



**AGST Alliance**  
**Doctor of Education in Child & Family Development**

**Biblical/theological foundations assessment**

AGST Alliance's Doctor of Education in Child and Family Development program "seeks to integrate Christian theology with practice, to sustain and motivate Christians giving leadership in the demanding arena of child and family development."

This means that participants will need to have an adequate foundation of biblical and theological knowledge and skills, on which the content of the program will be built. Of course, we will help participants to sharpen their abilities in this area, but we need to assess the current ability of applicants, too.

Thus, there are two items applicants are required to prepare and submit as part of the EdD(C&FD) application process.

### **A. Bible interpretation**

One important skill needed in the EdD(C&FD) program is the ability to use the Bible well, in order to bring its insights to bear on the content of the program.

This task requires you to exegete two Bible passages – i.e. to interpret each passage in such a way to show what it meant to its original hearers, and then what it might mean for Christians today.

Choose two of these passages of the Bible, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament:

- Deuteronomy 6:1-9
- Psalm 97
- Isaiah 11:1-10
- Matthew 25:31-45
- Mark 10:13-16
- 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

For each passage:

- Phase 1: In bullet points, comment on key exegetical issues in the passage, and your conclusion for each issue.
- Phase 2: List the steps (or questions you would ask about the passage) you would take with Christian adults to help them understand the Bible passage well.
- Phase 3: For each step (question), write an answer relating to the specific Bible passage.

You do not need to refer or, or make reference to, any books other than the Bible.

Length: Each exegesis should be up to 1000 words in length (2½-3 pages of single spaced text). Phase 1 will likely be 20-30% of the paper; and phases 2/3 the remaining 70-80%.

## B. Christian thinking about issues

Another important skill in the EdD(C&FD) program is to be able to 'think Christianly' about the issues that arise as you move through the program.

This task requires you to identify and discuss an issue affecting children and families that is relevant to, and being discussed in, your context (e.g. in your ministry/organisation and/or culture) and about which opinion is divided. Examples could be an ethics issue (e.g. abortion, contraception), an inter-religious matter, a social matter (e.g. immigration issues, poverty, civil war).

- Phase 1: Write a short case study relating to the issue you have identified.
- Phase 2: List the steps of the process you would go through to determine a Christian response to the issue.
- Phase 3: Use the steps from Phase 2 to
  - discuss the differing approaches to the issue,
  - suggest an appropriate Christian response(s) for dealing with the issue, and
  - propose several recommendations for the context of your case study setting.

Draw on insights and perspectives from different disciplines (e.g. theology, the social sciences, education).

Length/format: This paper should be up about 2000 words (5-6 pages of single spaced text). Phase 1 will likely be 15-20% of the paper, and phases 2/3 the remaining 80-85%.

Make sure that you acknowledge (both in the text of your paper and as a reference list at the end of the paper) insights you draw from various sources.

## Submission

When you have completed both these items, send your responses as email attachments to Dr Rosalind Lim-Tan, [cfid@agstalliance.org](mailto:cfid@agstalliance.org).

After we have all your application papers in hand, we will have an interview with you (face-to-face or Skype), to get to know you better, and to chat through aspects of your application, including these biblical/theological foundation papers.