



# Women's Leadership for Mission

A formation experience for women, by women,  
with women

“This program has encouraged me to learn, read and look at things a bit differently; to be positive and to know that I have the opportunity for real change in what I am doing. It has given me language, tools, techniques and confidence that my opinion matters, and I have something that is worth sharing.”

Past participant

Developed for women, by women, and with women, the Women's Leadership for Mission program is a contemporary expression of a commitment to the spiritual and intellectual formation of women through a holistic framework of academic and formative experiences.



Women's Leadership for Mission integrates five key dimensions, each essential for supporting women to lead for mission in the contemporary world.

#### ALUMNAE MAKE AN IMPACT IN THEIR COMMUNITIES



**Natalia Teguhputri** is co-founder of The Waterjars, a movement that works to fund community development projects in health, education and youth empowerment. Passionate about the intersection of commerce, faith and mission, and with an existing natural aptitude for numbers and logistics, Natalia's participation in Leadership for Mission became a way to deepen her capacity to draw on the theological thinking that underpinned her work.

"Through the projects we support, I sense there is a God aspect in the practical needs of the community: the need for water to wash is parallel with the need for cleansing the heart from stain due to broken relationships; the need for a proper toilet is related to the dignity of the human being; and the need for everyone to be respected and to belong."

*Natalia graduated from the Leadership for Mission program in 2020. She is now undertaking a Master of Philosophy by research in philanthropy and non-profit studies.*

# The academic program

Women's Leadership for Mission comprises formal coursework (the academic program), events and a variety of engagements.

Fostering an environment in which women can speak, question and enquire, the academic program of Women's Leadership for Mission consists of a total of 40 credit points (cp). Upon completion, participants will be awarded a **Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies\***.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE				
SEMESTER	COURSEWORK	LOCATION/DELIVERY MODE		SCHEDULED EVENTS
Semester 1 2024	<b>Mission: Transforming the World (10 cp)</b>	<b>Face-to-face, North Sydney:</b> Friday 8 March (evening) Saturday 9 March Sunday 10 March	<b>Online (evening seminar):</b> Thursday 21 March Thursday 11 April Thursday 2 May Thursday 16 May Thursday 30 May	<b>2024 International Women's Day panel event, North Sydney:</b> Friday 8 March
Semester 2 2024	<b>Interpreting the Bible for Leadership and Mission (10 cp)</b>	<b>Online (all-day seminar):</b> Saturday 24 August Sunday 25 August Saturday 31 August	<b>Online (evening seminar):</b> Thursday 1 August Thursday 19 September Thursday 10 October Thursday 31 October	
Semester 1 2025	<b>Theology for the Future: Reimagining Leadership (10 cp)</b>	Saturday 8 March <i>Additional details, including dates, will be communicated to enrolled participants in 2024</i>		<b>2025 International Women's Day:</b> Saturday 8 March
Semester 2 2025	<b>Leading for Mission (10 cp)</b>	<i>Details, including dates, will be communicated to enrolled participants in 2024</i>		

## About the units

### MISSION: TRANSFORMING THE WORLD

In this unit, you will explore contemporary mission theology and Catholic social teaching, which addresses the social dimension of mission, together with their implications for women's leadership in the Church and society. This unit will introduce and model the Pastoral Spiral method as an approach to practical theology and a tool for leading participation in God's mission for the transformation of the world.

### INTERPRETING THE BIBLE FOR LEADERSHIP AND MISSION

In this unit, you will have the opportunity to bring the experiences and questions of your own life into dialogue with texts concerning figures of leadership within the biblical tradition. You will be given opportunities to acquire and employ the dispositions, skills, tools and resources of critical biblical interpretation to evaluate issues in the context of their current situations and to identify the subsequent implications for action.

### THEOLOGY FOR THE FUTURE: REIMAGINING LEADERSHIP

Having journeyed through scripture and contemporary theological reflection, you will now focus on articulating visions for leadership that are grounded in your own personal and professional experiences. You will explore models of Church and leadership from general, feminist and liberation perspectives. You will engage in dialogue with contemporary Australian and international sources, as well as emerging and established women leaders. The unit will involve mentored reflection and creative theological work on designing approaches and strategies for women's leadership for the future of the church.

### LEADING FOR MISSION

Current research indicates the importance of bringing women's experiences to visibility and affirming women as creative and authoritative. This final unit is designed to make visible women's experiences and thinking about leading for mission and to facilitate your

contributions to creative and responsible dialogue within and beyond Church. The unit also enables women to develop constructive networks and relationships for mission beyond the course. The unit will culminate in a public seminar at which you will present your vision of leadership for mission and receive feedback from women who are presently leading in mission.

Learn more and apply now to commence in February 2024 by visiting [acu.edu.au/L4M](https://acu.edu.au/L4M)

\*Successful completion of the Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies provides entry (and advanced standing) into the Graduate Diploma in Theological Studies or Master of Theological Studies.

# Leading women

## MEET THE TEACHING TEAM



**Dr Sandie Cornish** is a senior lecturer in theology. She has worked in faith based social justice and human rights organisations at the diocesan, national and Asia Pacific levels where her roles have included organisational leadership, strategic planning, policy analysis and advocacy, social research, mission integration and formation for mission. She is a specialist in Catholic Social Teaching.



**Dr Maeve Louise Heaney** is Xavier Chair for Theological Formation, an associate professor in theology, and a consecrated missionary of the Verbum Dei community. As an acclaimed musician and composer, Dr Heaney's chief interests are in the connections between the fields of theological aesthetics, spirituality, theological formation and the arts.



**Dr Janine Luttick** is a lecturer in biblical studies at ACU, where she also completed her PhD. Dr Luttick has worked in various roles within Catholic education in Melbourne for the past 28 years. Her chief interests are framed by pedagogical approaches that support children and adults from various walks of life to encounter scripture and to interpret it for themselves in dialogue with others. Her current research focuses on children in the Bible.



“There were moments in this course, that you won’t get anywhere else, it touches you and it reaches right down to your soul and it is speaking a truth.

“It’s the reflection and the dwelling, a glimpse of something that is God in a different way, in a way that you never thought you would find.”

Past participant

For more information about Women’s Leadership for Mission, including how to apply, as well as how to support the program, visit the website [acu.edu.au/L4M](https://acu.edu.au/L4M)

CONTACT US  
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