



# *Heart of Life*

Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation



## SILOAM

2021 Full-time or Part-time Program for the  
Formation of Spiritual Directors

*To enliven the divine spark in people's hearts  
through contemplative formation*

## Aim

The SILOAM program is concerned with the formation of competent, experienced spiritual directors. The lecturers and supervisors at Heart of Life foster a discerning, contemplative approach whereby spiritual directors-in-formation become more and more attuned to the movement of God's Spirit in themselves and in their directees.

## Pre-requisites

Applicants are expected to have:

- experience in ministry
- an ability to reflect on their experience and ministry
- involvement in a faith community
- experience of ministry supervision: CPE, Spiritual Leaders, or equivalent
- experience of being in spiritual direction or a directed retreat
- basic study in theology, spirituality, scripture, psychology
- a psychological assessment
- level of English IELTS 5.5 General, with at least 5.0 in each of the four bands for Siloam; IELTS 6.5 Academic for the Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction
- proof of Australian Citizenship or Permanent Residency for those applying within Australia; overseas applicants must apply for a Temporary Activity Visa (Subclass 408) for Siloam, or a Student Visa (Subclass 500) for the Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction
- personal interview, by arrangement.

In light of the above criteria, applicants must write a personal statement of eligibility for the program addressing these Pre-requisites.

## Siloam Program

Siloam is recognised by the Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction (AECSD) as meeting its standards for the formation of spiritual directors in Australia.

Siloam's approach to formation is soundly experiential and is based on solid theological, biblical and social sciences theory and praxis. A discerning, contemplative attitude is integral to all seminars and practical work.

Regular reflection, prayer time and a commitment to one's own spiritual direction are essential to the program.

Siloam participants and staff form a faith community. The Immersion Program, plus three reflection weekends, are held during the Siloam Program to pray as a community, to share faith and to reflect on ministry.

On successful completion of the Siloam program, students receive a Certificate of Completion from Heart of Life.

## Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction

Students who meet the 'previous Degree' and other criteria, may undertake the Siloam program as a *Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction*. Enrolment is made through Yarra Theological Union (YTU) and the *Graduate Diploma* is awarded by the University of Divinity (UD) - see 2020 YTU Handbook.

Students applying to study the *Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction* must provide YTU with the original or certified copies of relevant transcripts.

## Content

### [Seminar Work](#)

Eight hours of seminar work is required weekly in the full-time program, and up to four hours weekly in the part-time program (Mondays, 8.45am-5.30pm). Core seminars include: Discernment, Religious Experience, Grace & Conversion, Spirituality of Human Life Stages A & B, Human Experience of God, Professional Standards in Ministry, Ecological Spirituality.

## Practical Work

- Spiritual direction of people who request this via the Centre or in one's local area.
- Individual supervision: weekly for full-time participants; fortnightly for part-time participants.
- Weekly group supervision of verbatim presentations, and two case studies.
- Weekly spiritual direction with peers working in triads and quads with supervision.
- Weekly Tutorial and Communal Reflection for full-time students; fortnightly Tutorial for part-time students, alternating with Communal Reflection.

## **Assessment**

Assessment is ongoing:

- mid-year and end-of-year evaluation of ministry in light of individual goals
- three 6,000 word assignments or equivalent per semester (full-time students) on seminar topics integrating theory and practice
- reflection papers, class presentations, verbatim reports of ministry
- ongoing and final assessment by supervisors.

## **2021 Fees**

*All fees in this brochure are given in Australian Dollars.*

### Siloam Program

The fee for students studying the Siloam program only in 2021 is \$13,738. This fee is made up of \$11,438 for Tuition and \$2,300 for Reflection Weekends & Student Amenities. Full-time students pay the \$11,438 either in full at the start of Semester 1, or in two equal parts at the start of each of Semester 1 and 2. Part-time student fees are split across two years, that is \$5,719 Tuition plus \$1,150 Reflection Weekends & Student Amenities fees, to be paid in each of Year 1 & Year 2.

If students do not have a psychological

assessment, they will also need to take this test, which costs approx \$200. (Information on where to take this test will be provided.)

Students of the Siloam program are also required to undertake regular personal spiritual direction, which costs approximately \$69 per session or as negotiated.

Students applying outside of Australia should allow approx \$2,500 for the costs of health and travel insurance, visa application fees etc.

In summary, the approx. fees for Siloam are:

Heart of Life Tuition/Reflection Wknds	\$13,738
Psychological Assessment	approx \$200
Regular spiritual direction	approx \$500
Photocopying	approx <u>\$50</u>
<u>Total:</u>	approx \$14,488

### Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction

Applicants wishing to study for the *Graduate Diploma* should add to the above, the following UD/YTU fees:

Total: approx \$18,890

Government FEE-HELP is available for tuition fees to qualifying Australian citizens. Please note however that FEE-HELP *does not* cover: the Reflection Weekends & Student Amenities fee of \$2,300, psychological testing of approx \$200, spiritual direction costs of up to \$500, or photocopying.

For more information on FEE-HELP, see [www.studyassist.gov.au](http://www.studyassist.gov.au)

To apply, applicants must select 'FEE-HELP' as their payment method when completing their course enrolment forms. Proof of Australian citizenship must be provided. After processing, applicants will receive an email that enables them to apply for FEE-HELP through the online eCAF portal. Fees will continue to be charged to FEE-HELP unless the student advises YTU of a change to upfront fee payment. Contact YTU for more information.

## Accommodation

Overseas and interstate full-time Siloam students are expected to organise their own local accommodation for the duration of the Program. No accommodation is available at Heart of Life however the Staff can suggest possible accommodation options.

## Refund / Cancellation Policy

Heart of Life's Fee Refund Policy provides for the refund of student tuition fees or the recrediting of a FEE-HELP balance before Census Date, or after Census Date when special circumstances apply. See our Fee Refund Policy at [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne)

## Application Process

Please complete the SILOAM application form at [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne) and include a substantial autobiography following the

guidelines provided, as well as a personal statement of eligibility addressing the Pre-requisites outlined in this brochure.

Please send the names, email addresses and telephone numbers of two referees supporting your application.

Applications for the 2021 Siloam program close on 30 November 2020. On receipt of an application, arrangements will be made for a personal interview, and information provided regarding having a psychological assessment.

Please address applications to:

*Paul Beirne, Director  
Heart of Life  
296 Glenferrie Road, Malvern VIC 3144  
Australia  
Email: [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne)*

### SILOAM CALENDAR 2021

<i>Immersion Program - Full-time participants (compulsory):</i>	<i>4-5 February</i>
<i>Orientation - Part-time Year 1 participants (compulsory):</i>	<i>5-6 February</i>
<i>Orientation Week - Full-time participants:</i>	<i>8-11 February</i>
<i>Orientation Day - Part-time Year 1 participants:</i>	<i>8 February</i>
<i>Semester 1 (Term 1)</i>	<i>15 February-1 April</i>
<i>(Term 2)</i>	<i>19 April-25 June</i>
<i>Semester 2 (Term 3)</i>	<i>19 July-17 September</i>
<i>(Term 4)</i>	<i>4 October-19 November</i>
<i>Retreat Week - Full-time participants (compulsory):</i>	<i>13-17 September</i>
<i>End-of-Year Missioning of Graduates:</i>	<i>22 November</i>
<i>3 x compulsory Reflection weekends (Full-time participants):</i>	<i>30 Apr-2 May, 6-8 Aug, 19-21 Nov</i>
<i>2 x compulsory Reflection weekends (Part-time Year 1 particip.):</i>	<i>14-16 May, 20-22 Aug</i>



### Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation

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