
Policy Redesign Project

All policies and procedures are being reviewed as part of this project. This document is pending review, but remains in effect until the review is carried out.

Alumni Awards

Establishment:	Council, 1991 (Convocation Medal) and 11 August 2005 (Distinguished Alumni Award)
Date Last Amended:	Vice-Chancellor, 12 June 2020
Nature of Amendment:	Establish new Early Career Alumni Award and increase Selection Committee membership.
Date Last Reviewed:	September 2016
Responsible Officer:	Executive Director, Communications, Marketing and Engagement

1. Preamble

1.1 The Alumni Awards are intended to acknowledge significant contributions made by Flinders alumni. The Alumni Awards comprise the:

- Convocation Medal
- Distinguished Alumni Award, and
- Early Career Alumni Award.

2. Alumni

2.1 The University's alumni shall comprise of graduates of Flinders University.

3. Alumni Awards Selection Committee

3.1 The Alumni Awards Selection Committee will be comprised of:

(a) a Deputy Chancellor nominated by the Chancellor (Chairperson); and

(b) six other members of the Alumni, including where possible, past Alumni Award recipients, appointed by the Chairperson on the recommendation of the Executive Director, Communications, Marketing and Engagement.

3.2 A quorum for meetings will be four.

3.3 Members will be appointed for a three year term and will be eligible for reappointment.

3.4 Members are not eligible to be considered for an Alumni Award during their membership.

4. Rules

4.1 Convocation Medal

4.1.1 The Convocation Medal recognises graduates of Flinders University who have made a substantial and outstanding contribution to the local, national and/or international community through one or more of the following ways:

- (a) leadership in their field or profession;
- (b) the advancement of knowledge;
- (c) the advancement of professional practice;
- (d) community service.

4.1.2 The Convocation Medal will not normally be awarded to a recipient of another University honour, or someone who would more appropriately be considered for such an award (such as Honorary Degree or Emeritus Professorship), unless the nominee has made a significant further or separate contribution that merits such recognition.

4.1.3 One or more Convocation Medals may be awarded in any one year, or the Alumni Awards Selection Committee may recommend that no award is to be made.

4.2 Distinguished Alumni Award

4.2.1 The Distinguished Alumni Award recognises alumni who have distinguished themselves in one or more of the following ways:

- contributions which have benefited Flinders University and/or the alumni;
- contributions which have benefited the community, locally, nationally, or internationally;
- humanitarian services and contributions to society;
- professional achievements;
- services to the University (provided that such service is not the sole criterion or a mandatory criterion);
- a significant role in a single incident or activity in one of the areas identified above.

4.2.2 The Distinguished Alumni Award will not normally be awarded to a recipient of a Convocation Medal, or a person who would more appropriately be considered for such an award.

4.2.3 A person may hold only one Distinguished Alumni Award. In the future, a recipient may also be nominated for a Convocation Medal if the nominee has made a significant further or separate contribution that merits such recognition.

4.2.4 Normally, up to six Distinguished Alumni Awards may be awarded in any year, or the Alumni Awards Selection Committee may recommend that no award is to be made. In exceptional cases, the Alumni Awards Selection Committee may recommend additional nominees to receive awards.

4.3 Early Career Alumni Award

4.3.1 The Early Career Alumni Award recognises the outstanding achievement and contribution of a graduate in their early career who meets the following criteria:

- have received their most recent degree from Flinders University in the past five years
- as a minimum, have been awarded an undergraduate Bachelor degree or higher qualification from the University
- demonstrate significant contribution within their chosen field or to the community at a local, state, national or international level (either as part of their employment or in a voluntary/not-for-profit role).

4.3.2 The Early Career Alumni Award will not normally be awarded to a recipient of a Convocation Medal or Distinguished Alumni Award, or a person who would more appropriately be considered for such awards.

4.3.3 A person may hold only one Early Career Alumni Award. In the future, a recipient may also be nominated for a Distinguished Alumni Award or Convocation Medal (whichever is the more appropriate at the time of nomination).

4.3.5 Normally, up to six Early Career Alumni Awards may be awarded in any year, or the Alumni Awards Selection Committee may recommend that no award is to be made. In exceptional cases, the Alumni Awards Selection Committee may recommend additional nominees to receive awards.

5. Nominations, Selection and Approval of Alumni Awards

5.1 The Office of Communications, Marketing and Engagement will arrange for nominations to be called, and for notices about the call for nominations to be placed in relevant publications, at least two months before the closing date nominated by the Executive Director, Communications, Marketing and Engagement (or delegate).

5.2 Any graduate, current or former staff member, current or former student or friend of the University may nominate an eligible person (as per clause 2.1) for an Alumni Award.

5.3 Self-nominations are not accepted.

5.4 Nominations specifying which Alumni Award is proposed, addressing the selection criteria for that Award as outlined in clause 4 above, and providing supporting letters or other material, will be submitted in confidence to the Alumni Relations Manager, Alumni and Advancement, who will arrange for the Alumni Awards Selection Committee to consider them.

5.5 Posthumous nominations will be considered for all awards. The nominee must have been deceased for no more than five years at the time of the nomination.

5.6 The Alumni Awards Selection Committee will evaluate the nominations in accordance with the Rules above, and submit a report and recommendations to the Vice-Chancellor, for approval, at least six weeks before the awards are to be presented.

5.7 Recommendations to the Vice-Chancellor for the award must be supported by not less than two thirds of the Alumni Awards Selection Committee members present at the meeting at which they are considered.

5.8 Once the selection process has been completed and the Vice-Chancellor has approved the nominations, the Executive Director, Communications, Marketing and Engagement (or delegate) will advise each successful nominee of the Award, and will invite each person to accept the Award. In the case of posthumous nominations, the Executive Director, Communications, Marketing and Engagement (or delegate) will advise the executor and/or the immediate family of the nominee as appropriate.

5.9 In the event of a nominee declining to accept an award, the matter will remain confidential. The Alumni Awards Selection Committee may then recommend to the Vice-Chancellor a further nominee in that award category for that year.

6. Presentation of Alumni Awards

6.1 All Alumni Awards (Convocation Medal, Distinguished Alumni Award and Early Career Alumni Award) will be presented each year at an appropriate University function.

6.2 All Alumni Awards will be in a form determined by the Executive Director, Communications, Marketing and Engagement (or delegate) and will include the recipient's name and an appropriate citation.

6.3 If a recipient of an Alumni Award is unable to attend a function to receive the Award in person, the Award may be presented at the function in absentia, or if timing and resources are available, be awarded at a separate appropriate event.

Related links

[Alumni awards and past recipients](#)