

SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR HONORARY AWARDS POLICY 2015

The Senate of the University of Sydney, as the governing authority of the University of Sydney, by resolution adopts the following policy.

Dated: 3 August 2015

Last amended: 17 March 2023, commencing 7 April 2023
9 December 2019, commencing 13 December 2019

Signature:

Position: Secretary to Senate

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1 Name of policy

This is the Selection of Candidates for Honorary Awards Policy 2015.

2 Commencement

This policy commences on 3 August 2015.

3 Policy is binding

Except to the extent that a contrary intention is expressed, this policy binds the University, staff, students and affiliates.

4 Statement of intent

This policy:

- (a) provides for the University to award honorary degrees in recognition of exceptional achievement;
- (b) provides for the University to award title of Honorary Fellow of the University of Sydney in recognition of outstanding service to the University; and
- (c) sets out the process by which nominations for such awards are received and considered.

5 Application

This policy applies to the University, staff, students and affiliates.

6 Definitions

award	means, as appropriate, an honorary degree or the title of Honorary Fellow.
civic office holder	means an elected representative at any tier of government.
residential college	Means one or more of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mandelbaum House;• Sancta Sophia;• St Andrew's college;• St John's College;• St Paul's College;• Wesley College;• Women's College.
Staff	Means an employee of the University, whether full-time; part-time or casual.

6A Honorary degrees which may be awarded

The University of Sydney may award the following higher doctorates honorarily:

- I. Doctor of Business;
- II. Doctor of Engineering;
- III. Doctor of Laws;
- IV. Doctor of Letters;
- V. Doctor of Medicine;
- VI. Doctor of Health Sciences;
- VII. Doctor of Dentistry;
- VIII. Doctor of Nursing;
- IX. Doctor of Pharmacy;
- X. Doctor of Music;
- XI. Doctor of Science;
- XII. Doctor of Architecture;
- XIII. Doctor of the University

7 Criteria for award of honorary degree

- (1) Honorary degrees may be awarded on the basis of one or more of the following criteria:
 - (a) academic eminence;
 - (b) distinguished creative achievement;
 - (c) an outstanding contribution beyond the expectations of the person's particular field of endeavour which has influenced the thinking or general well-being of the wider community; or
 - (d) in the case of a civic office holder, an outstanding contribution to the advancement of society in New South Wales, Australia or overseas.
- (2) The Doctor of the University may be awarded to a person for exceptional service or contributions to the achievement of the mission, values and aspiration of the University, significantly enhancing the reputation and standing of the University at a national and international level.

8 Criteria for award of title of Honorary Fellow

The title of Honorary Fellow is conspicuous continued involvement in one or more of the following:

- (a) support of the interests and welfare of the University or of a particular part of the University's activities;
- (b) promotion of the academic purposes of the University or of facilitating those purposes in any particular activity of the University;
- (c) fostering the links between the University and other institutions within and outside Australia;



- (d) enlarging educational opportunities to enter the University among individuals with limited prospects of so doing for reasons which they could not overcome;
- (e) representation of the University's needs for resources for its growth and diversification, and supply of such resources.

9 Eligibility for nomination

- (1) Fellows of the Senate or members of staff of the University are not eligible for an award while in office.
- (2) Former Fellows of Senate or former members of staff will not normally be eligible for an award within two years of their retirement from the relevant office.
- (3) Subject to clauses 9(1) and 9(2):
 - (a) Honorary Fellows of the University are eligible for the award of an honorary degree; and
 - (b) Holders of honorary degrees are eligible for the award of the title of Honorary Fellow.
- (4) Civic office holders, other than foreign heads of state, will not normally be eligible for an award:
 - (a) while in office; or
 - (b) within five years of leaving office.

10 Eligibility to nominate candidates

The following may submit names of proposed recipients for awards:

- (a) Fellows and former Fellows of Senate;
- (b) students of the University;
- (c) staff of the University;
- (d) Principals of the residential colleges; and
- (e) graduates of the University.

11 Submitting nominations

- (1) The Chief Governance Officer will each year call for nominations for awards of honorary degrees and the title of Honorary Fellow.
- (2) Nominations should:
 - (a) be forwarded to the Chief Governance Officer by the date indicated in the call for nominations;
 - (b) where relevant, specify the honorary degree proposed;
 - (c) specify the basis for the nomination, consistently with the appropriate criteria specified in clauses 7 or 8;
 - (d) provide sufficient information to identify the person and the case for the award;



- (e) include statements in support of the nominee's standing and the case for the award;
- (f) include statements in support of the nominee's standing and achievements.
- (3) In the case of civic office holders, nominations should also refer to:
 - (a) their length of service;
 - (b) the impact of their contribution to society; and
 - (c) their connection to the University, its purposes and interests.

12 Confidentiality

- (1) Nominees for awards must not be consulted before nomination or at any time prior to the person being advised of Senate's decision.
- (2) All nominations, deliberations, investigations and recommendations relating to a nomination must be treated as strictly confidential.

13 Report to Senate

- (1) The Senate Honorary Awards Committee will consider:
 - (a) the nominations received;
 - (b) advice from relevant Deans; and
 - (c) such other advice as the Committee considers appropriate to properly inform itself.
- (2) The Committee will then decide on recommendations to Senate about the proposed awards.
- (3) The Chair of the Committee will report to the Committee's recommendations to Senate. The report should include the detailed minutes of the Committee and the reasons given for the Committee's recommendations. Other documentation relating to the Committee's recommendations will be available on request.
- (4) Senate will, by resolution, determine the proposed recipients of awards.

14 Posthumous awards

- (1) If recommended nominee dies before the recommendation goes to Senate, the nomination lapses and no honorary award will be conferred.
- (2) If Senate approves a recommendation for an honorary award and the nominee dies before the award is conferred, the honorary award may be conferred posthumously.

14A Civic office holder nominees

Civic office holders who are considered for honorary awards should have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of society in New South Wales, Australia or overseas which is beyond the usual expectations of the person's civic office.

15 Time for conferring honorary awards

Honorary awards must be conferred within two years of Senate's resolution. Awards not confirmed within this time frame will lapse.

15A Use of Titles

An honorary doctorate is not a qualification under the Australian Qualifications Framework, and therefore does not entitle the recipient to use the title 'Doctor' or 'Dr' except where participating in an activity or event associated with the University.

16 Rescissions or replacements

This document replaces the *Selection of Candidates for Honorary Awards Policy* which was adopted on 25 November 2008, and which is rescinded as from the date of commencement of this document.

NOTES

Selection of Candidates for Honorary Awards Policy 2015

Date adopted: 3 August 2015

Date commenced: 17 August 2015

8 November 2018

13 December 2019

7 April 2023

Administrator: Secretary to Senate

Review date: 13 December 2024

Rescinded documents: *Selection of Candidates for Honorary Awards Policy*

Related documents:

AMENDMENT HISTORY

Provision	Amendment	Commencing
6A	Addition of 'XIII. Doctor of the University'	17 March 2023
7	Insertion of clause 7(2)	17 March 2023



Provision	Amendment	Commencing
11	Administrative amendment to replace 'Secretary to Senate' with 'Chief Governance Officer'	17 March 2023
13	Administrative amendment to replace 'People and Culture Committee' with 'Honorary Awards Committee'	17 March 2023