

Council

Honours Policy

Date of adoption: October 2016
Date this issue: May 2024

Introduction

Conferment of honorary degrees and awards are made by Council in terms of University Statute under powers of section 284 of the Education and Training Act 2020.

Council's Honours Committee is established and Honorary Qualifications and Awards are made in terms of the General Academic Statute Part 2, Section 4; and Part 3, Section 4.

1. Purpose of this policy

The purpose of this policy is to establish the honorary degrees and awards of the Auckland University of Technology, and the structure and processes by which these awards are made.

2. Honorary degrees and awards

Council may at its discretion:

Confer the following honorary degree:

- Honorary Doctor of the Auckland University of Technology and award the following honorary titles:
- Reeves Honorary Fellow
- Seddon Honorary Fellow

Council may also, at its discretion award the titles:

- Professor Emeritus
- *designation* Emeritus, under extraordinary circumstances.

3. Purpose, Eligibility and Criteria for honorary degrees and awards

3.1 Honorary Doctorate

Purpose: The purpose of the award of an Honorary Doctorate is to give Auckland University of Technology recognition of the highest order to an individual and through this to establish and maintain an ongoing relationship with this individual.

Eligibility: To be considered for the award of an Honorary Doctorate, the nominee may or may not have any association with the University prior to the nomination, and may or may not be currently employed by the University.

Criteria: An Honorary Doctorate is awarded to an individual who is academically distinguished, and/or of international repute, and who has made an outstanding contribution to society.

3.2 Reeves Honorary Fellow

Purpose: The purpose of the award of a Reeves Honorary Fellowship is to give Auckland University of Technology recognition to an individual for their contribution to the University and through this to maintain an ongoing relationship with this individual.

Eligibility: To be considered for the award of a Reeves Honorary Fellowship, the nominee will be a former AUT staff or Council member.

Criteria: A Reeves Honorary Fellowship is awarded to a former staff or Council member who has made an outstanding contribution to the leadership, academic and/or professional life, and/or strategic development of the University over an extended period that fostered its reputation.

3.3 Seddon Honorary Fellow

Purpose: The purpose of the award of a Seddon Honorary Fellowship is to give Auckland University of Technology recognition to an individual who is external to the University for their contribution to the University and through this to maintain an ongoing relationship with this individual.

Eligibility: To be considered for the award of a Seddon Honorary Fellowship, the nominee will not be a current or former AUT staff or Council member.

Criteria: A Seddon Honorary Fellowship is awarded to a member of the wider community who has made an outstanding contribution to the development of the University. This may be, for example, through innovative or strategically significant leadership, and/or as a major benefactor to the University, and/or as a distinguished visitor to the University.

3.4 Professor Emeritus

Purpose: The purpose of the award of the honorary title of Professor Emeritus of the Auckland University of Technology is to acknowledge the long and distinguished contribution made by a professor of the University at the point of his or her retirement from the University.

Eligibility: To be considered for the award of the honorary title of Professor Emeritus of the Auckland University of Technology, the nominee will have retired from her/his substantive role as a professor of the University.

Criteria: The honorary title of Professor Emeritus of the Auckland University of Technology is awarded to a former member of staff of the University who has been a professor at the University for at least eight years and who has given distinguished service to the University through teaching and research of national and/or international significance.

3.5 *designation* Emeritus

Purpose: The purpose of the award of the honorary title of designation Emeritus of the Auckland University of Technology is to acknowledge the long and distinguished contribution made by a staff member in a senior leadership position (designation) of the University after his or her retirement from the University.

Eligibility: To be considered for the award of the honorary title of designation Emeritus of the Auckland University of Technology, the nominee will no longer be employed at the University.

Criteria: The honorary title of designation Emeritus of the Auckland University of Technology is awarded to a former member of staff of the university who has served the University in a senior position (such as, for instance, vice-chancellor) for an extended period and who has provided a distinguished and outstanding leadership contribution to the University.

4.0 The Honours Committee

The Council shall establish an Honours Committee which shall consider nominations and make recommendations to Council for the conferring of the following honorary degrees or awards:

- Honorary Doctor of the Auckland University of Technology (HonD)
- Reeves Honorary Fellow
- Seddon Honorary Fellow
- *designation* Emeritus of the Auckland University of Technology

The award of the honorary title of Professor Emeritus of the Auckland University of Technology is delegated by Council to the Vice-Chancellor who will consult with the Chancellor and the Chair of the Professorial Appointments Committee when making this award.

4.1 Membership

The Honours Committee will comprise:

- The Chancellor (Chair);
- The Pro-Chancellor;
- The Vice-Chancellor;
- The representative on Council of the Auckland University of Technology Student Association (AUTSA);
- The Council member elected by Academic staff;
- The Council member elected by Allied staff.

The Honours Committee will be served by the Executive Secretary to the Honours Committee (appointed by the Vice-Chancellor)

5.0 Procedures

5.1 Communications

All communications and enquiries about honorary qualifications and awards should be addressed to the Executive Secretary of the Honours Committee.

Any communication with proposed recipients of any honours shall be conducted in confidence through the Executive Secretary of the Honours Committee.

5.2 Nominations

Nominations for the granting of a university honour may be made by any two persons, one of whom shall be a member of Council or Academic Board, and shall be made in confidence to the Executive Secretary of the Honours Committee.

Nominations will be made without specification (except for the award of the title Professor Emeritus or designation Emeritus).

The Executive Secretary of the Honours Committee shall refer each nomination to the Vice Chancellor, who shall, upon consideration, refer the nomination to the Honours Committee.

On receipt of the nomination, the Honours Committee will determine if a university honour is to be granted, and if so, the form of that honour, and recommend to Council accordingly.

All nominations are strictly confidential. The person being nominated should under no circumstances be advised of their nomination unless and until an award is approved.

Self-nominations are not consistent with the confidentiality of nominations, and are not permitted.

Posthumous nominations may be considered under exceptional circumstances.

Nominations for all honours except for Professor Emeritus shall be called for by the Vice Chancellor's Office.

Nominations for Professor Emeritus may be made at any time appropriate to the retirement of the person nominated.

Each nomination shall be accompanied by a supporting statement of the nominee's background, and achievements.

5.3 Consideration and conferment

The Honours Committee shall consider nominations and make recommendations to Council for the granting of any Honorary Doctorate degree or Honorary Fellow awards, and where appropriate the Chair will consult with the dean of the relevant faculty, and/or the head of school.

Each honorary qualification or award shall be conferred by Council.

In exceptional circumstances Council will have the authority to revoke any honorary qualification or award.

All Honorary Doctorate degree and Honorary Fellow awards will normally be conferred on recipients at University graduation ceremonies, or at another appropriate ceremony.

5.4 Entitlements

Recipients of an honorary doctorate from the University will be entitled to wear the academic gown depicted by their award at all occasions calling for the use of academic dress.

Recipients will also be entitled to use the following abbreviation of the award after their surname: HonD AUT

Recipients will not be entitled to use the title 'Dr.' before their name.

5.5 Notes of caution

The act of awarding an honorary award has the potential to bring outstanding recognition to the University or to bring the University into disrepute, and/or to create the perception that earned awards are valued/undervalued. Therefore, in assessing the merit of an application, the Committee will exercise caution. Council may issue practical notes from time to time to assist the Committee in making their recommendations in this regard.

6.0 Authority and Responsibility

The Honours Committee has the responsibility to consider nominations and make recommendations to Council for the granting of an honorary doctorate degree or honorary fellow award. Council shall then take the recommendations into consideration when making their decision whether to confer or not to confer a honorary degree or award.

CHANCELLOR

PRO-CHANCELLOR