NEXT Prospectus 2015

Whitley College – University of Divinity
Diploma in Theology

Government Accredited
FEE-HELP Approved

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WHAT’S NEXT
NEXT is a truly unique experience of spiritual formation and personal development tailor-made for emerging and young adults.

NEXT PHILOSOPHY
Why we do what we do.

NEXT STRUCTURE
NEXT can help you to explore and discover what you believe, what is important to you, and how you can go about living that out.

THE CORE EXPERIENCE
At the heart of NEXT is the conviction that faith must grow up.

NEXT ELECTIVES
The flexibility of NEXT means that you can tailor your experience to your hopes and goals.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER
Putting together your NEXT experience is a bit like playing lego! There’s heaps of flexibility, and there are lots of options available to you – so you can construct your year (or years!) in any number of different ways. Take a look at how different students are tailoring their own NEXT experience.

SOME FINE PRINT
Responding to some of the nitty-gritty questions you might have.

FEES AND APPLICATIONS
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NEXT is a truly unique experience of spiritual formation and personal development tailor-made for emerging and young adults.

NEXT develops faith through carefully structured experiences of spirituality, cultural discernment, purposeful living and justice-seeking opportunities. Practical experience can also be gained through a placement with one of our missional partners or a church-based internship.

NEXT is designed for post-high school students, normally between the ages 18-22, who are in transition between whatever is now to whatever is ... well ... next. If you are older than 22, contact us anyway as we are also anticipating offering a stream tailored for those in their mid twenties.

The NEXT CORE experience is set over two days per week where students engage in a mix of study, small group work, personal coaching and action-reflection experiences. The NEXT CORE focuses upon Spiritual Formation, Theological Exploration, Bible Investigation as well as Personal, Identity and Leadership Development. ELECTIVES allow students to personalize their NEXT experience by focusing on faith and justice, creativity and spirituality, advanced biblical studies or missional engagement.

Flexible study options include full-time or part-time study over 1 or more years. The minimum commitment is two days per week. Finish with part or all of a Diploma in Theology or go on to complete an Advanced Diploma or Bachelor. FEE-HELP is available.

**NEXT @ a Glance**

- earn a diploma in theology
- explore spirituality, identity & theology
- electives in justice, creative arts, & biblical studies
- integrate with an internship or missional placement
- grow through spiritual retreats, faith practices & personal mentoring
- fee help available
You have a story to tell.

More than just the surface-story of the things you like and the places you’ve been – there is also the deep-story that has shaped who you are today and who you are becoming tomorrow. Yours is a great story – a story of promise, hope and anticipation - yet many stories have also been touched by brokenness, hurt and even hopelessness.

So what is NEXT?

It is your unique opportunity to stop … and explore – your life, your faith, your story. It is the chance to take control and stop having your story written for you by others. And it is the risk of losing control by surrendering to the awesome story of God and finding your place there.

NEXT gives you permission to explore your deep-story and discover what you really believe. There is no topic too hard, no past too broken and no future too bright. NEXT is a beautiful collision of …

yearning hearts and weary warriors,
searching minds and burnt-out brains,
soulful artists and detached pilgrims,
the pure at heart and tarnished souls,

... who together become a community determined to know the truth of who they are, engage with who God has created them to be and join the fight to see God’s Kingdom come.

Because only as we become aware of our deep story can we move past our surface-faith to a deep-faith engagement with God.
NEXT can help you to explore and discover what you believe, what is important to you, and how you can go about living that out. We work on this together by focusing on six areas of development:

1. **Engaging Spirit** – awakening to God’s transformative activity
2. **Exploring Faith** – authoring a creed strong enough to believe in
3. **Discerning Culture** – uncovering the world as God sees it
4. **Seeking Justice** – fuelling compassionate action where it is needed most
5. **Growing Community** – committing to authentic relationship among all people
6. **Living Purposefully** – thinking, speaking and acting with conviction.

The best part is, you get to choose how this all works. You see, NEXT is an integrated program made up of CORE and Elective elements. The CORE experience is set over two days per week where you engage in a mix of study, small group work, personal coaching and action-reflection experiences. You can also add to this CORE experience ELECTIVE options to personalise NEXT and focus on the things you want.

**CORE** + **ELECTIVES** = *(your)* **NEXT**

Your CORE experience takes place through four key relationships that allow you to drive your development:

- **You & God**: Personal Spirituality
- **You & your Formation Guide / Mentor**: Individual Coaching
- **You & your Formation Group**: Small Group Work
- **You & the NEXT Community**: Teaching & Large Group Experiences

For those who want more, NEXT Electives allow you to go deeper into the areas of spirituality, creativity, social engagement, bible, theology, mission and much more!

But the best part is the flexibility of NEXT. The various combinations of CORE + Elective elements allow you to study part or all of a Higher Education Diploma in Theology across one or more years. NEXT’s flexibility also means you can combine your experience with other stuff – like working, or volunteering or even studying at another institution.
At the heart of NEXT is the conviction that faith must grow up.

