



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

**POLICY:**  
**EXIT AWARDS**

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<b>Purpose:</b>	Exit pathways for students having completed substantial components of parent degrees
<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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During a course of study, a student may find themselves unable or unwilling to complete the full degree course for which they enrolled. If this occurs early in the degree, the student leaves with the university experience, the knowledge gained from the units they have completed and a record of their studies.

However, if a student chooses to terminate their studies late in their course, there is no formal recognition of their achievement to that point in time. In some circumstances, they may have completed sufficient units to be granted a lower qualification than their enrolled degree.

Exit degrees provide this recognition path without judgement concerning the reason for the termination of studies. The only exception is where a student is permanently terminated from the university on discipline grounds.

## 2 POLICY

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Where course regulations allow, students may apply for an exit award should they decide to terminate their study before completion of their parent degree.

## 3 DEFINITIONS

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Exit Award – a bachelor degree, graduate certificate or graduate diploma which creates an alternate exit pathway from a parent degree. This degree is not normally eligible for direct admission.

Parent Degree – the course in which the student is enrolled

## 4 SCOPE

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Nested awards are subject to separate policy – Policy: Nested Awards

## 5 GENERAL CONDITIONS

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- 5.1 Exit awards may be included in the regulations for a:
- single degree undergraduate program where the normal duration of the parent degree is 4 years or more;
  - a post graduate diploma;
  - masters degree; or
  - doctoral degree.
- 5.2 Undergraduate double degrees may not include exit awards. Should a student enrolled in an undergraduate double degree wish to take advantage of an exit award, they must first transfer to a single degree and use the exit award provisions of that degree, if they exist.
- 5.3 An undergraduate exit award must require a student to have successfully completed at least 75% of the credit points of the parent degree including all required core units, and must comply with the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) specifications for the exit award.

- 5.4 A post graduate exit award must require a student to have successfully completed all units specified in the lower level award and must comply with the AQF specifications for the exit award.
- 5.5 Exit awards are transitional. Hence students may not enrol in any units as part of exit award. The entry requirements for an exit award must be sufficient for the student to be able to graduate immediately.
- 5.6 An exit award will be governed by the regulations for that award. The regulations of the parent degree will contain a reference to the exit award.
- 5.7 Having accepted an exit award, a student may apply to reactivate their original course of study after 1 year. If readmission is approved by the PVC (Academic) on recommendation of the Dean, the student would renounce their exit award prior to recommencement of their studies.
- 5.8 On readmission to a course, all previous units undertaken by the student under the exit award will be transferred to the readmitted course, provided the units remain relevant to the degree. This will include units where the student was awarded a 'FAIL' grade.
- 5.9 Exit awards are not available to students who have their enrolment permanently terminated as a result of Disciplinary Committee action.