



FORMATION EXPERIENCE
2019 Participant Handbook

CONTENTS

1. Welcome to the Formation Experience	3
2. Formation Experience Elements	3
3. Formation Experience Rhythm	4
4. The Integration of Learning and Action	5
5. Course Costs.....	6
6. Policies and Procedures	7
7. Participant Support	7
8. Alumni	8
9. Applications and Contact Details	8

1. Welcome to the Formation Experience

The *Formation Experience* is an integrated transformative environment for disciples, leaders and pastors. This one-year journey features exceptional faculty drawn from the world's best discipleship, formation and leadership programs.

Our heart is to equip and release intentional communities of people who are fully alive and freely aligned, acting as agents of transformation in God's Kingdom. Our logo features birds with wings outstretched and our vision is to see all participants in full flight. Nothing gives God more glory than a person who is fully alive. Our logo also pictures birds flying in formation. These birds choose to fly together, working as alongsiders. There is deep wisdom in freely aligning with others in transforming communities.

2. Formation Experience Elements

Everything we do is directed towards communities of authentic disciples, serving and leading from their transformed selves for the transformation of others. We believe genuine and ongoing growth occurs when:

- we discover our true identity as beloved children of God
- we notice and nurture our God-given dreams
- we allow God's mission to align us within the flow of His sending love.

The integrated elements of the *Formation Experience* are:

- **Cohort Model:** The Formation Experience uses a cohort model which bands together a group of people in an active, interactive, and dynamic setting that fosters creativity, engagement and community.
- **Extended Retreats:** The process of transformation is greatly enhanced through regular participation in retreats which free us from distractions and allow for extended periods of intentional engagement with God. You will participate in two retreats over the year.
- **Inspiring Faculty:** Leading global thinkers and practitioners help us to engage in meaningful head, hand and heart learning and invite us to explore innovative developments in this emerging field.
- **Choreographed Learning:** A thoughtful and detailed guided reading and reflection program equips us to wrestle with deeper issues as we integrate our learning through practical placements.
- **Leadership Training:** Engaging in authentic leadership training that equips us to invest our transformed selves into broader ministry and community contexts.
- **Formation Gathering:** An annual conference that connects your cohort with ongoing Kingdom conversations and communities of practice.

3. Formation Experience Rhythm

The *Formation Experience* is structured around two retreats and a conference. In 2019, each retreat is shaped around a five-day rhythm, running from Tuesday to Saturday and explores the following themes:

DATES	LOCATION	THEME	FACULTY
Retreat 1: Personal Transformation			
19-23 March, 2019	Foothills Conference Centre 48 Edinburg Road Mooroolbark Melbourne VIC 3138 http://foothillsconferencecentre.com.au	Nothing gives God more glory than a person who is fully alive. Being and becoming a beloved child of God is an essential first step to experiencing the abundant life that Jesus offers. This retreat is held in an idyllic bush setting and features Trevor Hudson who guides us into the grand adventure of dwelling and delighting in the Kingdom as God dwells and delights in us.	Trevor Hudson Andrew Ranucci John Robinson Sarah Whitehead
Formation Gathering: The Magnificent Journey			
24-26 October, 2019	Northside Conference Centre Oxley St & Pole Lane, Crows Nest NSW 2065 http://northsideconference.com.au	We are most likely to grow when we accompany others who are actively participating in the process of transformation. Our annual conference acts as a strategic relational hub for the broader formation community in our part of the world. The Formation Gathering is held in an excellent conference venue and in 2019 features James Bryan Smith who invites us to journey deeper into God's Kingdom.	James Bryan Smith Andrew Ranucci John Robinson Sarah Whitehead
Retreat 2: Community Transformation			
18-22 February, 2020	Liminis Community 153 Taralga Rd, Goulburn NSW 2580 https://www.liminis.org	Community is more than a core ingredient in the process of personal transformation. God's Kingdom dream is for a community of people to be fully alive and freely aligned. This retreat is held within the "Liminis" community transformation project and features Mark Scandrette. Mark offers us a very grounded and practical approach to formation in community.	Mark Scandrette Andrew Ranucci John Robinson Sarah Whitehead

4. The Integration of Learning and Action

There are two ways to participate in the *Formation Experience*. Each provides the student with the full transformational learning adventure.

Non-accredited Participant

Enjoy the depth of the *Formation Experience* but without assessments or grades. Participants will engage with all aspects of the program including retreats, the Formation Gathering and guided reading and reflective practices. Non-accredited students do not earn credit towards a degree and therefore do not have access to FEE-HELP but fees can be paid in 2 instalments.

Degree Student

Enjoy the *Formation Experience* while earning credit towards a degree. This challenging option integrates head, heart and hands and stretches the student to find a new ways of expressing what they are learning. The *Experience* contributes 4 units towards Undergraduate degrees including the Diploma of Christian Studies, Bachelor of Ministry or Bachelor of Theology. Postgraduate awards include a Graduate Certificate of Arts, or 4 units towards a Master of Arts, Master of Leadership, Master of Theology or Master of Divinity.