A simple faith is fine when life is straightforward.

But a faith that doesn’t grow up and become more complex will get left behind when the going gets tough because it just feels so naive and cliche in the light of real life challenges and hardship.

The Core of NEXT follows the academic calendar and provides a dynamic experience of exploration, learning and discovery that draws upon the ancient and contemporary Christian traditions of:

- Spiritual formation
- Theological exploration
- Bible investigation and interpretation
- Leadership development

In each of these ways, the Core experience helps you figure out what it is you believe, why you believe it and help you to test to see if your beliefs are strong enough to see you into the future.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEXT CORE Units</th>
<th>NEXT Elective Units</th>
<th>Other Elective Units</th>
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<td>DS0002W Experiencing God</td>
<td>DA0001W Personal God, Public Faith</td>
<td>DA0010W Living the Biblical Stories</td>
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<td>CT0150W Developing Theological Insight</td>
<td>DS0001W Creativity and Spirituality</td>
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<td>BS0131W Engaging the Bible</td>
<td>DP0150W Discipleship &amp; Purposeful Living</td>
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<td>DP0155W Discipleship &amp; Purposeful Living</td>
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The NEXT CORE is such a unique experience because it has been put together from the ground-up using proven principles of formation and development for emerging and young adults. Growth Experiences, Directed and Self-directed Study, Community Time, Small Groups, Personal Coaching and Spiritual Retreats are all woven together into a seamlessly integrated program.

**Growth Experiences**

We know that you don't want to spend your time as if you were back in school, sitting through classes again. You’ve finished year 12 or Uni/TAFE (or at least part way through) and you want to be out of the classroom, seeing things you’ve never seen before, being engaged with stuff you’ve never been a part of before.

And let’s face it, most of the time experience (that is reflected upon) is the best teacher.

So each week we will be spending a good chunk of time together out and about exploring and experiencing stuff that brings your faith and the NEXT process to life. It’s really important to us that your faith is not just something you think about, but is something you actively do and discover and experience. Your life is asking the questions, but we suspect that you will find answers in the lives of others, in the classroom of culture and in the vitality of experience sorted and tested through the wisdom of the Christian tradition and the insight of Scripture.

In any given year of NEXT the kind of experiences and exposure opportunities you can expect to encounter include:

- Multi-denominational expressions of Christian faith, community and worship (from Catholic Mass through to Pentecostal Revival meetings)
- Exploring and responding to the reality, context and content of real social issues like gambling, alcoholism, drug addiction, consumerism, debt, media, abortion, single parenting and more
- Homelessness and the experience of being powerless and place-less
- Refugees and the fight for security and safety (& human rights)
- Jewish spirituality @ a Jewish synagogue
- A Mormon temple to discuss their theology with some international missionaries (and yes, you can ask them about their magic under-garments?)
- Modern day monks, nuns as well as protestant expressions of ancient monastic spirituality
- A 24-hour technology-detox – that’s right, 24 hours screen-free, no nothing that can bring you into contact with the outside world.
- Work in a soup kitchen or with a community who provide lunch for their homeless friends
- Encounter God in His creation
- Visit a Mosque and learn more about Islam
- Here God’s voice like never before through prophetic workshops
- Discern the work of God in your life through creativity and Art

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In these and many other ways, NEXT opens the door to a universe of experience that will leave you confronted, inspired and energised to see and do more.

Of course, the trick is to make sure that all these experiences don’t just end up in the ‘weird box’ - you know, the place where we relegate memories of odd things we did, but really didn’t ‘get’. Instead the goal is to take these experiences and reflect, respond and in some way integrate the lessons learned into your own faith expression. That is why we always try to structure NEXT to balance the:

- time spent outside the classroom (way outside the classroom!) – on camps, retreats, visiting other churches, experiential learning opportunities, exposure with our mission partners, optional mission trips and so on; with …
- time spent inside the classroom – in discussion groups, interactive learning times, research and debate, reflection and debriefing; with …
- time spent on assigned personal work - journaling, reflection & research assignments to capture and understand your experiences.

**Directed and Self-Directed Study**

A great thing about NEXT is that we never ask you to study anything just for the sake of learning stuff. Everything we do is focused around your spiritual formation, personal growth and resilience development.

(So, while it may be important at some point in your life to figure out exactly what the council of Nicea decided in relation to ‘homoousius’ and 2nd person of the Trinity – we have slightly different fish to fry.)

Through self-directed study, in conjunction with the rest of NEXT, you will come to confront the reality of Jesus and His ‘one-and-the-same-essence-as-God-the-Father-ness’ (that’s what ‘homoousius’ means, by the way), but the way you get there is a little different. It will be different, because it will be YOU who finally MEETS Jesus this way, not someone telling you about it.

