



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

Policy:

Award of Honorary Degrees

Effective: 18 June 2018

Audience: Staff

Policy Category: Governance
Policy Sub-category: Honorary Recognition

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Key words: | Emeritus, distinguished service |
| Policy Owner: | Vice Chancellor |
| Responsible Officer: | Vice Chancellor |
| Review Date: | June 2021 |

Contents

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | OBJECTS OF THE UNIVERSITY | 3 |
| 2 | PURPOSE..... | 3 |
| 3 | PRINCIPLES..... | 3 |
| 4 | NOMINATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS | 4 |
| 5 | ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES | 4 |

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 and process for admission to an honorary degree.

3 PRINCIPLES

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 An honorary degree may be awarded by the Board of Trustees on recommendation of the Vice Chancellor.
- 3.1.2 A person may be admitted to an honorary degree whether or not that person is a graduate of the University.
- 3.1.3 There will be two kinds of honorary degree:
 - 3.1.3.1 The Honorary Degree of Doctor
 - 3.1.3.2 The Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws.

3.2 The Honorary Degree of Doctor

- 3.2.1 With the exception of the Doctor of Philosophy, an Honorary Degree of Doctor may be awarded in any field of study offered at the University including, but not limited to, Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Science and Doctor of Education.
- 3.2.2 In order to be awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor, a person will have:
 - 3.2.2.1 Achieved notable eminence in some branch of the recipient's field of study; and
 - 3.2.2.2 Given outstanding support to the University or to the Catholic Church.
- 3.2.3 The abbreviated designation of the degree will be consistent with *Hon EdD*, *Hon ScD*.

3.3 The Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws

- 3.3.1 On order to be awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws, a person will have:
 - 3.3.1.1 Made outstanding contribution beyond the expectation to the University; and
 - 3.3.1.2 Given eminent public service and/or service to the Catholic Church; and/or
 - 3.3.1.3 Have distinguished creative or cultural achievements.
- 3.3.2 The abbreviated designation of the degree will be *Hon LLD*.

3.4 Revoking a honorary degree

- 3.4.1 The University reserves the right to revoke an honorary degree in certain circumstances, such as where the person has been convicted of a serious criminal offence, or where damage may be caused to the reputation of the University from being associated through the honorary degree with the person.

3.5 Rights and Obligations

- 3.5.1 No remuneration is received by a recipient of an honorary degree, nor does the degree of itself allow the recipient to undertake any administrative or academic duties at the University.

4 NOMINATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS

- 4.1 Nominees for an honorary degree should be proposed to the Vice Chancellor, following endorsement by the relevant Head of Campus.
- 4.2 The Vice Chancellor will consider the nomination in consultation with the Chancellor, and if the Vice Chancellor is of the view that the nomination has merit, shall make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees.
- 4.3 The Board of Trustees will decide whether to approve the award of the degree, the specific degree to be awarded, and the appropriate method of acknowledgement or ceremony attaching to the award.

5 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 5.1 **Vice Chancellor** has responsibility for reviewing nominations for an honorary degree, in consultation with the Chancellor, and for making recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

| Version | Date of approval | Approved by | Amendment |
|---------|------------------|-----------------|---|
| 1 | October 2009 | Trustees | Effective date – new Policy. |
| 2 | 18 June 2018 | Vice Chancellor | Minor amendments to update format. Addition of clause 3.4.1. |

***Historical footnote:** Prior to 2008, the tradition at The University of Notre Dame Australia had been to award only the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws. In 2009, the decision was taken by the governing board of the University to award degrees in the recipient's field when it is appropriate to do so.*