



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

**POLICY:  
NESTED AWARDS**

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<b>Purpose:</b>	To formalise the relationship between related courses where a subset course is entirely embedded within a higher level course.
<b>Responsible Executive:</b>	Pro Vice Chancellor, Academic
<b>Responsible Office:</b>	Pro Vice Chancellor, Academic
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Laura Drysdale
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## 1 BACKGROUND

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Nested awards are a set of related awards where the higher level award includes the units necessary to complete a lower related award plus additional units necessary to complete the higher award.

## 2 POLICY

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The University encourages postgraduate nested awards to support the objective of continuous and life-long learning. Students will have the ability to transition through higher levels of post graduate study in an integrated and logical pathway. Nested degrees will also allow for an alternate exit from a higher degree should circumstances require it.

## 3 DEFINITIONS

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Higher level course – a qualification within a nested course structure that is ranked higher than another qualification of the same discipline under the Australia Qualifications Framework

Lower level course – a qualification within a nested course structure that is ranked lower than another qualification of the same discipline under the Australia Qualifications Framework

Parent degree – the course in which the student is enrolled

## 4 SCOPE

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The policy applies to post graduate courses only.

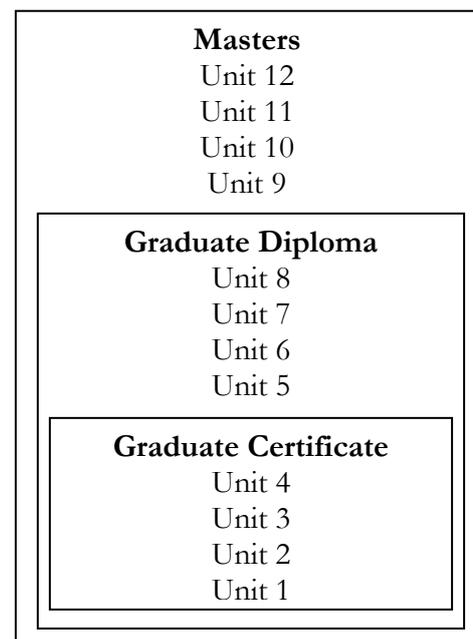
The policy applies to all Schools of the University.

## 5 GENERAL CONDITIONS

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- 5.1 Nested awards are only available for coursework awards.
- 5.2 Nested awards must be within a specific discipline
- 5.3 Higher level courses must include all units required of a lower level course plus additional units. Approved unit substitution is available if permitted by the course regulations.
- 5.4 One set of course regulations will apply to the suite of nested awards. The regulations will be based on the highest level course with described exit points for lower level courses.
- 5.5 Each award within the nested award structure will be a separately identifiable and may be advertised as such.

### Typical Construct of Nested Awards



- 5.6 A student may enrol in any of the courses that are within a nested arrangement.
- 5.7 If a student enrolls in a lower level course that is part of a nested structure, they may transfer to a higher level nested course with full credit. All previous units undertaken by the student under the higher level course award will be transferred to the lower level course, provided the units remain relevant to the course. This will include units where the student was awarded a 'FAIL' grade.
- 5.8 If a student graduates from a lower award that is part of a nested structure, they may apply to enrol in a higher nested award. If the enrolment is approved by the Prospective Students Office on the recommendation of the Dean, the student would renounce their prior award.
- 5.9 On admission to a higher course within a nested arrangement, all previous units undertaken by the student under the lower award will be transferred to the higher course with full credit, provided the units remain relevant to the course. This will include units where the student was awarded a 'FAIL' grade.
- 5.10 A student enrolled in a higher award may elect to transfer to a lower award and
- (a) graduate if they have completed the required units of the lower level course; or
  - (b) enrol in other units specified as part of the lower level course regulations in order to graduate.
  - (c) In either case, all previous units undertaken by the student under the higher course will be transferred to the lower course, provided the units remain relevant to the course. This will include units where the student was awarded a 'FAIL' grade.