So what do we get you to do at NEXT? Well, we guide you through a process that helps you:

- Understand your story and the critical stepping stones that God has used to make you who you are today;
- Engage with ancient spiritual practices passed down through the centuries of the Christian church;
- Reflect on your spiritual tradition or the denomination in which you were raised (if you were brought up in the Christian church) by comparing it with experiences from outside this tradition;
- Learn to read and interpret the bible for yourself;
- Delve into your personal identity by figuring out the tension between what the world thinks of you, what God thinks of you, and then what you actually think about yourself;
- Tackle a major stumbling block in your faith to figure out the reasons behind your belief;
- Confront a part of you that you really want to change, and be equipped to change it;
- Reflect on a number of pop-culture creations (like movies, music and street-art) to examine their cultural worldview and the hidden message of the Gospel they may contain;
- Interview someone who doesn’t share your faith – not to convince them that they are wrong, but to uncover the secret presence of God who is already at work in their life.
All these tasks build toward some major challenges at the end, which help you to sum-up your NEXT experience:

- Develop your own personal creed to figure out and justify what you believe;
- Write your own Personal Constitution that describes God’s unique call and design for your life; and
- Creatively describe your newfound vision of the Kingdom of God and how your story is caught up in it.

**Why?**
There are three reasons we get you to do all this self-directed study.

1. The first reason is that there just aren’t any short cuts to owning your own faith. You have to do the work – no-one else can do it for you. In the end, you will never know what you believe and why you believe if someone else is doing all the explaining.

2. Secondly, a wise old guy called John Calvin once commented that you just can’t know God until you know yourself, AND you can’t know yourself until you know God. So the journey NEXT takes you on is a voyage that takes you deep into God AND deep into your own heart.

3. The third reason is really just a bonus. By the time you are done with NEXT, you will not only have a clear sense of who you are and who God is, you will also be academically prepared to handle the rigours of university study – if that is something you want to go on to.

**Scared?**
People tend to read down the above list, and either feel the urge to throw-up or feel like they can’t wait to get started.

Well, if you are the first kind of person, you can relax. For one thing you’ve got the facilitators who are there to take the time to guide you through these tasks; and secondly, you’ve got the community who are all doing these tasks at the same time as you – so you can share the joy and the pain.

If you are the second kind of person, then just flip to the application form and fill it in!
Community

NEXT is not a lonely road. While the work of personalising and owning your own faith is a task only you can do, it should never by undertaken alone. At NEXT:

- You will be challenged by what you experience in the classroom.
- You will be fed by the growth experiences, gathered worship and spiritual intensity.
- You will be stretched by your experience of life, mission and leadership.
- But ultimately you will grow and be transformed because of the NEXT community.

Why? Well, I guess the community is the melting pot. Because of the relationships formed, the crazy things you do together, the conversations you have, the accountability and challenge you offer one another, and the time you spend just hanging out - these all come together to provide a unique and shaping influence upon your life. The truth is, there are some forms of change and transformation that can only occur in authentic community. Its not something we can control, but it is certainly something we can try to make sure there is enough time for.

Small Group

As part of your time at NEXT, you will meet weekly with a small group of fellow NEXTers and be guided by your NEXT Facilitator. While your small group time is carefully structured, it has no pre-arranged content. Instead, it’s your space and your opportunity to witness first hand the awesome power of true openness and authenticity. Your small group is a great way to connect, remain accountable, share life, pray and be prayed for and will likely be a key source of support for your journey.

Personal Coaching

Another aspect of what makes NEXT a totally unique experience is our dedicated team of facilitators. This experienced team have only one task for the year – your discipleship. They are there to walk this journey with you as guides who know the terrain and are there to lend a hand.

Your facilitator will guide your small group as well as meet with you for periods of one-on-one coaching. So quite apart from the friends you will make, the learning you will gain from the teaching team, you will also have the support of a facilitator who is around in break times, on camps and at other points throughout the day, week and year.
Camps, Retreats & Intensives

Camps, retreats and intensives are our way of breaking up the routine and the familiar in order to re-evaluate, re-prioritise and re-connect with yourself, each other, and with God. There are three camps / retreats throughout the year - Orientation, Mid-Year and End-of-Year. The intensives will focus on sexuality as well as poverty and justice.

It is here that you begin to really know and trust the NEXT community.
It is here that you will experience times of refocusing and re-engaging with the journey.
It is here that your experience of authenticity, honesty and transparency will be redefined.
And it is here that you will also discover times of celebration and blessing as we honour the milestones and accomplishments of your journey through NEXT.

THE FIRST YEAR CORE EXPERIENCE

Because you can undertake NEXT over one or more years, the core experience is a little different in each year. All students starting NEXT will participate in the First Year Core Experience that takes place over 2 days each week and includes:

Spiritual Formation:
Each day will commence with individual and corporate spiritual practices – but don’t think ‘devotions’!
Across the course of the year these times will help you to uncover the unique ways you engage with God and nurture an awakening to His activity in your life and in the world around you. Diving into this aspect of NEXT means you can complete the Diploma unit: DS0002W Experiencing God.
DS0002W Experiencing God - Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Appreciate the breadth of experiences, expressions and emphases evident in the Christian encounter of God within Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant traditions;
2. Develop a biblical and theological appreciation of Christian spirituality and the process of spiritual formation;
3. Reflect upon their own encounter with God;
4. Thoughtfully engage new practices of spirituality.

Theological Exploration
Each week we will explore an aspect of the Christian tradition as well as engaging and responding to the beliefs of other religious communities in Australia. Even though it can be a little confronting as you experience this diversity, the NEXT process helps you to carefully examine your own beliefs and develop a creed that is strong enough to thrive in this complexity. Getting this aspect of NEXT under your belt means you will have completed the Diploma Unit: CT0150W Developing Theological Insight

CT0150W Developing Theological Insight - Learning Outcomes
On the completion of this unit, students will be able to:

1. Outline several central areas or themes in the discipline of theology.
2. Recognise the historical development and the impact of social context upon various theological perspectives
3. Demonstrate understanding of basic skills in research, reasoning and the critical evaluation of theological arguments.
4. Articulate some important influences in their own approach to theology.

Bible Investigation & Interpretation
For some, the Bible is “Sacred Scripture” while for others, its just plain weird or irrelevant. Each week we will explore this ancient text together in order to discover the BIG story told by Scripture as well as to develop your own skills in interpreting the Bible so that you can learn to hear God’s voice from within His Word. We’ll also spend a fair bit of time exploring the life of Christ, piecing together the impact of his revolutionary life. Tackling this part of NEXT means you can complete the Diploma Unit BS0131W Engaging the Bible.

BS0131W Engaging the Bible – Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this unit, students will be able to:

1. Outline a brief survey of both the Old and New Testaments including some key events and characters.
2. Recognise different types of biblical literature
3. Display a developing ability to engage and interpret Biblical texts
4. Appropriately use tools for Biblical interpretation such as dictionaries, commentaries and surveys
5. Demonstrate a growing awareness of the role and relevance of the Bible in contemporary life.
Leadership Development

Bringing faith to life is about living purposefully. Each week through personal coaching and small group work you will be guided through a carefully crafted programme that clarifies who you are, what is important to you, and how to begin to live out your faith in ways that are true to yourself and faithful to God’s call on your life. Working through this aspect of NEXT means you can complete the Diploma Unit DP0150W Discipleship and Purposeful Living.

DP0150W Discipleship and Purposeful Living – Learning Outcomes

Successful completion of this unit will enable participants to:

1. Articulate an emerging appreciation of their own personal makeup
2. Describe their own life-values and priorities using resources from the Christian tradition
3. Engage in deliberate action that reflects personal faith, values and commitments.
4. Define the Christian concept of discipleship and explain its relationship to self-understanding and purposeful living.

A USUAL WEEK @ NEXT

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
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<td>10:00</td>
<td>And/Or Exploring the Bible [BS0131W Engaging the Bible]</td>
<td>And/Or Option 2) Creativity and Spirituality [DS0001W Creativity and Spirituality]</td>
<td>And/Or Exploring Faith [CT0150W Developing Theological Insight]</td>
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NEXT students continuing on to a second and/or third year will undertake the CORE in a condensed form. You will continue to engage in spiritual formation, theological exploration, Bible investigation as well as personal and leadership development through a dynamic process of coaching and small group work. This personalised process will take place over one afternoon per week. The second year core experience is particularly designed to provide a context in which you can continue to integrate your ongoing learning in NEXT by taking advantage of the personalised coaching environment.

better to develop a faith that is flexible and active than a faith that is certain and rigid
PERSONALISING NEXT

The flexibility of NEXT means that you can tailor your experience to your hopes and goals. The way you can personalise NEXT is by adding on to the CORE experience any number of elective options (well, almost any!)

NEXT Elective Options include:

1. faith, cultural critique and social engagement:
   God is always personal but never a private matter. This elective option will help you to unpack the shaping influence of culture and the way it impacts almost every aspect of our lives. At the same time, you will explore God’s alternative culture, which He calls His Kingdom, and the incredible things that happen when you join God in His Kingdom work. Completing this elective will achieve the Diploma Unit DA0001W Personal God, Public Faith.

DA0001W Personal God, Public Faith - Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that participants will be able to:

1. Describe the concept of the Kingdom of God, drawing upon biblical foundations and theological perspectives.
2. Identify the personal, social and ethical consequences envisioned by the ‘Good News’ of Kingdom of God
3. Demonstrate an understanding culture and the capacity to reflect theologically upon its influences.
4. Creatively respond to a contemporary context as an expression of love, an act of faithfulness or a practice of justice.
2. creative spirituality:

For those who’d rather pick up a paint brush, a piece of charcoal, a guitar pick, or whatever else in order to explore their spirituality, this elective is for you. This elective will help you to explore your creativity as an expression of your soul. You will have the chance to both develop your creative expression as well as uncover the way it engages your spirituality. Completing this elective will achieve the Diploma Unit DS0001W Creativity and Spirituality.

