

Guidelines for the Preparation of Nomination Materials for Honorary Degrees

Honorary Degrees

University Council may confer honorary degrees to someone who, *"in the opinion of the Council, is a distinguished visitor or outstanding scholar, or who has given outstanding service to the Commonwealth, the State or the University."* Candidates may be considered under one or more of these categories.

Nominations

A member of the University's Council, University Executive Team member, a Head of Academic Unit or head of an administrative division, or other interested person may make a nomination for the conferral of an honorary degree.

The University Secretary will call for nominations each year. Nominations may also be submitted at any time.

Documentation

All nominations for the conferral of honorary degrees should be supported by a citation of 300 to 500 words outlining the grounds on which the nomination is made and citing the category (or categories) under which the nominee is considered suitable for the award.

A curriculum vitae for the nominee should also be provided if possible.

The nomination should, where appropriate, give the names of two (2) referees who could be approached to support the nomination.

People who can be considered for Honorary Degrees

Distinguished visitors would include visiting Heads of State or diplomats, scientists, artists, or performers of international renown who happen to be visiting Tasmania or are resident in the State for a time.

Previous conferrals include:

- HE Dr Effendi Norwawi (Malaysian Minister for Agriculture)
- Dr Stuart Challender (conductor, TSO)
- Dr Kenroku Fujii (Japanese businessman and unofficial 'ambassador' for Tasmania).

Outstanding scholars would include scholars who have made an outstanding contribution to scholarship (which may be interpreted in the wider sense to include writers, artists and performers) either in Australia or overseas.

Previous conferrals include:

- Aunty Lola Greeno (artist – Australia)
- Sir Leonard Huxley (scientist - overseas)
- Professor John Nicholls (scientist - overseas)
- Professor Marilyn Lake (historian - Australia)
- Dr Graeme Murphy (dancer – Australia)

Outstanding service to the Commonwealth would include Governors General, politicians, senior civil servants and diplomats, or persons who have acted as ambassadors for Australia through their contribution to the arts or science.

Previous conferrals include:

- Lord Casey (former Commonwealth Minister and Governor General)
- Dr Peter Dunn (Chief Defence Scientist; chemical weapons inspection program)
- Dr Ashton Calvert (Secretary, DFAT)
- The Hon Dr Neal Blewett (former Commonwealth Minister)

Confidentiality

All nominations will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Method of approval

All complete Honorary Degree nominations are considered by the Ceremonial and Honorary Degree Committee (CHDC) at scheduled meetings throughout the year. CHDC may endorse the nominations, request further information or not endorse a nomination.

The recommendations of the Ceremonial and Honorary Degrees Committee will be submitted to the next available meeting of the University's Council, where a determination on the conferral will be made.

Advice of Outcome

The Chancellor will make each approved recipient an offer of an Honorary Degree immediately after approval of the conferral by Council. The letter of offer will outline options for the presentation of the award. The University Secretary will advise the nominator of the outcome of the nomination where appropriate and the relevant UET member and/or Head of Academic Unit.

There will be a minimum of 6 weeks between confirmation of an Honorary Degree recipient and presentation at an appropriate graduation ceremony.

Publicity

The intention to present the award of Honorary Degree may be made public, subject to the agreement of the recipient, any time after an acceptance has been received. In the normal course of events the intention to present the award of Honorary Degree will not be made public until several days before the award is to be presented.