

Title	Embedding the creation message in a proposed Christian university
Topic/Field	All fields
Target audience	General
<p>Recent studies indicate that 70-80% of Christian students abandon their faith during their enrolment in secular universities, where the message of creation is often openly ridiculed. It is surprising that even within many Christian universities the message of creation is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • frequently overlooked, • excluded due to denominational differences, • avoided to minimize contention, or • even openly criticized. <p>Given this trend is occurring in Christian universities, it raises a critical question: How can these institutions effectively strengthen and grow students' faith? The grammatical-historical understanding of Genesis 1–11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is foundational to all biblical doctrines, • proclaims the goodness of God. • upholds the glory of Christ as Creator, • undergirds the Gospel (first Adam/last Adam) • provides a consistent hermeneutic • supports eschatology • helps evangelism <p>To address this gap, Australian Christian Tertiary Education Ltd (www.auscte.com) is actively developing a new greenfields Christian university in Southeast Queensland. This institution will embed the message of biblical creation throughout its curriculum, spanning degrees in science, engineering, education, nursing, business, arts, and beyond.</p> <p>Over the past several years, ACTE has sought answers to key questions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can the creation message be effectively embedded into every aspect of university life? • How can we ensure all students are consistently exposed to this message? • How can we safeguard the creation message from being diluted or removed, as has happened in other institutions? <p>Through extensive global consultation, these challenges have been addressed using the following strategies:</p> <p><i>Constitution:</i> The creation message is firmly embedded within the university's constitution, achieved by registering it as a "faith-education" institution.</p> <p><i>Faith Statement:</i> The university's faith statement expands on the creation message, including defensive provisions to limit misinterpretations or speculative reinterpretations.</p> <p><i>Teaching staff:</i> All teaching staff must fully adhere to the constitution and faith statement.</p>	

Staff review: Both academic and student support staff will undergo regular reviews to ensure alignment with the university's faith statement, including its stance on creation.

Biblical minor: Every student, regardless of their degree, will complete a Christian minor: Creation principles will be embedded in each course.

Degree subjects: All degree programs will integrate biblical messages and references. For instance, science courses will teach the theory of evolution but from a view that it can and should be challenged.

Student Accommodation: The university will offer residential accommodations for thousands of students, fostering a faith-centred community with Bible studies, mentoring and fellowship.

Research focus: Funding will not support research based on evolutionary concepts. Instead, research initiatives will focus on industry and community-based outcomes within specialized areas, aligning with biblical principles.

Although based in Queensland, Australia, the university will cater to Eastern Asia and the Pacific regions where there are significant and growing Christian populations.

This ground-breaking initiative ensures that creation remains central to education, empowering students to build their Christian faith while preparing for professional excellence.

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Author's organization and appointment	Australian Christian Tertiary Education Ltd

Curriculum Vitae

Ron holds a B.A. (Hons) and a Ph.D., both in fluvial geomorphology. He has held lecturing and research positions at the University of New England (Australia), Griffith University, the University of Sunshine Coast (Queensland), the University of Queensland, Turku University (Finland), and The Chinese University of Hong Kong (People's Republic of China).

While in these positions Ron undertook landscape studies in Australia, China, Finland, Peru, The Pacific Islands, and Libya. He held numerous government advisory positions with the Queensland Government and the Federal Government of Australia in natural heritage management as well as working with international agencies such as the OECD.

Ron is now part of the *Creation Ministries International (CMI)* team in Brisbane, where he works as a researcher, writer, and speaker. His articles are appearing in *Creation* magazine and the *Journal of Creation*.

Ron (along with Mark and Phil) was also a founding Director of the Board of Australian Christian Tertiary Education Ltd, a charity whose vision is to establish a world-recognised and influential non-denominational Christian university, operating at the highest levels of teaching, research, and engagement; building the whole person to the glory of God. Our Statement of Faith is clearly founded on the accuracy and historicity of the book of

Genesis. All academic teaching staff must agree with the 6 literal days and the global Flood and embed the Bible into all courses—whether science, engineering, humanity, social sciences and so on.