**DS0001W Creativity and Spirituality - Learning Outcomes**

Successful completion of this unit will enable participants to:

1. Theologically reflect on the engagement of creativity in spirituality in light of historic and contemporary frameworks.
2. Discuss the engagement of particular expressions of creativity in light of relevant spiritual and creative theory.
3. Cultivate their own practices informed by relevant spiritual and creative disciplines and theory.
4. Evaluate their own creative involvement as an expression of their spirituality.

3. stretch, challenge and grow:

If you are someone who grows through learning and wants to dive into more study opportunities, then add on the stretch, challenge and grow stream which allows you to choose from a variety of relevant and challenging subjects offered at Whitley College. This elective stream opens up a wide variety of options and you could add between one and four additional units of study to your NEXT experience. Available units include DA0010W Living the Biblical Stories, BS002W The Bible & God’s Mission, CH0145W: Discipleship through the time-machine and DA0005W Biblical Practices (consult www.whitley.unimelb.edu.au for more details).

4. volunteering / working with one of our partner organisations:

Sometimes the best thing you can do for your faith is get busy alongside others who are doing some great work in the name of Jesus. But let’s be clear – this is not about slave-labour! This is about you intentionally exploring your faith in a challenging setting as part of your NEXT experience.

The list of options is growing all the time – from year long internships, projects-based work through to a short term mission experience. To give you an idea, some of the options that may be available in 2015 offer the chance to:

- Be exposed to issues power and marginalisation as we walk with those who call the city their home.
- Read the Bible with the ‘Damned’ - your bible will come alive as you read Jesus and the prophets in the context of brokenness and restoration.
• be hosted by the homeless as we make lunch together.
• to live for a week amongst the powerless and marginalised of Melbourne’s urban context.
• Translate your faith so that people from other contexts and life experience can understand the reality of your experience.
• Get involved with young people in professionally run school seminars, as they creatively explore and discuss relevant topics like sexuality, identity, relationships and spirituality.
• Indigenous Australian Spirituality Exposure Trip - a limited number of people may have the chance to join with Wycliffe Bible Translators as they engage with indigenous spirituality in a brilliantly creative and powerful way.
• Mission @ the Margins - an eye-popping exploration of life at the margins of society

We can help you set up a placement and we have a number of partner organisations who are keen for NEXT students to join their work, including Urban Seed, Scripture Union and Tear Australia. Completing this elective will achieve the Diploma Unit DP0155W Reflective Practice

DP0155W Reflective Practice - Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:
1) Reflect theologically on their cultural and contextual setting;
2) Engage in a mission, ministry, community or marketplace setting reflecting the skills and standards of ethical practice required;
3) Plan, implement and evaluate new activities that reflect integration of theoretical and practical learning;
4) Engage in supervisorial relationships.

5. internship in a church / youth ministry setting :
NEXT is also a chance for your own discipleship to benefit the formation of others in your local church setting. If you are keen to develop your youth ministry leadership skills while growing in your experience of church-based ministry, this elective option could be for you. Completing this elective could achieve the Diploma Unit DP0155W Reflective Practice (see above) and/or units focusing upon Youth Ministry and Spirituality.

We can help you and your church set up a framework for internships that provides you with a great opportunity for ministry experience. Please contact us if this is of interest to you.

The flexibility of NEXT means that if you’ve only got a year and want to maximise your experience, then dive into the CORE and load up with as many electives as you can fit. If you want to take it a bit easier, you’ve got some other things going on, or maybe you want to take longer than a year, then maybe the CORE and only one other elective will be enough.
Constructing Your NEXT Experience

Putting together your NEXT experience is a bit like playing lego! There’s heaps of flexibility, and there are lots of options available to you – so you can construct your year (or years!) in any number of different ways.

Of course, with so many options, the choices can get a bit dizzying. So a great thing about NEXT is that you don’t have to decide on everything in advance. Instead, you can just get going with the CORE and if you want to add on electives, you can do so down the track.

But of course, it’s better to have a good think about what you would like to do and what kind of time commitment you have available so you can make a considered choice. This page guides you through that process, and gives you some examples of how some you might approach your NEXT experience.

When thinking about your NEXT experience, follow these easy steps to consider your options:

1. **Start with the CORE**: This is the starting point of NEXT. Comprising of explorations in Spirituality, Theology, Bible and Leadership development, the NEXT Core takes place over 2 days per week.

2. **Consider the NEXT Electives**: Most NEXT students will do at least one elective to personalise their experience. With elective options exploring social engagement, art and creativity as well as various forms of ministry and missional engagement there is something for everyone.

