

Conferral of Awards and Graduation Procedures

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1. Governing Policy

[Conferral of Awards and Graduation Policy](#)

2. Purpose

These procedures describe the processes that will be applied in arranging the conferral of academic awards, conducting graduation ceremonies, and other associated activities.

3. Definitions

Refer to the definitions listed in s.3 of the [Conferral of Awards and Graduation Policy](#).

4. Procedures

4.1. Eligibility to graduate

A student's eligibility to graduate in accordance with s.4.1 of the Conferral of Awards and Graduation Policy, will be certified as follows:

Coursework award students, including exit or alternative awards	College Dean (Education) (or delegate, who may only be the Teaching Program Director or Course Coordinator)
Higher degree by research students	Dean of Graduate Research

4.2. Notification of conferral

- a. The conferral of an academic award is a separate process to graduation ceremonies. See [Procedure 4.4](#) for graduation ceremonies.
- b. Students eligible to graduate as certified above will be considered for conferral at the next available conferral date and the Vice-Chancellor or delegate will confer the relevant academic award if satisfied of a student's eligibility. Conferral dates are published on the University's website – see [Conferral](#)
- c. Graduation Services will notify students of their conferral in writing.
- d. A Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) student may use the title of Doctor once they have been conferred.

- e. Once conferred graduates may choose one of the following options to receive their testamur:
- in person at the next available graduation ceremony as notified by Graduation Services (deadlines apply), or
 - by collection from a Flinders University collection point, in person or by an agent nominated to collect the testamur on their behalf, or
 - via registered post upon payment of a fee.

4.3. Certification of qualification (academic documents)

Academic documents are described as follows:

Document type	Document description
Testamur	A certificate displaying the name of the graduate, the name of the academic award, the conferral date, the seal of the University, and any other requirements specified by the Higher Education Standards Framework . Other institutions may refer to this as a parchment.
Transcript of academic record	A complete record of all attempted study at the University, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> grade symbols for all topics with an enrolment beyond the census date of the applicable semester completion date of each academic award conferral date of each academic award any credit applied any awards or prizes achieved, and any other requirements specified by the Assessment Policy and Procedures and the Higher Education Standards Framework.
Australian Higher Education Graduation Statement (AHEGS)	A statement summarising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Australian higher education system the nature, level and context of the academic award the graduate's record of study as per the academic transcript, and any other requirements specified by the Higher Education Standards Framework.

4.3.1. Issuing of academic documents

- Academic documents are issued in digital format via the [My eEquals](#) platform.
- Graduates, current students, and former students with an active sanction as per the [Student Debt Procedures](#), or with an HDR sanction, are not permitted to receive or purchase academic documents in print or digital format.
- Academic documents are produced and replaced in accordance with the design approved by the Director, Student Administration Services, and on paper stock current at the time.
- Graduates will be issued with:
 - one print and one digital testamur per academic award

- ii. one digital transcript of academic record, and
- iii. one digital AHEGS per academic award.
- e. Printed testamurs are available on request for collection or by postage from the conferral date. The first copy of a printed testamur will be generated free of charge, any postage fees are at the graduate's cost.
- f. Graduates may apply for a replacement testamur under the following circumstances:
 - i. the original testamur has been damaged
 - ii. the original testamur has been misplaced, stolen, or destroyed
 - iii. the graduate's legal name has changed.
- g. Applications for a replacement testamur must be submitted as specified by Graduation Services and be accompanied by the required payment.
- h. Graduates may purchase a print copy of their transcript of academic record or AHEGS by lodging a completed order form and making payment as specified by Flinders Connect.
- i. Current and former students may purchase a print copy of their transcript of academic record by lodging a completed order form and making payment as specified by Flinders Connect.
- j. Digital academic documents may be available for purchase for current and former students, and graduates who received their degree no earlier than 2004. Digital documents will be hosted on [My eEquals](#) subject to confirmation by Student Administration Services.

