

Honorary Degree

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1.0 Purpose

This policy outlines the standards that underpin the awarding of the honorary degree of Doctor of the University (abbreviation DUniv).

2.0 Scope

This policy applies to all nominations for and awards of the honorary degree of Doctor of the University.

3.0 Policy statement

The University Council may honour any person who has, in its opinion, rendered distinguished service to the community, University or to scholarship by awarding that person the honorary degree of Doctor of the University.

The nomination and awarding of honorary degrees must:

- Align with the values, strategies and policies of the University and with community expectations
- Be sensitive to the history and character of the University and diversity of its community
- Support the University's best interests and reputation, and
- Be appropriate, having regard to the reputation of the individual concerned, and as relevant the level of service rendered to the community, University or to scholarship.

3.1 Eligibility for the award of Doctor of the University

To be eligible for the award of Doctor of the University, a nominee must be deemed to have rendered distinguished service to the:

- community, and/or
- University, and/or
- scholarship.

Distinguished service means the nominee is regarded as:

- highly innovative, ground-breaking or impactful in local, national and/or international settings, and/or
- recognised as an eminent leader, and/or
- nationally and/or internationally recognised for outstanding contributions or achievement in their field.

Nominees are not eligible if they:

- have self-nominated
- are a current member of staff of the University
- have not satisfied the due diligence requirements of the Honorary Degree Nomination Form

- are nominated solely for philanthropic donations.

3.2 Nomination process

The nomination process is outlined in the Honorary Degree Procedure.

3.3 Use of title and postnominals

The Doctor of the University is an honorary award and does not form part of the Australian Qualifications Framework. Certification documentation issued to recipients of the Doctor of the University will specify that the award is honorary.

The postnominal 'DUniv' may be used from the date the award is conferred but recipients are not entitled to use the title 'Doctor.'

3.4 Acceptance and conferral

Honorary awards must be accepted within one year of the issue of the Council's invitation to accept the award and must be conferred within two years of the Council's resolution to offer the award. Awards not conferred within this period will lapse, except for special circumstances.

3.5 Awarding an honorary degree posthumously

In circumstances in which Council has resolved to approve an award and the nominee has accepted the offer but has since died, an honorary degree may be presented posthumously subject to the wishes of the family.

3.6 Revocation of an honorary award

On the recommendation of the People, Nominations and Remuneration Committee, the Council may revoke an honorary degree where continuation of the award is no longer in the best interests of the University.

In making this determination the Committee will consider relevant evidence, including instances where the title holder has:

- engaged in unlawful or criminal activity
- been found by an independent body or inquiry to have engaged in unethical or immoral behaviour
- undertaken activities that are in direct conflict with the values, strategies or policies of the University.

Upon revocation of the honorary degree by the Council, the person will be advised in writing that they are no longer to cite or imply that they are a recipient of that award.

4.0 Roles, responsibilities and delegations

| ROLE | RESPONSIBILITY |
|--|---|
| University Council | Approving authority for the awarding and revocation of the honorary degree of Doctor of the University, on the recommendation of the People, Nominations and Remuneration Committee. |
| People, Nominations and Remuneration Committee | The Council established the People, Nominations and Remuneration Committee to consider nominations and make recommendations to the Council for the awarding or revocation of the honorary degree of Doctor of the University. |

5.0 Definitions

For the purposes of this policy and related policy documents, the following definitions apply:

Conferral means a Council-approved nomination for the award of the honorary degree has been accepted by the nominee and awarded by the Chancellor at a ceremony.

DUniv is the abbreviation for the award of the honorary degree of Doctor of the University.

| INFORMATION | | Printable version (PDF) Downloadable version (Word) |
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| Title | Honorary Degree Policy | |
| Document number | 2023/0001016 | |
| Purpose | This policy outlines the standards that underpin the awarding of the honorary degree of Doctor of the University (abbreviation DUniv). | |
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| Subcategory | | |
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| Policy advisor | Head, Corporate Governance | |
| Approving authority | University Council | |

| RELATED POLICY DOCUMENTS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS | |
|---|--|
| Legislation | N/A |
| Policy | Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech Policy Code of Conduct Conflict of Interest Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy |
| Procedures | Honorary Degree Procedure |
| Local protocols | Honorary Degree Nomination Flowchart |
| Forms | Honorary Degree Nomination Form |