3. **Timing**: Finally, think about whether you want to get everything done in a year, or if you will benefit from taking a little longer. NEXT options can extend over 1 or more years.
Here’s a couple of different ways people are thinking about NEXT and how it fits into their lives:

**Anita** is competent, organised and likes getting things done. She has been at her church for a number of years now, has benefited from the youth ministry that is going on there and is getting more involved as a leader. She is looking to NEXT as a way of growing deeper in her faith and is considering an internship opportunity at her church. Anita wants to make her year a year of exploring different options while deferring her Uni placement in Psychology. Anita has lots of NEXT options which might include:

- CORE + Internship = 5 Diploma Units.
- CORE + Internship + Youth Ministry = 6 Diploma Units
- CORE + Internship + Youth Ministry + 2 other Whitley Units = A Completed Diploma (8 Units)

Anita could also consider spreading out these options over more than one year.

**Jake** is also competent and likes to get things done, but is not quite so academically oriented as Anita. Jake’s a bit more creative. He’s been playing music for some time now and recently been experimenting with digital imaging. He’s wondering about taking his creativity a bit more seriously and also finds the music and art he produces to be very personal expressions of his faith. Jake’s wants to give at least a year to exploring this a bit further but also needs to work part time to support himself. A good fit for Jake might be:

- CORE + Creativity = 5 Diploma Units (about 2.5 – 3 days per week).

**Cameron** has become intrigued by a more radical Jesus than he had first been introduced to as a young teenager. Through listening to podcasts and attending some conferences he has started to wonder if there is more to the Christian ‘thing’ than rocking up to church and hearing about how your sins have been forgiven. This radical Jesus seems to have a lot to say about power and money and the marginalised, but Cameron is still not sure if this is just some fringe reading of the life of Christ and wants to figure this out for himself. A good start for Cameron might be:

- CORE + faith, cultural critique and social engagement elective = 5 Diploma Units

Cameron could also add to this a missional placement with one of NEXT’s partner organisations (like Urban Seed, Scripture Union or Tear Australia) = 6 Diploma Units
Angie feels like she's lost her way a little bit – or maybe a lot. Wrong crowd at school, a few bad decisions and ... well ... you know the story. God still seems real, at least sorta real. And a bit distant. And her Grandma keeps pestering her about her future and asking what she wants to do with her life. Frankly, Angie doesn't have a clue (even though she filled in her Uni placement form). What Angie wants most of all is a break. Just a little bit of space and time away from the merry-go-round of life where she can stop and figure some things out.

A good option for Angie might be just doing the CORE = 4 Diploma Units.

If there is a spark of creativity there as well, she may want to also add on the Creativity elective = 5 Diploma Units.

Matt is a bit the same as Angie, except he left school at the end of year 10 and has been doing concreting and garden work for the last 2 years. Matt feels like it's a bit of a dead-end job for him and is wondering about a change of direction, but doesn’t have a clue what that might be, or even if he will be any good at study.

Like Angie, a good start for Matt might be getting going with the CORE = 4 Diploma Units.

While he doesn’t have to decide on this, Matt might also want to consider the possibility of retuning to NEXT for at least a second year and completing a Diploma. A completed award provides a great springboard into other study options or career pathways.

You may not find your story amongst those of Anita, Jake, Cameron, Angie or Matt's, but we hope you can see the flexibility of NEXT and the way you can tailor it to suit where you are at and what your goals for the future might be.
It’s hard to guess all the specific questions you might have about NEXT, but here’s a few responses to inquiries that commonly pop up.

**Who Is Next For?**

**What Is The Time Commitment?**

**What Award Will I Achieve By Doing Next?**

**What Are The Academic Study Requirements?**

**Who Can Apply For Next?**

**Is Accommodation Available?**

**How Does My Application Interact With The VTAC Process?**

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**WHO IS NEXT FOR?**

NEXT is designed for post-high school students, normally between the ages 18–22 who are in transition between whatever is now and whatever is next – work, further study, travel etc. You can still enroll with NEXT if you are 17 but turning 18. If you are older than this, contact us anyway as we are also exploring offering a stream tailored for those in their mid twenties.
**WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?**

The **NEXT** CORE Experience (the minimum enrolment) runs over two full days – **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** – largely following the university academic semester from mid February to early November. If you choose to add electives to the CORE Experience then your time commitment will grow. Most electives run on **Wednesdays**, but if you choose to undertake an Internship or Placement with a Mission Partner, then you need to factor in time spent at your Internship / Placement PLUS the Reflective Practice class on Mondays.

Oh, and two more things. Firstly, these times reflect face-to-face contact with the **NEXT** program. You also need to build into your week additional time for your own study, reflection and general ‘processing’. A good rule of thumb is that a full-time study load (8 units annually) is equivalent to a 40 hour week (including face-to-face time). The CORE experience is a half-time load – so it will take up at least 20 hours.

The other thing is that while you will complete the **NEXT** CORE in your first year, you also have the option to continue on to 2nd (and even 3rd) year study where you can undertake further **NEXT** formation elements. What this means is that you have the choice to either give it all you’ve got for a year, or integrate **NEXT** into the other stuff you’ve got on over a couple of years.