4.4. Graduation ceremonies

- a. Graduation ceremonies will be scheduled by the Director, Student Administration Services.
- b. Graduates will be invited to attend the next available graduation ceremony following their conferral – see the [Graduation](#) webpage for eligibility to attend and ceremony dates.
- c. Subject to availability, graduates may apply to attend an alternative ceremony scheduled within 12 months of their conferral date.
- d. Graduates and academic staff members participating in the academic procession at graduation ceremonies must adhere to the requirements for academic dress listed in the [Academic Dress Procedures](#).
- e. Graduates who elect to attend a ceremony will be presented with their testamur at the ceremony and are not permitted to receive their print testamur prior to the ceremony unless they cancel their attendance.
- f. Graduates attending a ceremony for multiple academic awards may be allocated to one ceremony and receive all academic awards simultaneously.
- g. The form of presentation of academic awards at graduation ceremonies will be determined by the Vice-Chancellor.
- h. Courses which are not defined as academic awards will not be presented at graduation ceremonies.

4.5. Rescission of academic awards

The Vice-Chancellor or other authorised officer specified in s.4.5 of the [Conferral of Awards and Graduation Policy](#) (Authorised Officer) may rescind an academic award in accordance with the following processes applicable to the circumstances.

4.5.1. Fraud or dishonesty

- a. On receipt of a report that a graduate engaged in fraud or dishonesty with respect to their admission to, or meeting the requirements for completion of, an academic award, the Authorised Officer will investigate the matter and may gather such evidence, interview relevant witnesses, appoint another person to assist in or lead the investigation and otherwise do all things necessary to carry out the investigation, applying the principles of natural justice set out in s.3. of the [Handling a Matter under Statute 6.4: Student Conduct Policy and Procedures](#).
- b. Following investigation of the report, the Authorised Officer may either:
 - i. determine that there is no case to be answered and that no further action is to be taken, or
 - ii. determine that the graduate engaged in fraud or dishonesty with respect to their admission to, or meeting the requirements for completion of, an academic award, and rescind that academic award.
- c. Where the Authorised Officer decides to rescind an academic award they may also determine that the graduate's academic record is to be modified or apply another appropriate penalty, including, but not limited to, preclusion from enrolling at the University.
- d. The Authorised Officer must notify the graduate in writing of:
 - i. the reason the academic award is rescinded
 - ii. any penalty or amendment to the graduate's academic record applied
 - iii. the requirement to return all relevant academic documents, and
 - iv. any other information relevant to decision.
- e. The Authorised Officer will instruct the Director, Student Administration Services (or nominee) to liaise with the College Manager, Student Administration Services (or nominee) to facilitate and process rescission of the academic award and any subsequent penalty, where applicable.

4.5.2. Administrative error, or student not eligible

- a. An administrative error may include, but is not limited to:
 - i. conferring the incorrect academic award
 - ii. conferring an academic award where the eligibility requirements were not met, or
 - iii. incorrectly applying or recording credit for prior study.
- b. Where an administrative error is identified, or it is suspected the student was otherwise not eligible to graduate with the academic award, the Authorised Officer will assess and verify the circumstances to determine if an academic award should be rescinded.
- c. Where the circumstances are confirmed, the Authorised Officer must notify the recipient in writing of:
 - i. the reason the academic award is rescinded
 - ii. the actions that will be taken to correct an error (if applicable)
 - iii. if the academic award can be conferred following correction of the error
 - iv. if there is an opportunity to complete a requirement that has not been met
 - v. the requirement to return all relevant academic documents, and
 - vi. any other information relevant to decision.
- d. The Authorised Officer will instruct Graduation Services to liaise with the College Manager, Student Administration Services (or nominee) or the HDR Examinations Coordinator, Officer of Graduate

Research to facilitate and process rescission of the academic award and where possible, correct the administrative error.

