

Honorary Awards Policy

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1. Purpose

- a. s.21.3 of the Flinders University Act 1966 gives the University the power to admit any person *honoris causa* to any degree, whether or not the person has graduated at a university, and Statue 7.12: Academic Awards sets out that a person may be admitted in accordance with the University's policies.
- b. This policy provides the basis upon which Flinders University awards honorary awards.
- c. There are two categories of honorary award that may be awarded by Flinders University:
 - i. the honorary degrees of:
 - Honorary Doctorate (*Honoris Causa*) e.g., Doctor of Science, Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Laws, or any other degree of the University *honoris causa*
 - Doctor of the University (DUniv)
 - ii. Companion of the University (CUniv).

2. Scope

This policy applies to honorary awards awarded by Flinders University and honorary award nominees and recipients.

3. Eligibility Criteria

3.1. Honorary Degrees

- a. Nominees for an honorary degree are to enhance the reputation of the University.
- b. In the case of the Doctor of Science, Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Laws, or any other degree *honoris causa*, the nominee must be a distinguished scholar in a field of academic endeavour in which the University is involved or has a direct, strategic interest.

- c. In the case of the Doctor of the University, the nominee must be a person who is generally recognised for distinguished public and/or professional service in Australia or the international community.

3.2. Companion of the University

- a. The Companion of the University allows the University to publicly recognise the contribution a person has made to the University and/or the community. In some instances, the contribution of an organisation may be acknowledged by the recognition of its chairperson, president, or secretary.
- b. The contribution will be in the form of conspicuous continued involvement in:
 - i. promotion of the academic purposes of the University or facilitation of those purposes in any particular activity of the University
 - ii. fostering the links between the University and other institutions within and without Australia
 - iii. representation of the University's needs for resources for its growth and diversification and supply of such resources, or
 - iv. other activities identified as significant in the development or promotion of the community and/or the University.

3.3. Exclusions and Exceptions

- a. Serving members of Council and current University employees are not eligible for honorary awards.
- b. If an exceptional case arises that does not comply with this exclusion, or the requirements of s.3.1 or s.3.2 above, it will be considered on its individual merits.

4. Confidentiality

- a. A person nominated for an honorary award will not be consulted beforehand, nor at any time prior to the Vice-Chancellor's decision on the nomination, and all deliberations and recommendations relating to the nomination must be treated with the strictest confidence.
- b. The names of successful nominees will not be released until after the nominee has accepted the award.

5. Nomination

- a. The Chief of Staff will annually call for honorary award nominations from members of Council and the Senior Executive Team. Staff who wish to recommend a nomination may do so to a member of the Senior Executive Team.
- b. The call for nominations will be made in time for the Honorary Awards Committee to meet in June.
- c. Nominations must include a clear statement of the nominee's attainment, position, and relationship or relevance to the University, with reference to the criteria for the award and contain the following information:
 - i. the proposed award
 - ii. relevant details about the nominator and the person or organisation being nominated, including contact details
 - iii. an overview of how the nominee will enhance the reputation of the University appropriate to the relevant award criteria, including:

- details of any academic qualifications, honours, titles, or achievements of the nominee (including the date of the award and name of the institution or organisation which made the award) which may be of interest and may support the nomination
 - details of the nominee's relationship to and impact on the University
 - an outline of the professional or work-related achievements of the nominee, which may be of interest and may support the nomination
 - details of the nominee's distinguished public service or contribution to the community, if relevant
 - a description of the nominee's personal attributes, characteristics, or values, if this is considered to be relevant to the proposal
- iv. details of the future contribution the award recipient is expected to make to the University. For those already closely aligned with the University, detail how the relationship will be built upon and different avenues of engagement that are being investigated. For those where nominations are being developed for an individual who is not currently connected with the University, outline the long-term objectives of an association and how the nominator aims to integrate the individual within the life of Flinders University to develop a relationship that is mutually beneficial.
- v. a statement of support from a Senior Executive Team member if the nomination is recommended by a person other than a Council member or a Senior Executive Team member.