So, your week at **NEXT** would look something like this …

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>Electives</td>
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<td>Electives</td>
<td>Electives</td>
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<td><strong>9:00</strong></td>
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<td><strong>10:00</strong></td>
<td><strong>10:00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And / Or</td>
<td>Exploring the Bible [BS0131W Engaging the Bible]</td>
<td>And / Or</td>
<td>Exploring Faith [CT0150W Developing Theological Insight]</td>
<td>And / Or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>12:30</strong></td>
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</table>

**www.next.asn.au**  
*info@next.asn.au*  
(+61-3/03) 9340 8100  
271 Royal Parade, Parkville
WHAT AWARD WILL I ACHIEVE BY DOING NEXT?
NEXT is an accredited Higher Ed. Diploma offering of Whitley College (in the University of Divinity). Depending on your choice of Core + Elective options you are able to complete a minimum of 4 and as many as 8 Diploma units in a year (a complete Diploma is 8 units). If you are also thinking about continuing on to further (post-NEXT) study, the units completed as part of NEXT can seamlessly form part of an Advanced Diploma or Bachelor award at Whitley College. You may also be able to transfer these units into courses of study at other universities but this will depend on their rules / policies of credit transfer.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR NEXT?
NEXT is an intentionally open program available to students from all kinds of backgrounds and abilities. There are, however, a few guidelines that shape the relevance of NEXT:

- The suggested age range is 18 to 22 because NEXT is designed specifically for the questions and challenges faced by young adults in transition. Those who start the course at 18 will find it a challenge but often grow into it. Those who are older simply find themselves engaging with the questions raised by NEXT from a broader experience of life. If you are older than 22, contact us anyway as we are also exploring offering a stream tailored for those in their mid twenties.

- NEXT doesn’t require you to have an ATAR (Woo Hoo!). However, if you haven’t completed year 12 or your ATAR is less than 65, we may offer you a provisional acceptance into the program. Provisional acceptance means you will need to show sufficient English language skills to write short essays as well as pass all your initial assessments in first term (which we can help you with through personal coaching and our study support process).

IS ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE?
NEXT requires a weekly commitment of 2-3 days per week face to face. If you live in a rural context or a long way from Melbourne’s CBD, you will probably need to figure out some kind of accommodation. The good news is, there are a number of options available, especially if you are looking for student residence-style accommodation.

- Whitley Student Residence - whitley.unimelb.edu.au/residential-college
- Kew Baptist Student Residence - www.kewstudentresidence.com.au
- Hawthorn West Baptist Church Student Accommodation - hawthornchurch.com/student-young-adult-rooming-houses/
HOW DOES MY APPLICATION INTERACT WITH VTAC?
Applying for NEXT takes place directly with Whitley College. If you are in year 12, you do NOT use the VTAC process to apply for NEXT, instead your application can take place in parallel with the normal VTAC preferences and application process – that is, you can treat these as two separate processes that can take place alongside one another.

If you are thinking about undertaking further study after you’re finished with NEXT you have three options.

- NEXT seamlessly articulates into further study at Whitley College, including Advanced Diploma and Bachelor studies in Theology, Mission and Ministry.
- You can use your NEXT study (partial or completed Diploma) as evidence of post-high school / undergraduate study that can support your application into other institutions.
- You can complete your VTAC application / enrolment with another university and then seek to defer commencing your study there for a year. That way you can complete NEXT and then with the experience you’ve gained move on to your deferred study program.

Please Note: You can defer your uni course only 1) after you have received an offer; and 2) if your course allows deferrals. You can get more info about course deferral at the VTAC website (http://www.vtac.edu.au) but also check the information available that is specific to the course you are interested in enrolling in.

If you are thinking about doing NEXT and deferring your Uni place, it is best to begin the process of application with NEXT now so that we can make sure there are enough places for our 2015 intake. If course deferral subsequently becomes a problem for you, you can always cancel your NEXT application.

SO ... WHAT’s NEXT (for you)?
Spaces for 2015 are limited and are taken on a first come first served basis. If you are still making up your mind about NEXT, get in touch with us for a chat or tee up a time for an interview. Talking it through always helps you get a better feel for what NEXT is all about, and if it’s a good fit for you.

So, if you are feeling like NEXT could be an option for you, shoot us an email or give us a call – we’d love to hear from you.
Applying for NEXT is fairly straightforward. To begin with, we'd like you to note a couple of things so that you are clear on how this works.

