



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME
A U S T R A L I A

Policy:

Honorary Degrees, Emeritus Titles and Naming Rights

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Recognition

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1 OBJECTS OF THE UNIVERSITY

The University's Objects are defined in Section 5 of its Act of Parliament. The Objects of the University are:

- (a) the provision of university education, within a context of Catholic faith and values; and
- (b) the provision of an excellent standard of -
 - i. teaching, scholarship and research;
 - ii. training for the professions; and
 - iii. pastoral care for its students.

2 PURPOSE

2.1 This Policy sets out the conditions for the:

- 2.1.1 nomination and conferral of honorary awards;
- 2.1.2 honorary naming rights for University Property; and
- 2.1.3 awarding of honorary titles.

3 SCOPE

3.1 This policy applies to:

- 3.1.1 Trustees involved in the approval of honorary titles, awards and naming rights;
- 3.1.2 staff involved in the administration of honorary titles, awards and naming rights, and
- 3.1.3 honorary award and title holders, and recipients of naming rights of University Property.

3.2 This policy does not cover:

- 3.2.1 naming of prizes;
- 3.2.2 naming of scholarships;
- 3.2.3 provision of Distinguished Service Awards to a staff members by the Vice Chancellor;
- 3.2.4 Adjunct, clinical or visiting academic titles and appointments;
- 3.2.5 giving or receiving donations, or
- 3.2.6 honorary awards, titles and names conferred or awarded to University staff or affiliates by external bodies.

4 PRINCIPLES

4.1 Honorary degrees

- 4.1.1 An honorary degree may be conferred by the Board of Trustees, on recommendation of the Vice Chancellor.
- 4.1.2 Honorary degrees will be awarded to recognise distinguished achievements and contributions that exemplify the University's Objects, aspirations and values.
- 4.1.3 There are two kinds of honorary degree that may be awarded:
 - (a) The Honorary Degree of Doctor (see 4.1.11 to 4.1.13 below); and
 - (b) The Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters (see 4.1.14 to 4.1.16 below).
- 4.1.4 Honorary degrees are normally conferred in perpetuity, and recipients are expected to advance the University's reputation and standing.

- 4.1.5 The conferral of an Honorary Doctorate entitles the recipient to use the title 'Honorary Doctor' or 'Hon Dr'.
- 4.1.6 A person may be awarded an honorary degree regardless of whether that person is a graduate of the University.
- 4.1.7 An honorary degree will normally be presented at a graduation ceremony, however, at the discretion of the Vice Chancellor, it may instead be presented at an appropriate University event.
- 4.1.8 Other than in exceptional circumstances, honorary degrees will not be conferred on:
 - (a) a currently serving elected representative in local, state or federal government; or
 - (b) a current staff member, student, member of a University committee, or person being remunerated by the University, (unless otherwise specified).
- 4.1.9 Honorary degrees will not normally be conferred posthumously.
- 4.1.10 An honorary degree is not a qualification under the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF).

The Honorary Degree of Doctor

- 4.1.11 With the exception of the Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Theology, an Honorary Degree of Doctor may be awarded in fields of study offered at the University.
- 4.1.12 The following Honorary Doctorate Degrees may be presented by the University:
 - (a) Honorary Doctor of Commerce (HonDCom)
 - (b) Honorary Doctor of Arts (HonDArts)
 - (c) Honorary Doctor of Science (HonDSc)
 - (d) Honorary Doctor of Health Sciences (HonDHLthSc)
 - (e) Honorary Doctor of Education (HonDEd)
 - (f) Honorary Doctor of Nursing (HonDNurs)
 - (g) Honorary Doctor of Laws (HonLLD)
 - (h) Honorary Doctor of Medicine (HonDMed)
- 4.1.13 In order to be awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor, a recipient will have:
 - (a) Achieved notable eminence in a branch of the recipient's field of study or in a profession of interest to the University; and
 - (b) Given outstanding support to the University and/or to the Catholic Church.

The Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters

- 4.1.14 An Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters may be awarded for significant and sustained contributions to society and humanitarian service for the common good.
- 4.1.15 In order to be awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters, a recipient will have:
 - (a) Made an outstanding and sustained contribution to society beyond the expectation of the University; and
 - (b) Given eminent public service and/or service to the Catholic Church; and/or
 - (c) Achieved distinguished creative or cultural achievements.
- 4.1.16 The abbreviated designation of the degree will be *HonDLitt*.

4.2 Award of Emeritus Title

- 4.2.1 The title of Emeritus may be awarded by the Board of Trustees, on recommendation of the Vice Chancellor.
- 4.2.2 The title of Emeritus will be awarded to honour a recipient's service to the University and promote a continued association between the recipient and the University.
- 4.2.3 Emeritus titles will be conferred by letter signed by the Vice Chancellor, and the

awarding of the title will be celebrated at an appropriate University event approved by the Vice Chancellor.

4.2.4 Emeritus titles that may be awarded are:

- (a) Emeritus Professor (see 4.2.6 to 4.2.10 below)
- (b) Chancellor Emeritus (see 4.2.11 and 4.2.12)
- (c) Vice Chancellor Emeritus (see 4.2.11 and 4.2.12)

4.2.5 An Emeritus title will confer the following rights and privileges upon the recipient:

- (a) access to the University library,
- (b) invitations to selected functions and ceremonies, and
- (c) a University email account.

Further entitlements may be conferred at the discretion of the Vice Chancellor.

Emeritus Professor

4.2.6 The title of Emeritus Professor may be awarded to a person who has served the University, in recognition of their distinguished and continuous service to academic work and the development of the University.

4.2.7 An Emeritus Professor title may only be awarded to a person who, in the opinion of the Vice Chancellor, following consultation with relevant senior academic leaders, has demonstrated a sustained level of both exceptional performance and commitment to the University, their discipline area or profession, or the wider community, and has met at least one of the following criteria:

- (a) An outstanding record in research, with international recognition;
- (b) An outstanding record in teaching and learning; and/or
- (c) An outstanding record of leadership.

4.2.8 The Emeritus Professor title will not normally be awarded where the potential recipient has left the University to take up another Professorial appointment at another institution.

4.2.9 While the title of Emeritus Professor is generally awarded to recipients who retire from academic service, it may also be awarded to a Professor or senior general staff member who departs the University to take up an appointment in the public or private sector.

4.2.10 In all work produced for publication or other forms of recognition facilitated through the continued relationship with the University, the status as Emeritus Professor of the University of Notre Dame Australia should be acknowledged and cited as an affiliation.

Vice Chancellor or Chancellor Emeritus

4.2.11 The title of Vice Chancellor Emeritus or Chancellor Emeritus may be awarded to a departing (or former) Vice Chancellor or Chancellor who has made, or continues to make, an ongoing contribution to the University, academia, or to public life.

4.2.12 The title of Vice Chancellor Emeritus or Chancellor Emeritus may be awarded regardless of whether the recipient already holds an Emeritus Professorial title.

4.3 Naming Rights

4.3.1 Naming rights may be granted by the Board of Trustees, on the recommendation of the Vice Chancellor.

4.3.2 Naming rights may be granted in relation to University property or assets, including (but not limited to) an academic professorial (Chair) position, seminars or lectures, medals, University entities, buildings or designated parts of buildings, collections, or other

University facilities, to honour an individual or organisation.

4.3.3 Naming rights may be granted to:

- (a) individuals who have provided distinguished service to the University (through leadership, scholarship or other direct service associated with the University); or
- (b) individuals, organisations or bodies in recognition of a significant or ongoing financial contribution to the University.

4.3.4 The matters that the Board of Trustees (in considering whether to approve the grant of naming rights) and the Vice Chancellor (in making the recommendation) will consider include:

- (a) any conflict between the Recipient (or the contribution itself) and the Objects of the University;
- (b) the size of the contribution relative to the value and cost of the University Property to which the naming right will apply;
- (c) the compatibility of the proposed name with the function of the specific University Property to which the naming right will apply;
- (d) the length of time for which the naming right will apply taking into account the value of the financial contributions and the University Property to which the naming rights apply;
- (e) community, cultural and ethnic sensitivities;
- (f) any risk to the reputation of the University from aligning with the Recipient over the term of the grant of naming rights; and
- (g) any other matter the Vice Chancellor or Board of Trustees considers appropriate.

