in relation to the program of studies taught at the Institute
- consult with the Rectors of the major Seminaries of the Archdiocese of Sydney and the Director of the Permanent Diaconate for the Archdiocese, as well as Directors of Formation of the relevant religious orders on proposals for the program of studies,
- perform other duties as directed by the Chancellor and the Senate.

Inter-relationships

The President interacts with the following internal and external groups:

- The Dicastery for Culture and Education
- The collegial authorities of the Institute
- The staff and students of the Institute
- The seminaries and religious houses of formation with students at the Institute
- The University of Notre Dame Australia and other Catholic universities in Australia and Oceania
- Catholic Theological College, Auckland
- Saint John Vianney College, Wagga Wagga
- Other Catholic / Christian tertiary institutions in the region
- The Australian and New Zealand Association of Theological Schools (ANZATS)
- The Chancery of the Archdiocese of Sydney.



Selection Criteria

Academic Qualifications and Research Excellence

- Possess a doctorate or equivalent qualifications, preferably a canonical degree at least to the level of Specialised Licence
- Demonstrate evidence of original research of high standing within the academic community
- Show a solid record of research and publication in theology or a related discipline

Leadership and Administrative Experience

- Proven experience and effectiveness in academic leadership roles
- Demonstrated ability to manage academic, administrative, and financial affairs of an educational institution
- Experience in implementing strategic directions and fostering institutional growth

Knowledge of Catholic Higher Education

- Excellent understanding of the operation of institutes of higher education in the Catholic Church

- Familiarity with the requirements of the Australian higher education sector
- In-depth knowledge of the Catholic Church in Australia, its ecclesial culture, and organizational structure

Teaching and Research Commitment

- Demonstrated commitment to fostering high-quality teaching, learning, and research
- Ability to encourage initiative and stimulate cooperation among academic community members
- Commitment to expanding the service of CIS to the Catholic community of Sydney and beyond

Stakeholder Management and Communication

- Strong interpersonal skills with the ability to interact professionally with various stakeholders
- Good public relations skills and ability to represent the Institute before the public
- Capacity to maintain positive and effective relationships with internal and external groups

Selection Criteria

Catholic Faith and Values

- Demonstrated commitment to the teachings and values of the Catholic Church
- Willingness to submit to the requirements of the mandate for this office
- Ability to promote the interests and development of the Institute in line with Catholic principles

Adaptability and Strategic Thinking

- Capacity to respond effectively to and lead in a changing environment in the higher education sector
- Commitment to implementing the vision of CIS and the strategic direction set by the Senate
- Dedication to ensuring continuous quality improvement

Personal Attributes

- Strong emotional intelligence and leadership skills
- Ability to act with discretion and maintain confidentiality
- Excellent time management and organizational skills
- Commitment to personal growth and accepting feedback

Reporting and Compliance

- Ability to prepare and publish annual reports on the Institute's work
- Understanding of regulatory requirements, including those set by the Holy See and Australian education authorities
- Capacity to oversee administrative officers and provide timely reports to relevant bodies



How to Apply

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney is assisted by the executive search consultant Jackie Besley of Devereaux Consulting. For a confidential discussion or advice on your application please contact:

Jackie Besley on +61 (0) 413 633 195
jackiebesley@devereauxconsulting.com

Applications should include a full curriculum vitae and a vision statement articulating how you would approach the role of President of the Catholic Institute of Sydney and how your experience is aligned to the requirements of the position as outlined in the key selection criteria.

Applications should be directed to
jackiebesley@devereauxconsulting.com

Applications close XXX August, 2024