FEES

The NEXT Fee Schedule is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>ELEMENT</th>
<th>FEE</th>
<th>EXPLANATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEXT</td>
<td>Tuition Fee</td>
<td>$5280</td>
<td>There are four (4) subjects incorporated into the NEXT CORE experience. Cost per subject = $1320. (FEE-HELP available)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORE</td>
<td>Special Instruction Fee</td>
<td>$ 850</td>
<td>Because NEXT utilises a unique delivery method incorporating small group work, personal coaching, camps and retreats, an additional charge on top of the subject cost is required. Please note, FEE-HELP cannot be used for the Special Instruction Fee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total CORE Fee</td>
<td>$6130</td>
<td>Tuition Fee plus Special Instruction Fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEXT</td>
<td>Tuition Fee</td>
<td>$1320</td>
<td>per elective (FEE-HELP available)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>Tuition Fee</td>
<td>$1320</td>
<td>per elective (FEE-HELP available)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fees are derived from the per/unit charge that is set by the University of Divinity (of which Whitley is a member college). For 2015, this has been set at $1320 per unit. CORE units also attract an additional fee because of their unique delivery that includes retreats, personal coaching and the variety of experiences we will be undertaking. Adding on NEXT Elective Options will add around $1320 for each unit/elective.
There are a number of payment options including access to FEE-HELP for all Tuition fees (but not the Special Instruction Fee). FEE-HELP will be available to all (Australian national) students and Youth Allowance may be available depending your circumstances. FEE-HELP is handled directly through the College, however you will need to contact CentreLink directly to determine your eligibility for Youth Allowance.

APPLICATIONS

Commencing your journey with NEXT is as simple as:

1. downloading the Application for Admission Form (next.asn.au/apply)
2. filling it out and submitting it by emailing apply@next.asn.au

Completing the application form lets us know you are serious about NEXT – but doesn’t lock you in. Once you have submitted your application form, there are some additional steps that we will guide you through. These steps help you to personalise NEXT (i.e. choosing optional electives and mission placements) and secure your place.

Let’s work through each of these in turn:

**Step 1. Application for Admission Form:**

After you have downloaded and completed the Application for Admission Form, you can submit it to NEXT either by:

1. Print out the form and send it to us – NEXT Applications – 271 Royal Parade, Parkville 3052, OR
2. Fill out the form as soft copy and email it back to us at apply@next.asn.au

Filling out the form is just the usual, name address and so on – but make sure you get your details correct, as it slows things down if we have to chase you up later.

Please Note:

- If you are not quite ready to apply but would like to find out more – then let’s tee up a time for a chat. Shoot us an email or give us a call (9340 8100).
- Completing the application form doesn’t lock you in. If your circumstances change you can withdraw your application with no costs incurred.

**2. Official Documents:**

Depending on your background, your application might require transcripts of prior study, proof of citizenship and so on. There’s a section towards the end of the Application for Admission Form that explains it all. You can supply these documents in one of two ways.
• Make Certified Copies of these documents and send them in with your Application for Admission Form (mail to 271 Royal Parade, Parkville 3052).
• Bring the official documents with you when you have your Interview (see below), and we can copy them for you.

3. Interview:

Don’t stress! This won’t be like a job interview. It’s more like a get to know you time. We’d love to hear a bit of your story and your reasons for applying for NEXT.

We will also use the time to talk through how you would like to shape your NEXT experience, what electives you might like to take or if there is a mission placement you might be interested in. Oh, and it’s also a chance to ask us anything you’d like to know about NEXT.

By the end of your interview, you should have a clear sense of what your year at NEXT will be like.

4. Subject Selection and Finances:

After the interview you’ll be in a good position to choose which electives you would like to undertake. Once you’ve figured this out, we will also need to get the money stuff sorted out too. (For now, just get going with your application form and we’ll talk about electives and finances at the interview).

5. NEXT Personal Profile Pack:

The above four elements comprise the majority of your formal application process with Whitley College and the University of Divinity. So they are all important – but this last one is really special. The NEXT Personal Profile Pack is your first step into the formation process of NEXT. It contains a number of forms, questionnaires and other bits and pieces to get you going.

We will send the pack to you after you have confirmed your enrolment with NEXT and paid the course deposit. Completing the Personal Profile Pack will take a little time and it is important that you work through it carefully. Commencing NEXT is conditional upon completing all aspects of the pack.

What Happens Next?

You can get started by downloading the Application for Admission Form, fill it out and submit it to apply@next.asn.au

>> Timely applications are submitted before January 30th, 2015 <<

Applications received after this date may not be accepted. Applications are processed on a first come first served basis. This means if we are forced to cap numbers, those applications completed first will be offered first option.

Most importantly – KEEP CALM! We know this probably sounds like a lot of hard work. But we want you to know, that it is pretty straightforward. You just need to work on one thing at a time – and if you ever get stuck, just give us a call, or shoot us an email, and we will be happy to help in whatever way we can.

So – happy applying! We are looking forward to meeting you in person.
Contact Details

NEXT Program Coordinator: Rowan Lewis

p  (+61-3/03) 9340 8100
e  rowan@next.asn.au
w  www.next.asn.au

NEXT is a specialised Diploma program of Whitley College,
a member college of the University of Divinity,
located in Melbourne, Australia.

a  271 Royal Parade, Parkville, 3052
w  www.whitley.unimelb.edu.au