

Gift Acceptance Policy

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1. Purpose

- a. Flinders University has a vision of teaching, research and engagement that changes lives and makes a positive difference to the communities we serve. Philanthropic support can have a major impact on the University advancing this mission.
- b. This policy and its supporting procedures set out Flinders University's approach to philanthropy and gift acceptance, including for the information of donors and their advisors, which is to be ethical, professional, and to treat donors equitably.
- c. This policy and its supporting procedures are aimed at:
 - i. facilitating and acknowledging the contribution and support of individuals and organisations in enabling University and academic activity
 - ii. earning and maintaining the respect and trust of donors and prospective donors
 - iii. protecting academic freedom and the University's integrity, reputation and independence/autonomy, and
 - iv. ensuring the University complies with all relevant legislation.

2. Scope

- a. This policy applies to all philanthropic support offered to the University, and must be applied by all staff, affiliates, volunteers, contractors and consultants when engaging in University-related philanthropic activities.
- b. This policy does not apply to:
 - i. agreements with a commercial element e.g. sponsorship or partnership arrangements
 - ii. research grants and similar payments
 - iii. University or Australian Government scholarships or prizes that are not funded by a gift, or
 - iv. gifts offered privately to individual staff or affiliates, for example by companies, international dignitaries or collaborators—refer to the [Outside Professional Activities Policy](#) and [Conflict of Interest Policy](#). For the avoidance of doubt, gifts proposed to be receipted by the University, or to be applied to purposes which will involve the use of University facilities or staff, **are** subject to this policy.

3. Deductible Gift Recipient Statement

Flinders University is endorsed as a *Deductible Gift Recipient* (DGR) by the Australian Taxation Office to accept tax-deductible gifts of money and property for the purpose of education and research in Australia.

4. Definitions

Fundraising	<p>All activities undertaken by or on behalf of the University with the aim of, encouraging, soliciting or receiving gifts including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appeals • bequest development programs • campaigns • crowdfunding campaigns • cultural events • fundraising events • lotteries and raffles • scholarship programs • personalised donor approaches • workplace giving
Gift	<p>A philanthropic donation to Flinders University where the donor does not receive any material benefit or advantage by way of return (whether such benefit or advantage is immediate, deferred or ongoing), or a bequest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gifts can support scholarships, prizes, chairs, fellowships, educational and research projects, cultural activities and capital works. • Gifts can take the form of money, equipment, shares, real property and goods (consumables, works of art, books, medals etc). • Ways to give are listed on the Flinders University Giving website.

5. Policy statement

- a. The University abides by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) [Donor Bill of Rights](#)¹.
- b. All University [fundraising](#) activities:
 - i. are conducted with fairness and integrity, and in accordance with all relevant laws in the country in which the fundraising takes place
 - ii. adhere to the provisions of applicable professional codes of ethics (e.g. Fundraising Institute Australia Code and AFP Code of Ethical Standards), standards of practice and the University's [Conflict of Interest Policy](#), and
 - iii. are consistent with the mission, goals, policies and interests of the University.
- c. The University:
 - i. applies 100% of each [gift](#) it receives towards the University purpose agreed with the donor
 - ii. complies with any conditions of acceptance of the gift, and
 - iii. does not use any gift to support activities of third parties.

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- d. Gifts are accepted on behalf of the University only by an approved delegated authority in accordance with the [Gift Acceptance Procedures](#).
- e. [Gifts](#) are only accepted if they:
 - i. are consistent with the mission, goals, policies and interests of the University
 - ii. do not compromise the University's integrity, reputation, autonomy or commitment to academic freedom
 - iii. are adequate for the intended purpose
 - iv. do not, or cannot be perceived to, compromise the University's commercial decision-making
 - v. do not create an unacceptable financial impact or risk to the University, and
 - vi. comply with the law.
- f. Gifts of real property are only accepted if they can be converted to money for investment, unless the approving authority considers exceptional circumstances apply.
- g. Gifts which establish endowments (where investment earnings on a gift of funds provide a perpetual benefit) or trusts are only accepted where the value is \$100,000 or more, unless the approving delegate considers exceptional circumstances apply.
- h. The approving delegate has absolute discretion to decline a gift.
- i. All gifts are recorded in the University's Donation Register by Alumni and Advancement.
- j. Donors or prospective donors are encouraged to seek their own independent legal and financial advice as this will not be provided by the University.
- k. Donor's rights to privacy are protected, and their personal information is managed in accordance with the University's [Privacy Policy](#).

6. Supporting procedures

Supporting procedures are part of this policy and provide additional detail to give practical effect to the policy principles.

[Gift Acceptance Procedures](#)

Approval Authority	Chief of Staff
Responsible Officer	Director, Alumni and Advancement
Approval Date	23 May 2024
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Review Date*	2027
Last amended	
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* Unless otherwise indicated, this policy or procedures still apply beyond the review date.

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