4.3.5 The term of any grant of naming rights will be determined by the Board of Trustees on recommendation of the Vice Chancellor, and will normally be for up to a maximum period of twenty (20) years.

4.3.6 The Vice Chancellor and the Board of Trustees will review the grant at least 12 months prior to the end of the term.

4.3.7 Each grant of a naming right will be subject to a written agreement between the University and the recipient (or where relevant their next of kin).

4.3.8 Where a naming right requires an ongoing financial contribution over the term of the agreement, and a recipient ceases to provide the agreed funds, the Board of Trustees may discontinue the grant of naming rights.

4.3.9 Where, for operational reasons, it becomes impracticable to continue to use a recipient's name in relation to the specific property or asset to which the grant attaches, the Board of Trustees may, with agreement from the recipient, alter the naming right by applying it to some other appropriate University property or asset.

4.3.10 Naming rights will not be granted to any individual who is employed by, or is receiving any form of remuneration or pecuniary benefit from the University.

4.3.11 Naming rights carry no authority or power of direction to the University.

4.3.12 A grant of a naming right must not impose or imply conditions that would limit, or appear to limit, the University's ability to undertake its functions duly and impartially.

5 WITHDRAWING OR CHANGING AN HONORARY TITLE, AWARD OR NAMING RIGHT

- 5.1 The Board of Trustees, on recommendation of the Vice Chancellor, may amend or withdraw an honorary title or award or a grant of naming rights.
- 5.2 The University retains the right to amend or withdraw an honorary title or award or a grant of naming rights at its sole discretion, in accordance with 5.1, where it is determined that exceptional circumstances have arisen. Examples of such exceptional circumstances include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - 5.2.1 a recipient has been convicted of a serious criminal offence;
 - 5.2.2 a recipient has come into disrepute and continued association with the University may cause damage to the reputation of the University;
 - 5.2.3 the grant, title or award causes or may cause harm to the reputation of the University;
 - 5.1.3 the details provided in support of a nomination are subsequently found to be incorrect or incomplete; or
 - 5.1.4 the continuation of the grant, title or award is, or may in any way be inconsistent with, the Objects and Catholic identity of the University.

6 RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

- 6.1 In addition to the rights and obligations set out above in this Policy, the recipient of an honorary award, an honorary title, or naming right, by virtue of receipt of such a title, award or right, and as applicable to their title, award or right:
 - 6.1.1 is not entitled to remuneration;
 - 6.1.2 is not entitled to undertake any administrative or academic duties at the University;
 - 6.1.3 must not represent or act as the University's agent, employee or partner, and must not directly or indirectly bind the University;
 - 6.1.4 must comply with the University's laws, rules and policies as they relate to their activities.
- 6.2 For the sake of clarity, nothing in this policy gives rise to an employment relationship between the University and a recipient of an honorary title, honorary award or naming right.

7 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 7.1 **Vice Chancellor** has responsibility for:
 - 7.1.1 reviewing nominations for an honorary award, honorary title, or naming right and making recommendations to the Board of Trustees.
- 7.2 **The Board of Trustees** has responsibility for:
 - 7.2.1 awarding Honorary Degrees;
 - 7.2.2 awarding the title of Emeritus Professor, Chancellor Emeritus, or Vice Chancellor Emeritus;
 - 7.2.3 granting naming rights,
 - 7.2.4 amending or withdrawing an honorary title or award or a grant of naming rights.

Version	Date of approval	Approved by	Amendment
1	27 April 2023	Board of Trustees	New policy – combines provisions previously included in the <i>Policy: Award of Emeritus Title</i> ; <i>Policy: Naming Rights – Chairs, Structures and Facilities</i> ; and <i>Policy: Award of Honorary Degrees</i> into one policy; and addition of Vice Chancellor and Chancellor Emeritus.