6. Selection

6.1. Timing

An annual meeting of the Honorary Awards Committee will be held in June.

6.2. Process

- a. The Honorary Awards Committee will undertake an initial assessment and shortlisting of nominations and will recommend nominees to the Vice-Chancellor for approval.
- b. The Honorary Awards Committee is comprised of:
- i. a member of the University's Council nominated by the Chancellor (Chairperson)
 - ii. Chair, Academic Senate or another member of University Council nominated by the Chancellor
 - iii. Chief of Staff
 - iv. Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students)
 - v. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
- c. The quorum for meetings of the committee is four members.
- d. The committee will assess nominations against the criteria set out in this policy and will prepare a shortlist. During its deliberations, the committee may:
- i. obtain and consider additional information relating to the nominee, including by contacting and consulting with other persons as deemed appropriate
 - ii. consider whether a nominee would be better suited to an award other than the one for which they have been nominated.

- e. The Vice-Chancellor will approve in principle the nominees who may receive an award. The Chancellor will make the awards in accordance with s.7 below, subject to the nominee accepting the award.
- f. Nominees approved to receive an award are approved until the next annual call for nominations. If a nominee is not contacted, does not respond to contact or does not accept the award within that period, the approval is revoked and the nomination is to be re-considered at the next meeting of the Honorary Awards Committee.
- g. Nominees approved by the Vice-Chancellor and the outcome of the awards will be reported to the Senior Executive Team, Executive Committee and Council for their information.

7. Notification

- a. The Office of the Vice-Chancellor will contact the successful nominee/s to establish their willingness to accept the award. Contact with nominees will be by letter signed by the Chancellor.
- b. Where the nominee accepts the award, the Office of the Vice-Chancellor will advise the following:
 - i. Graduations Team
 - ii. Nominator (if applicable)
- c. Where the nominee declines the award, the Vice-Chancellor's approval of the award will be deemed to be rescinded.

8. Presentation of Awards

- a. Honorary awards will normally be presented at a graduation ceremony. At the Vice-Chancellor's discretion they may be presented:
 - i. at another appropriate event, or
 - ii. in absentia.
- b. An honorary award may be presented posthumously if the recipient dies after accepting the award.

9. Privileges

- a. Recipients of honorary awards are entitled to:
 - i. be admitted to the honorary award at a graduation ceremony and to be presented with a testamur issued under the University's seal
 - ii. wear the academic dress approved for the honorary award on ceremonial occasions
 - iii. receive copies of university news publications, the Annual Report and such other publications determined from time to time
 - iv. attend University graduation ceremonies and other important University events at the invitation of the Chancellor or the Vice-Chancellor.
- b. Honorary award recipients may receive reimbursement of reasonable travel and accommodation expenses to attend the graduation ceremony or event, and other privileges, at the discretion of the Vice-Chancellor.
- c. Honorary degree recipients are entitled to use the relevant post-nominal for the award (e.g., DSc, LLd, DUniv (Flinders)).

- d. Recipients of the award of Companion of the University are entitled to use the post-nominal CUniv (Flinders).
- e. In accordance with [AQF Qualifications Issuance Policy](#) (clause 2.4.2) the title 'Doctor' must not be used by an honorary award recipient.

10. Revocation

- a. A recipient of an honorary award will not, by means of any action, association or inaction, bring the University into disrepute. The University reserves the right to revoke an honorary award if the recipient engages in activities that are not in line with the University's values or brings disrepute to the University.
- b. The decision to revoke an award will be made by Council on the recommendation of the Honorary Awards Committee.
- c. A recipient of an honorary award may surrender the award by giving written notice to the Vice-Chancellor.

11. Related links

[Honorary Degree Recipients](#)

[Companion of the University Recipients](#)

[Nomination Form](#)

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