



Heart of Life

Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation



SILOAM

2024 Program for the
Formation of Spiritual Directors

Full-time: 1 Year, on campus

Part-time: 2 Years, on campus or online

Applications close: 15/10/23

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

The Siloam Program for the Formation of Spiritual Directors mirrors the movement identified in John 9:7. It is with the opening of the eyes of our heart and of our whole being, that we are able to embrace a new 'vision', a new mission, and a new vocation in the ministry of Spiritual Direction.

We thirst to live our life authentically, we long for the freedom to choose to be our true self and to know wholeheartedly that the sacred Mystery is entwined in such desires. Like washing in the Pool of Siloam, the Siloam Program opens our eyes and supports our transformation, freeing us to let go of ways of being that are no longer life-giving.

The focus in Siloam is on being attuned to the Spirit of God in ourselves and in the other person. The practice is to offer a compassionate, contemplative, listening heart to another in the ancient tradition of Spiritual Direction. The direction we speak of is towards God and our true freedom.

In Spiritual Direction, the caring presence of another moves us to a freedom to speak about whatever is deep within our heart, and in doing so, be valued and encouraged. We all long to be listened to and validated.

Siloam, in practice and in its study components, is based on experiential learning. Our lived history, our relationship with the Holy, our place in family and community, our desires and vulnerability make us who we are.

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 one's experience and ministry
- involvement in a faith community
- experience of ministry supervision: CPE, Spiritual Leaders, or equivalent
- at least six months' experience of being in spiritual direction
- 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.

Applicants confirm the above eligibility criteria by completing the Personal Statement of Eligibility on the application form.

Siloam Program

Siloam is recognised by the Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction 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 compulsory Orientation and 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 in Spiritual Direction 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 (GDSD)*. The content is the same as the Siloam Program. Enrolment is made through Yarra Theological Union (YTU) after an Offer of a Place, and on successful completion of the program, the *GDSD* is awarded by the University of Divinity.

Students applying to study the *GDSD* must provide YTU with the original or certified copies of relevant transcripts.

Content

[Seminar Work](#)

Each week, students in the full-time program attend classes on Mon-Thu, 9am-2.30pm, and in the part-time program Mondays, 9am-5pm AEST. Core seminars include: Discernment, Religious Experience, Grace & Conversion, Spirituality of Human Life Stages A & B, The Nature of Human Experience & The Human Experience of the Divine, Professional Standards in Ministry, and Ecological Spirituality.

[Practical Work](#)

- Spiritual direction of people who request this via the Centre or in one's local area.
- Regular individual supervision.
- Weekly group supervision of verbatim presentations, and two case studies.
- Weekly spiritual direction with peers working in triads and quads with supervision.
- Regular Tutorials and Communal Reflection.

Assessment

Assessment is ongoing:

- mid- and end-of-program evaluation of ministry in light of individual goals
- three 6,000 word assignments or equivalent per semester (FT) or per year (PT) on seminar topics integrating theory and practice, including reflection papers, verbatim

reports of ministry and class presentations

- ongoing and final assessment by supervisors.

Overseas Students

Information on the study options available for overseas students is detailed on our Siloam webpage under FAQs. **Note that strict deadlines apply for overseas students wishing to study for the GDSD.**

2024 Fees *(Australian Dollars)*

[Siloam Program](#)

As the 2024 Fee schedule is not yet available, the fees below are provided as a guide.

The fee for students studying the Siloam Program in 2024 is approximately \$16,000.

The course fee is made up of Tuition fees and a Reflection Weekends & Student Amenities fee. For Part-time students, the fees are split across two years.

All fees for the year are to be paid prior to the start of the course or in scheduled payments as arranged with Heart of Life.

If students do not have a psychological assessment, they will also need to take this test, which is payable by the student at approx. \$300. (Information on where to take this test will be provided.)

Students of the Siloam Program are also required to undertake regular personal spiritual direction, payable by the student at approx. \$70 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	~\$16,000
Psychological Assessment	~\$300
Regular spiritual direction	~\$500
Total:	approx \$16,800

[Graduate Diploma in Spiritual Direction](#)

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

	~\$5,000
Total:	approx \$21,800

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, psychological testing or spiritual direction.

For more information on FEE-HELP, see 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.

Application Process

Please complete the SILOAM application form at www.heartoflife.melbourne and include an autobiography following the guidelines.

The Siloam formation groups consist of a small number of participants each year, providing

the best environment for the course praxis in particular. For this reason, and because of the level of interest in the program each year, a \$500 application fee is payable when candidates apply, which is later deducted from the course fees. The application fee holds a potential seat in the program until a formal Offer of a Place is made. (The \$500 fee is refundable if an Offer of a Place is not made.)

Applications for the 2024 Siloam Program close on 15 October 2023.

Graduate Diploma students must apply to YTU - after being offered a place in Siloam - by **15 November 2023**.

Please address applications to:

*Director
Heart of Life
Rear 41 Stanhope Street, Malvern VIC 3144
Australia
Email: info@heartoflife.melbourne*

SILOAM CALENDAR 2024 - Dates to be confirmed

<i>Orientation - Part-time Year 1 participants (compulsory):</i>	<i>2-3 & 5 February</i>
<i>Orientation - Part-time Year 2 participants (compulsory):</i>	<i>5 February</i>
<i>Orientation Week - Full-time participants (compulsory):</i>	<i>5-9 February</i>
<i>Semester 1 (Term 1)</i>	<i>12 February-28 March</i>
<i>(Term 2)</i>	<i>15 April-21 June</i>
<i>Semester 2 (Term 3)</i>	<i>15 July-20 September</i>
<i>(Term 4)</i>	<i>2 October-17 November</i>
<i>Retreat Week - Full-time & Yr2 participants (compulsory):</i>	<i>16-20 September</i>
<i>End-of-Year Missioning of Graduates:</i>	<i>18 November</i>
<i>3 x compulsory Reflection weekends (Full-time participants):</i>	<i>26-28 Apr, 9-11 Aug, 15-17 Nov</i>
<i>2 x compulsory Reflection weekends (Part-time Yr 1 particip.):</i>	<i>1-12 May, 16-18 Aug</i>
<i>2 x compulsory Reflection weekends (Part-time Yr 2 particip.):</i>	<i>24-26 May, 15-17 Nov</i>



Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation

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