



Special Degrees Rules

For admittance to Honorary Degree awards of the *Degree of Doctor of the University* and *Degree of Doctor*

1. Procedure for consideration of nominations

- a) All proposals shall be made to the Special Degrees Committee of Council for consideration in such manner as the Committee may determine.
- b) No member of the Special Degrees Committee shall participate in the consideration of a proposal in which they declare an interest.
- c) Following agreement by the Special Degrees Committee, a recommendation inviting Council to award a degree shall be put to the next occurring meeting of Council.
- d) All proposals shall be submitted directly to the Council Secretary on the [Special Degrees Nomination Form](#).
- e) Nominations for Special Degrees will be cross-referenced with External Relations, to verify information held by the University and to align with other award programs.

2. The Degree of Doctor of the University (*honoris causa*)

- a) Council may admit to the Degree of Doctor of the University a person who has rendered exceptionally distinguished service to the University or to society.
- b) The person shall not be a serving member of the staff of the University.
- c) An honorary degree may be approved and conferred posthumously at the discretion of Council.

Nominations

- i. Nominations for admission to the Degree of Doctor of the University may be initiated by a Faculty Board, the Academic Board, any member of Council, the Special Degrees Committee, Executive Deans, Deputy Vice-Chancellors or the Provost.
 - ii. Proposals should be in writing and should give reasons which make it appropriate that the person proposed receive the Degree of Doctor of the University, and contain such supporting information as may be helpful in consideration of the nomination.
- d) Use of the honorary degree title is D.Univ. (hc) at the end of name.

3. The Degree of Doctor (*honoris causa*)

- a) Council may admit to the Degree of Doctor a graduate of this or another university in recognition of their exceptional eminence in a branch of learning taught by the University.
- b) The Degree of Doctor may be awarded in Architecture, Economics, Education, Engineering, Law, Letters, Music, Science, Veterinary Science, or any other field for which a higher doctorate by examination exists in the University.
- c) The person shall not be a serving member of the staff of the University.
- d) An honorary degree may be approved and conferred posthumously at the discretion of Council.

Nominations

- i. Nominations for admission to the Degree of Doctor may be initiated by the Faculty Board with which the branch of learning is associated.
- e) Proposals should be made in writing by the Executive Dean, and should give reasons which make it appropriate that the person proposed receive the Degree of Doctor, and contain such supporting information as may be helpful in consideration of the nomination. Use of the honorary degree title is D.[award] (hc) example D.Music (hc)

4. Special Circumstances

- a) The University will not admit a serving politician to an honorary degree except in exceptional circumstances.
- b) The University will not admit a person to an honorary degree on the basis of their philanthropic support to the University, but philanthropic support will not preclude a person being admitted to an honorary degree on the basis of other criteria.

5. Conferral of honorary degree awards

- a) Following approval by Council of the award, the Chancellor shall write to the nominee or, in the case of a posthumous degree, to the nominee's next-of-kin or another appropriate person, inviting them to accept the award.
- b) The degree shall ordinarily be conferred at a Graduation Ceremony. The recipient of the degree, or in the case of a posthumous degree their representative, shall, in the case of a Doctor of the University, be presented by the Vice-Chancellor and President, and, in the case of a Degree of Doctor, by the Executive Dean of the Faculty in which the degree is awarded.
- c) An honorary degree shall not ordinarily be conferred *in absentia*.
- d) Except in the case of a posthumous honorary degree, the recipient will wear the academic dress appropriate to the degree, which may be presented to the recipient by the University.

6. Rescinding an honorary degree award

- a) An Honorary Degree award may be rescinded by resolution of the Council.

7. Order of Australia

The Committee will receive strategic nominations by the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, aiming for the level of AO or higher. Generally, the Committee will support two such strategic nominations per year.

Approved by Council 27 May 2013; amended by Council 13 February 2017; amended by Council 12 October 2020