

Award of Honorary Degree Policy

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Preamble:

The award of an Honorary Degree is the highest award that Murdoch University can bestow to honour individuals who have served prominently in public life or contributed significantly to the application of knowledge in society.

Statute 4 provides:

Any degree which may be awarded after examination, and the degrees of Doctor of the University (DUniv), Doctor of Laws (LLD) and Doctor of Letters (DLett), may be awarded to any person honoris causa.

Purpose:

To set out the principles for the award of Honorary Degrees of the University.

Audience:

Staff

Objectives:

- To set out the circumstances in which an honorary degree of this University may be awarded.

Definitions:

Any defined terms below are specific to this document. The definition of common terms appears in the Murdoch University Dictionary of Terms.

There are no terms.

Policy Statement:

1. Categories of Honorary Degree

1.1 Candidates for Honorary Doctorates of the University have made an outstanding contribution in one or more of the following categories:

- 1.1.1 intellectual achievement in any field of endeavour;
- 1.1.2 community service;

1.1.3 service to the University.

1.2 The categories of community service and service to the University must also contain some measure of intellectual achievement. Service *per se* is not a sufficient justification for the award of an Honorary Degree.

2. Eligibility

2.1 No person currently employed by or serving the University through membership of a major committee is eligible for the award of an Honorary Degree.

2.2 There shall be no discrimination, either against or in favour of a nominee on the grounds of age, sex, religion or race.

2.3 Parliamentarians and paid political office-holders shall not be nominated for an Honorary Degree while holding office. Only those who have been out of the political arena for a sufficient period of time to be isolated from current political life will be considered.

2.4 Persons active in business who have made an outstanding personal contribution to either technology or community service will be considered for an Honorary Degree. However, acquisition of wealth is not by itself a sufficient reason for nomination for the honour.

2.5 A major donation to the University shall not by itself be sufficient grounds for the award of an Honorary Degree.

2.6 All things being equal, those with links to the University or its activities will be preferred to those without. The Committee gives less weighting to individuals who are unlikely to have any future association with the university. However, being worthy of honour is the over-riding consideration.

3. Number of Honorary Degrees awarded each year

3.1 Honorary Degrees may be awarded at a degree ceremony, with normally no more than one award per ceremony. A special event may be organised if an individual recipient of a Honours Degree is unable to attend a degree ceremony.

4. Nomination

4.1 Nominations, which are made in confidence, may come from members of the University community – Staff, Schools, the Senate, Convocation, the Guild or the Honorary Awards and Ceremonial Committee.

4.2 Nominations may be submitted at any time.

5. Selection

5.1 The following questions are asked of each nomination. While some of these questions might not be applicable to each candidate, it is expected that those who are awarded Honorary Degrees would score well in most areas.

- 5.1.1 How significant is the contribution? Would others in the same position have made it?
- 5.1.2 Is there evidence of a sustained contribution?
- 5.1.3 How lasting is the contribution already made likely to be?
- 5.1.4 Of what value is the contribution to the community?
- 5.1.5 Would experts in the field be happy with the nomination? (in order to determine the answer to this question, the Committee reserves the right to seek confidential advice from experts outside the Committee.)
- 5.1.6 How well is the nominated person known to the University community? What links do they have with University activities?
- 5.1.7 What special contributions have been made to the University by the nominated person?
- 5.1.8 Is there a balance of Honorary Graduands between categories and discipline areas etc?
- 5.1.9 Has the nominee received a similar Honour or Honours already? If so, then other things being equal a person who has not been so honoured shall be preferred.

6. A rolling list of prospective Honorary Degree recipients

- 6.1 If there are more deserving people nominated for Honorary Degrees than can be honoured in any one year a rolling list is established. This ensures:
- 6.1.1 that people who are worthy of an Honorary Degree one year and who are also likely to be worthy the next and can be reconsidered;
 - 6.1.2 continuity to a Committee whose membership may change from year to year and so expedite the Committee's business; and
 - 6.1.3 reduces the need for *ad hoc* nominations.

7. Use of title/post-nominals

- 7.1 Honorary Degree recipients use the relevant degree post-nominals followed by *honoris causa* which may be abbreviated to *hon causa*.
- 7.2 The title "Dr" is only used by Honorary Degree recipients when engaged in Murdoch University activities.

Performance Indicators:

There are no performance indicators.

Related Documents:

There are no related documents.

References:

There are no references

Approval and Implementation:

Approval Authority:	Senate
Responsible Officer(s):	University Secretary Manager Events and Sponsorship
Approval Authority for supporting procedures:	The University Secretary is authorised to approve all the supporting procedures.
Approval Authority for supporting guidelines:	There are no supporting guidelines.
Approval Authority for supporting standards:	There are no supporting standards.
Contact Officer:	University Secretary

Revision History:

Version	Date Approved	Effective Date (if later than 'Date Approved')	Next Review Date	Resolution No. (if applicable)
UniSec reviewed	14/10/2016		14/10/2019	
Approved	04/12/2013		04/12/2016	S/32/2013
Approved	07/12/2011		07/12/2014	S/47/2011
Approved	05/05/2010		05/05/2013	S/20/2010