

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.

Honorary Awards

Establishment: Council, 15 December 1972 (Honorary Degrees): Council, 23 August 1996 (Companion of the University)

Date Last Amended: 16 March 2023

Nature of Amendment: Updates to titles due to organisational structure change.

Date Last Reviewed: May 2015

Responsible Officer: Chief of Staff

1. Honorary Awards

1.1 The categories of Honorary Awards are:

a. 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)

b. Companion of the University (CUniv)

2. Criteria for the Award of an Honorary Degree

2.1 A nominee for the award of an honorary degree should enhance the reputation of the University.

2.2 The nominee will be either:

a. in the case of the Doctor of Science, Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Laws or any other degree honoris causa, a distinguished scholar in a field of academic endeavour in which the University is involved or has a direct, strategic interest; or

b. in the case of the award of the degree of Doctor of the University, a person who is generally recognised for distinguished public and/or professional service in Australia or the international community.

2.3 Serving members of Council and current University employees are not eligible for the award.

2.4 If an exceptional case should arise which does not conform with 2.2 or 2.3 above, it will be considered on its individual merits.

3. Criteria for the Award of Companion of the University

3.1 The award of Companion of the University provides for the University to recognise in a public way the contributions of persons 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.

3.2 The contribution will be in the form of conspicuous continued involvement in:

- a. promotion of the academic purposes of the University or facilitation of those purposes in any particular activity of the University;
- b. fostering the links between the University and other institutions within and without Australia;
- c. representation of the University's needs for resources for its growth and diversification and supply of such resources; or
- d. other activities identified as significant in the development or promotion of the community and/or the University.

3.3 Serving members of Council and current University employees are not eligible for the award.

3.4 If an exceptional case should arise which does not conform with 3.2 or 3.3 above, it will be considered on its individual merits.

4. Presentation of Awards

4.1 An honorary award will normally be presented at a graduation ceremony, but at the Vice-Chancellor's discretion, may be presented:

- a. at another appropriate event; or
- b. in absentia.

4.2 An honorary award may be presented posthumously if a nominee for an award dies subsequent to accepting the offer of the award.

5. Privileges

5.1 Recipients of honorary awards are entitled to:

- a. be admitted to the honorary award at a graduation ceremony and to be presented with a testamur issued under the University's Seal;
- b. wear the academic dress approved for the honorary award on ceremonial occasions;
- c. receive copies of University news publications, the Annual Report and such other publications determined from time to time;
- d. attend University graduation ceremonies and other important University events at the invitation of the Chancellor or the Vice-Chancellor.

5.2 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.

5.3 Honorary degree recipients are entitled to use the relevant post-nominal for the award (e.g. DSc, LL.D., DUniv (Flinders)).

5.4 Recipients of the award of Companion of the University are entitled to use the post-nominal CUniv (Flinders).

5.5 The title 'Doctor' will not be used by those who hold an honorary award, in accordance with Australian Qualifications Issuance Policy (clause 2.4.2).

6. Nomination and Selection

6.1 Confidentiality

6.1.1 A person nominated for an honorary award shall not be consulted beforehand, nor at any time prior to the Council's decision on the nomination, and all deliberations and recommendations relating to the nomination shall be treated in strictest confidence.

6.1.2 The names of successful nominees will be released only after acceptance of the offer of the award.

6.2 Nominations

6.2.1 Each year the Chief of Staff will issue a call for nominations for honorary awards, timed so that a Council decision to confer an award may be made in time to allow presentation at the next round of graduation ceremonies.

6.2.2 Council members and staff of the University may provide nominations for honorary awards, in confidence, to the Chief of Staff.

6.2.3 Nominations will include a clear statement of the nominee's attainment, position, and particular relation to the University, with reference to the criteria for the award and should contain the following information:

- a. the proposed form of recognition;
- b. relevant details about the proposer and the person or organisation that is the subject of the proposal, including contact details;
- c. a citation on the person who is the subject of the proposal of no more than 500-550 words in length and 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 with 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;
- d. 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 which is mutually beneficial.
- e. a statement of support from the relevant Executive Dean or portfolio head, if the nomination is submitted by a person other than a Council member or the Vice-Chancellor.

6.3 Shortlisting by Awards Nominations Committee

6.3.1 The Awards Nominations Committee, established by the Vice-Chancellor, will undertake initial review and shortlisting of nominations.

6.3.2 The Committee will have the following members:

- Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
- Chief of Staff
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students)
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
- Pro Vice-Chancellor (International)
- Chair, Academic Senate

6.3.3 A quorum for meetings of the committee will be four members.

6.3.4 The committee will assess nominations against the award policy and criteria and prepare a preliminary shortlist. In the course of its deliberations the committee may:

- a. obtain and consider additional information relating to the nominee, including by contacting and consulting with other persons as deemed appropriate;
- b. consider whether a nominee would be better suited to an award other than the one for which they have been nominated.

6.3.5 The committee will provide a report recommending nominees to the Executive Committee of Council for endorsement and referral to Council for approval.

6.4 Notification

6.4.1 The Office of Communication, Marketing and Engagement will establish the willingness of successful nominees to accept the award. The contact with nominees will usually be by letter signed by the Chancellor.

6.4.2 Where the nominee accepts the award, the Secretary of Council will take steps to advise the following persons of Council's decision to make the award:

- a. Manager, Examinations and Graduations;
- b. Chief of Staff;
- c. Nominator

6.4.3 Where the nominee is not willing to accept the award offered, or fails to respond to the offer (normally within 3 months), the offer will lapse.

Related links

[Recognition of Service, Donation, Significant Contributions or Personal Achievement](#)

[Honorary Degree Recipients](#)

[Companion of the University Recipients](#)

[Nomination Form](#)