

Honorary Academic Titles Procedure

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Purpose

This procedure establishes the University's processes for the nomination and conferral of honorary academic titles to former and current professorial staff.

Applicable governance instruments

Instrument	Section	Principles
Academic Promotions, Honorary and Adjunct Titles Policy	2 Academic Honorary and Adjunct Titles	2.1, 2.3-2.4
Safety and Wellbeing Policy	1 People safety and wellbeing	1.3

Procedure

1. Honorary academic title for former professorial staff

The University Council, on the recommendation of the Ceremonial and Honorary Degrees Committee (CHDC), may confer the title of Professor Emerita, Professor Emeritus or Professor Emerit on a professor of the University on or after their resignation or retirement in recognition of their exceptional and outstanding services during their careers, including during their tenure at the University of Tasmania. The title is conferred for the life of the title holder.

Title holders may indicate a preference to be designated either Professor Emerita, Professor Emeritus or Professor Emerit.

In considering whether a professor is to receive the title of Professor Emerita/Emeritus/Emerit, the Council considers services rendered to the University of Tasmania and service to any other institutions where the professor has been employed.

Professors Emeritae/Emeriti/Emerit of the University include:

- any person on whom the title was conferred by a University other than the University of Tasmania;
- any person on whom that title is conferred under any preceding Ordinance; or
- any person on whom the title Professor Emerita/Emeritus/Emerit is conferred under the Academic Promotions, Honorary and Adjunct Titles Policy and this Procedure.

Definitions and acronyms can be found at: <https://www.utas.edu.au/policy/policy-definitions>
Related policy and procedures can be found at: <https://www.utas.edu.au/policy>

1.1. Nomination and conferral of title

Nominations for Professor Emerita/Professor Emeritus/Professor Emerit are normally made within two years after the professor's resignation or retirement date.

Nominations are made by a Head of School or Head of Institute, or Head of Divisional section, and must include:

- a Case for Conferral outlining the grounds on which the nomination is made, citing the reasons why the individual and their outstanding leadership, service and contributions during their careers, including during their tenure at the University of Tasmania are worthy of such eminent recognition by the University Council. The Executive Dean or the Head of Division will co-sign the Case for Conferral to indicate their endorsement of the nomination;
- a current curriculum vitae for the nominee which provides sufficient detail to support the nomination;
- a draft Ceremonial and Honorary Degrees Committee paper from the Vice-Chancellor recommending that the Committee endorse the nomination.

Self-nominations cannot be made.

Nominations are submitted to the Vice-Chancellor via the University Secretary in sufficient time to receive clearance for referral by the Vice-Chancellor to the next Ceremonial and Honorary Degrees Committee meeting which occurs at least twice each year. Endorsed nominations will be referred from the Ceremonial and Honorary Degrees Committee, through the University Secretary, to the next University Council meeting for consideration.

The Chancellor will notify successful nominees of their conferral and copy the notification to the relevant Executive Dean/Head of Division and People and Recruitment Shared Services.

1.2. Being a Professor Emerita/Professor Emeritus/Professor Emerit

A Professor Emerita/Professor Emeritus/Professor Emerit is, for all purposes of courtesy and on ceremonial occasions, to be regarded as a professor of the University. Title holders receive no remuneration, are not employees of the University, and are not eligible to be members of Academic Senate, or to supervise other staff or honorary title holders.

Professors Emeritae/Emeriti/Emerit intending to make an ongoing contribution to the University's learning and teaching, or research activities after they leave their University employment must seek a separate appointment as an Adjunct Professor or Adjunct Clinical Professor through the relevant School, College or Division. An Adjunct Professor appointment is a specified period during which the appointee has agreed to undertake an approved program of work, under a University line manager, which is of benefit to the School, College or Division's strategic priorities.

The title Professor Emerita/Professor Emeritus/Professor Emerit does not confer any entitlements or place any obligations upon the holder. The appointment will be recorded by People and Recruitment Shared Services on the University's systems and the title holder will be provided a University email address which will be the University's primary method of communication with a title holder. University network and internet access and use of the library's information resources will also be provided. Provision of any other facilities or resources, such as office space or IT equipment, is at the discretion of the College Executive Dean or Head of Division.

Before attending any University campus, a Professor Emerita/Professor Emeritus/Professor Emerit must be familiar with the University's strategies to keep people safe and any current requirements for access to University buildings or activities. Information about current requirements is published on the University's web and intranet sites.

2. Honorary academic title for current professorial staff

The title 'Distinguished Professor' was conferred by the University Council on eminent University of Tasmania professors who were:

- current members of staff;
- of exceptional distinction; and
- had made an outstanding and sustained contribution in their field/discipline and to the University.

Distinguished Professor titles conferred before 13 December 2013 will be retained until the Distinguished Professor retires or resigns from the University of Tasmania.

Distinguished Professor titles conferred after 13 December 2013 were awarded for a fixed term, normally five years.

From 2021 the University has determined that no new Distinguished Professor titles will be conferred.

The title of Distinguished Professor lapses immediately on the title holder's retirement or resignation from the University of Tasmania.

3. Revocation of Titles

Council may, on the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor to the Ceremonial and Honorary Degrees Committee, revoke any conferred title if deemed necessary to protect the integrity of the award, for example, if the recipient behaves in a manner that is contrary to the University's values or expectations of behaviour.

Versions

Versions of this procedure and the details of their approval are as per the following table:

Version	Action	Approved by	Business Owner/s	Approval Date
1	Approved	Provost	Provost	21 February 2021
2	Approved	Provost	Provost	23 March 2022
3	Minor amendment approved (position title changes)	Director Governance and Compliance	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)	16 May 2022
4	Approved	Pro Vice-Chancellor Strategic Projects	Pro Vice-Chancellor Strategic Projects	12 May 2023
5	Approved	Vice-Chancellor	University Secretary	4 August 2023
6	Approved	Vice-Chancellor	University Secretary	20 August 2024
7	Approved	Vice-Chancellor	University Secretary	6 June 2025

* Currency of procedures is confirmed annually. For the details of when this procedure was last confirmed as current, visit the [version history page](#).