

Posthumous Awards Policy

Purpose:	To provide a framework for eligibility and approval of posthumous awards.		
Audience:	Staff, Students		
Supporting Procedures:	<i>Posthumous Awards Procedure</i>		
Contact Officer:	Secretary to Academic Council	Phone:	See Campus Directory

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Preamble:

The granting of a posthumous award is to acknowledge a student's significant achievement within their course of study prior to their death.

Such awards illustrate the significant role the University plays in the lives of those who work and study within it, providing a high level of goodwill in the community and affirming the University's values.

Objectives:

1. To recognise the academic achievements of a deceased student.
2. To create a framework for consistent decision making in the assessment and in the event of an award.

Policy:

1. Application

- 1.1. The relevant College nominates a College member to be the Advocate. The Advocate is an academic staff member appointed by the Dean Academic Operations or nominee following the death of a student in the College. The Advocate will be responsible for the completion of all necessary actions under the posthumous awards policy and procedures.
- 1.2. The Advocate initiates and monitors the case for a posthumous award.
- 1.3. The Advocate submits the case for posthumous award to the Dean Academic Operations for consideration in accordance with the *Posthumous Awards Procedure*.

2. Eligibility

- 2.1. The award of posthumous qualifications is considered on a case-by-case basis. The conferral of a posthumous award is not automatic and decisions should be managed with due sensitivity and cognisance of the best interests of the various parties involved.
- 2.2. Coursework degrees, certificates and diplomas:
 - 2.2.1. At the time of death the student must have satisfactorily completed at least two-thirds of their course at Murdoch and the University

must be satisfied that the standard of the student's performance was such that they would have completed the award.

2.3. Honours degrees

- 2.3.1. At the time of death the student must have satisfactorily completed at least two-thirds of their course at Murdoch and the University must be satisfied that the standard of the student's performance was such that they would have completed the award.
- 2.3.2. In the case where the Honours degree is awarded solely on the basis of a research thesis, the Dean Academic Operations must be satisfied, after consultation with the supervisor(s), that the candidate has completed at least two-thirds of the requisite research work.

2.4. Graduate research degrees

- 2.4.1. The Dean of Graduate Studies may recommend to Academic Council that it make a posthumous award of a Graduate Research Degree to a candidate, who was enrolled in the relevant degree program prior to his or her death, subject to the enrolment of the candidate in the relevant degree program within the 12 month period immediately prior to his or her death.
 - 2.4.2. This decision by the Dean of Graduate Studies to recommend an award to Academic Council is based on a formal assessment of available research materials (e.g. draft thesis chapters, journal papers, draft manuscripts) by independent assessors (who meet the same criteria as examiners), with their reports guiding the Research Degrees and Scholarships Committee, and the Dean of Graduate Studies, in making a recommendation to Academic Council.
 - 2.4.3. The formal assessment should follow current Graduate Research Degree examination procedures as closely as possible, with assessors asked to report against the usual criteria for award of the relevant degree.
 - 2.4.4. The Dean of Graduate Studies should consult with the candidate's supervisor or supervisors in relation to the recommendation of an award.
- 2.5. Where a deceased student has completed close to two-thirds of the degree and other exceptional circumstances apply, a special case may be put forward by the Advocate.
- 2.6. Where a deceased student is deemed not to be eligible for a degree award or other circumstances dictate the inappropriateness of such an award, an alternative form of recognition or memorial may be proposed by the Advocate.

3. Approval

3.1. Coursework degrees, certificates and diplomas

- 3.1.1. The Dean Academic Operations recommends the posthumous award to Academic Council for approval.

3.2. Honours degrees

- 3.2.1. The Dean Academic Operations recommends the posthumous award to Academic Council for approval.

3.3. Graduate research degrees

- 3.3.1. Approval is in accordance with the requirements of section 2.4 of this policy.

Supporting Procedures:

University Secretary is authorised to approve all the supporting procedures.

Supporting Guidelines:

There are no supporting guidelines.

Supporting Standards:

There are no supporting standards.

Performance Indicators:

There are no performance indicators.

Definitions:

The definition of these terms appears in the "Dictionary of Terms". Please refer to the "Dictionary of Terms" in Policy and Procedure Manager™ to ensure you are referring to the latest version.

There are no key terms.

Related Documents:

[Posthumous Awards Procedure](#)

References:

There are no references.

Approval and Implementation:

Approval Authority:	Academic Council
Responsible Officer(s):	Secretary to Academic Council

Revision History:

Version	Date Approved	Effective Date (if later than 'Date Approved')	Next Review Date	Resolution No. (if applicable)
Approved by AC	12/03/2019		12/03/2022	AC/16/2019(ii)
Approved	25/01/2017		25/01/2020	AC/09/2017(i)
Rescinded AC/150/2012/(i)	25/01/2017			AC/09/2017(ii)
Approved	19/09/2012		19/09/2015	AC/150/2012(i)
Rescinded AC/3/2012(i)	19/09/2012			AC/150/2012(ii)
Approved	25/01/2012		25/01/2015	AC/3/2012(ii)