How Accreditation Works

The Formation Centre is an initiative of the Australian College of Ministries (ACOM) which is accredited through the Sydney College of Divinity (SCD), a tertiary-education provider of high-quality, accredited awards in ministry and theology. The *Formation Experience* enables accredited students to complete a minimum of 4 tertiary units over 4 trimesters towards a range of tertiary qualifications. Participation in the Bachelor or Masters streams will involve the completion of additional reading and assessment tasks as set by ACOM. Study with ACOM may be full time or part time and is Austudy and FEE-HELP approved through the SCD for students who meet the Australian Government criteria. Visit www.studyassist.gov.au for details.

Ministry Placement

Each Trimester, accredited students will anchor their learning in a ministry placement of 30 hours. This recognises the need for learning to be applied in intentional ministry or missional activity. You will journey with a Student Ministry Supervisor of your choosing to undertake projects that benefit your community and enable you to reflect on how your study can be integrated into your life and work. Further details will be provided as part of each accredited unit.

5. Course Costs

The *Formation Experience* fee options for 2019* are listed below.

	Unit Title	Non-accredited Participants	Undergraduate Students	Postgraduate Students
Trimester 1, 2019	Personal Transformation	\$4,950 This Program Fee includes all global faculty and learning costs for both retreats, as well as entry fees for the conference.	\$6,940 (\$4,950 Program Fee + \$1,990 unit cost)	\$7,340 (\$4,950 Program Fee + \$2,390 unit cost)
Trimester 2	The Art and Science of Formation	It excludes textbooks, travel and conference expenses.	\$1,990	\$2,390
Trimester 3	Transformational Discipleship		\$1,990	\$2,390
Trimester 1, 2020	Community Transformation		\$1,990	\$2,390
	Total Costs	\$4,950	\$12,910	\$14,510

*Unit fees will be finalised in October 2018 and there may be a small increase in the per unit cost at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The Program Fee will not vary.

6. Policies and Procedures

As a part of ACOM, we implement the policies and procedures outlined in the ACOM Higher Education Student Handbook for all our students, whether you are undertaking an accredited version of the *Formation Experience* or not. This helps us to provide consistency to all students. For a copy of the Handbook, visit [here](#).

The relevant Withdrawals and Refunds policy applies to all *Formation Experience* participants. Some of the relevant provisions state:

1. Administrative dates including Census Dates and Deadlines for Changes to Enrolments will be published on ACOM's website [here](#).
2. Students do not incur a financial liability for a unit until after the Census Date/Deadline for Changes, however a withdrawal fee may still apply. This applies to all eligible students whether they pay their tuition fees upfront or seek loan scheme assistance.
3. Students are to advise ACOM (or the *Formation Experience* if not accredited through ACOM) in writing by the published Census Date/Deadline for Changes that they intend to withdraw from a subject or course.
4. Students should follow the withdrawal procedures outlined in the relevant ACOM Higher Education Handbook.
5. In the event of a student withdrawing on or prior to the published Census Date/Deadline for Changes:
 - a. 100% of tuition fees paid will be refunded (less any applicable withdrawal fees);
 - b. the student will not incur a FEE-HELP debt (but will be invoiced for any applicable withdrawal fees).
6. In the event of a student withdrawing after the published Census Date/Deadline for Changes:
 - a. no refund is applicable;
 - b. the student will incur a FEE-HELP debt.

ACOM has provisions for making exceptions to these policies on compassionate grounds.

7. Participant Support

The *Formation Experience* is a journey with God in the context of community. The more you participate with the retreats, readings and placement, the deeper your encounter will be. We understand that engaging with this kind of transformational process can be confronting. We are here to support you. This Experience is ultimately one filled with grace and we encourage you to 'Do as you can, not as you can't.'

We aim to provide access to spiritual directors as part of the retreat experiences but strongly encourage participants to enter into a mentoring relationship to support their journey through the *Experience*.

8. Alumni

The outcome of personal and community transformation is deep and abiding change which inspires us to move in new directions. The *Formation Experience* supports this process by inviting all graduates of our program to join our ongoing Alumni community. This invitation encourages us to journey with others who are fully alive and freely aligned, acting as agents of transformation in God's Kingdom. We reconnect each year through selected events, continue to engage with the national and global conversations and have access to developing projects in the Kingdom. Participating as Alumni supports us in sustaining transformation by continuing the journey of discovering and living into God's Kingdom adventure.

9. Applications and Contact Details

Applications for the *Formation Experience* 2019 are now open. If you have any further questions, or would like an application form, please don't hesitate to contact us:

Email: swhitehead@acom.edu.au

Sarah Whitehead: 0407 094 058

John Robinson: 0425 889 266

Applications **close on 14 January 2019**.