4.5.3. Appeal

- a. A graduate who is dissatisfied with a decision to rescind their academic award under s.4.5.1 or 4.5.2 may appeal against that decision.
- b. The appeal will be heard by an Appeals Committee, constituted as specified in s.9.1 of the [Handling a Matter under Statute 6.4: Student Conduct Policy and Procedures](#) and the grounds, possible outcomes, rules, processes and procedures in s.9, 10 and Appendix A of the *Handling a Matter under Statute 6.4: Student Conduct Policy and Procedures* will apply to the appeal, except that a reference to the Board of Inquiry will be taken to be a reference to the relevant Authorised Officer who made the decision to rescind, and otherwise subject to any other necessary consequential changes.
- c. If there is any doubt in the application and interpretation of the provisions of s.9, 10 and Appendix A of the *Handling a Matter under Statute 6.4: Student Conduct Policy and Procedures* to an appeal under this section, the Appeals Committee hearing the appeal may make a determination which will be final and binding on all parties.

4.5.4. Surrender of exit award

- a. The graduate of an exit award may apply in writing to the Authorised Officer to surrender their qualification for the purpose of readmission to the original course of study.
- b. If the application is approved by the Authorised Officer, the graduate must return all relevant academic documents.
- c. If approval is granted, the Authorised Officer will instruct the College Manager, Student Administration Services (or nominee) or the HDR Examinations Coordinator, Officer of Graduate Research to liaise with Graduation Services to facilitate and process rescission of the academic award and arrange readmission to the original course of study.

4.5.5. Return of academic documents

- a. If an academic award is rescinded, the recipient must return any print copies of academic documents they hold to Graduation Services.
- b. Graduation Services will remove the relevant academic documents from [My eQuals](#).

4.5.6. Accrediting bodies and professional memberships

The University reserves the right to inform an interested party of the rescission of an academic award, including, but not limited to:

- a. accreditation or registration bodies, boards, or agencies
- b. professional membership organisations, and
- c. other relevant statutory or investigative bodies.

4.6. Posthumous academic awards

- a. Where Enrolment Services has been notified of a deceased student, by a member of staff or a member of the public, Enrolment Services will review the academic record to determine if the deceased student is currently admitted to a course of study and nearing completion of the course.
- b. Where the deceased is a current coursework student, Enrolment Services will refer the matter to the College Dean (Education) who will approve the posthumous completion of a degree if:
 - i. the student is enrolled in a Bachelor degree program and has 18 units or less outstanding
 - ii. the student is enrolled in a Graduate Certificate program and has 4.5 units outstanding, or

- iii. the student is enrolled in a Graduate Diploma or Masters by coursework program and has 9 units or less outstanding.
- c. Where the deceased is a current higher degrees by research student, Enrolment Services must notify the Dean of Graduate Research who will consider whether the degree may be posthumously awarded in accordance with Procedure 6 of the [HDR Examination Procedures](#).
- d. The approving authority of a posthumous award has discretion to authorise the release of academic documents to next of kin or family members of the deceased, and will liaise with Enrolment Services and Graduation Services to arrange notification and postage.

4.7. Honorary awards

- a. In accordance with the [Honorary Awards Policy](#), the Council Secretary will advise Graduation Services in writing of honorary degree recipients and the approved citations.
- b. Graduation Services will arrange for the recipient to attend a graduation ceremony and receive a testamur and citation for the honorary award.
- c. The Office of the Chancellor may request an honorary degree recipient to present an address at the graduation ceremony.

4.8. Verification and release of award information

- a. A list of graduates may be published on the University's website.
- b. Registered employers and third parties can request verification of academic awards via the MyEquals verification service.
- c. The following information is classified as public information and can be released for legitimate requests:
 - i. name of graduate
 - ii. name of conferred award
 - iii. date award conferred
- d. Any request for further information must be accompanied by evidence of consent of the student or graduate, such as an email from the student or graduate, or a consent form signed by the student or graduate.
- e. The Director, Student Administration Services, may verify and release other award-related information in accordance with their responsibilities under the [Privacy Policy](#) and [Student Information Management Procedures](#).

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