

# Policy: Honorary degrees

## Purpose

To outline the standards which underpin the awarding of honorary degrees at ANU.

## Overview

This policy sets out principles that underpin the awarding of honorary degrees to highly eminent individuals in recognition for their significant contribution to the work, reputation or standing of the University; for their outstanding achievement as a scholar; or for their outstanding contribution in the service of society.

## Scope

This policy is to apply to all nominations and awards of honorary awards under the [Australian National University \(Governance\) Statute 2020](#) (ANU Governance Statute).

## Policy statement

- The University confers four kinds of honorary doctorate:

| Honorary Award | Honorary Doctor of Science   | Honorary Doctor of Letters  | Honorary Doctor of Laws  | Honorary Doctor of the University  |
|----------------|--|---|--|--|
| Postnominals   | HonDSc   | HonLittD  | HonLLD   | HonDUniv   |
| Eligibility    | Highly eminent individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to science that is recognised | Highly eminent individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to a disciplinary or interdisciplinary field or endeavour, including legal | Highly eminent individuals who have made an exceptional contribution in public service or the practice of law that is recognised | Highly eminent individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to the work, standing or reputation of the University that is |

|                |                            |   |                               |  |
|----------------|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|
|                | internationally            | learning but excluding science that is recognised internationally | nationally or internationally | recognised nationally or internationally |
| Conferral term | Title is retained for life | Title is retained for life  | Title is retained for life    | Title is retained for life               |

### **Use of title**

2. Use of the title 'Doctor' or 'Dr', associated with an honorary degree of the University, is only permitted when participating in an activity or event associated with the University.

### **Limitations on eligibility**

3. An Honorary Doctor of Science is to be awarded only with regards to the disciplinary fields of science, technology, engineering or mathematics.
4. The award of an honorary degree to a serving politician or public servant, is only considered in exceptional circumstances.
5. The award of an honorary degree to a person who is when nominated, a member of the staff of the University, is only considered in exceptional circumstances.

### **Conferral**

6. An honorary degree is not conferred in absentia.
7. An honorary degree is conferred posthumously if the secretary of the Honorary Degrees Committee had received the relevant proposal before the death of the nominee.

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