1. Purpose
The primary purpose of this policy is to provide a mechanism to recognise and reward members of the professorial staff who are of exceptional eminence, who have demonstrated breadth of achievement and who have made an outstanding contribution to their field of scholarship and to Flinders University.

The award of the title is of the highest honour and will only be made in exceptional circumstances.

2. Eligibility
Only staff members holding Level E Professorial appointments may be nominated for award of the title of Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor.

3. Criteria
Nominations for award of the title of Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor will be considered with reference to the following criteria:

- Fellowship of an Australian or major international learned academy and/or award of a prestigious and broadly-based fellowship, prize, award or honour (for example the ARC Laureate Fellowship, award of Officer of the Order of Australia, or a relevant Prime Minister’s Prize such as the Prime Minister’s Prize in Science or similar national accolade); and
- Evidence of superior and sustained service to the University.
4. Procedures

4.1 Nominations
A nomination for the award of the title of Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor may be made at any time. Nominations must be made in confidence.

Nominations may be made by the relevant Executive Dean of Faculty, Deputy Vice-Chancellor or the Vice-Chancellor and will include:

- a detailed statement outlining the grounds on which the nomination is made with reference to the criteria in (3) above, and inclusive of appropriate references and documentary evidence of the eminence accorded the candidate in her/his field of scholarship, and of her/his contribution to Flinders University; and
- the candidate’s current Curriculum Vitae.

Nominations should also indicate the quantum of the salary loading to be paid, as provided for in clause 6.2.

4.2 Consideration and Decision
The nomination will be considered and determined by the Vice-Chancellor on advice from the relevant Executive Dean/Deputy Vice-Chancellor and other members of the senior executive as appropriate.

The Vice-Chancellor will consider the recommendation on its academic merit and with reference to the significance of the staff member’s contribution to the University.

The Vice-Chancellor may, at her/his discretion, seek additional information on the candidate from experts in the relevant field of scholarship or others who are able to provide informed comment on the candidate’s professional standing and/or contribution to the University.

The Vice-Chancellor's decision is final.

5. Number of awards

It is to be expected that the number of staff awarded the title will vary over time and that only a small number of Level E Professorial staff will have attained the credentials to satisfy the criteria for award of the title at any one time.

6. Conditions of the Award

6.1 Term
Award of the title of Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor will be on an on-going basis, subject to the Vice-Chancellor being satisfied that the awardee is continuing to make a contribution to her/his field of scholarship and the University consistent with the prestigious nature of the title.

The Vice-Chancellor may, at her/his sole discretion, revoke the title of Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor in the event that the titleholder commits any serious breach of policy, is convicted of a criminal offence or otherwise engages in activities that may bring disrepute to the University.

The award of the title will cease upon the staff member's retirement or resignation from the University.

Holders of the title Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor, who are awarded the title Emeritus Professor on leaving the University's service, may use the title Matthew Flinders Distinguished Emeritus Professor.

6.2 Salary Loading
A Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor will receive a superannuated salary loading of up to a maximum of 20% of the Level E salary (pro-rata) without prejudice to any other loadings or allowances that may be payable to the individual concerned. The loading will form part of the staff member’s ordinary time earnings.

Notwithstanding this, where a recipient holds a position that is remunerated at a significantly higher level than the Level E salary – such as a recipient who holds a prestigious externally-funded fellowship or who...
holds office as a Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Pro Vice-Chancellor or Executive Dean – no loading will be payable.

6.3 Effective Date
The effective date of the award of the title of Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor will be the date of the Vice-Chancellor’s decision to make the award.

6.4 Publicity and Promotion
It will be a condition of award of the title of Matthew Flinders Distinguished Professor that the recipient willingly engages in public relations activities aimed at promoting her/his field of scholarship and the University more broadly.

7. Discretion to Award the Title to an External Appointee
Notwithstanding any of the above, the University may on occasion, and as part of its recruitment strategy, exercise its discretion to utilise the provisions in this Policy to attract to the University eminent and exceptional scholars in fields of strategic significance to the University.

8. Reporting
Any award made under this Policy will be reported by the Vice-Chancellor to the next meeting of the University Council.