

## **Frances Jennifer Adamson**

*Approved by Frances 1/4/21*

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present to you an outstanding candidate for admission to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa): **Frances Jennifer Adamson.**

Frances Adamson, already a distinguished alumna of this University, is being honoured today in recognition of her enormous and continuing contribution to Australian international relations, as a diplomat, advisor, and leader.

Ms Adamson graduated from the University of Adelaide with a degree in Economics in 1985 and embarked on a career in international relations when she joined the Department of Foreign Affairs, securing her first international posting in 1987 as Vice Consul in Australia's Consulate-General in Hong Kong.

Across her career, she has served as political counsellor, representative to the Australian Commerce and Industry Office in Taipei, Deputy High Commissioner and Acting High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, and Australian Ambassador to the People's Republic of China from 2011 to 2015.

Ms Adamson's expertise and professionalism are held in high regard across the political spectrum.

She worked as Chief of Staff for former Foreign Affairs Minister the Honourable Stephen Smith in the Rudd/Gillard Government, and later, as senior international advisor to Prime Minister, the Honourable Malcolm Turnbull, before being appointed as the most senior diplomat in the country. She is the first woman to hold the position of Secretary of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

In 2015, Ms Adamson was awarded the prestigious Sir James Wolfensohn Public Service Scholarship to study at Harvard University.

Today she is a Fellow of the Institute of Public Administration Australia, a member of the Export Finance Australia Board, the Advisory Board of the Australian National University's National Security College, and the Asia Society Australia Advisory Council. She is repeatedly ranked as one of South Australia's most influential people.

Ms Adamson is also a member of the Champions of Change Coalition, and of Chief Executive Women.

She is widely recognised for her ground-breaking role as a woman in confidently taking on positions that had previously only been held by men. Not everyone will know this, but that all started right here at the University of Adelaide, when she became the first female captain of the University Boat Club in its 103-year history.

Through her skill and expertise, Ms Adamson has made a significant contribution to Australia's international standing.

She has sensitively navigated complex geopolitical challenges and continues to be an exemplary leader in her field, and an inspiration for all women through her leadership and her valuable contribution to Australian society.

Chancellor, I am pleased to present to you **Frances Adamson**; Bachelor of Economics, for admission to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa).