

**Policy Title:** Posthumous Conferral of an Award

**Policy Owner:** Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor

**Keywords:** Award Posthumous Conferral Graduation

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## 1. INTENT

This policy provides guidance on the conferral of an award in the situation in which a student of the University dies before completion of the requirements of an award in which he or she is enrolled.

## 2. ORGANISATIONAL SCOPE

Any student enrolled in an award at Edith Cowan University at the time of his or her death.

## 3. DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITION
Conferral	The bestowal of an award after all necessary requirements have been met.
Posthumous Award	The degrees, diplomas, certificates and other such awards as designated by the Council in this policy, conferred to a student after their death.

## 4. POLICY CONTENT

- 4.1 A posthumous award can be of great value to the family of the recipient and can provide a high level of good will to be developed in the community. In order to not compromise the standing of the University however, such a conferral should take account of the wishes of the immediate family as well as the academic performance of the student

- 4.2 Within the context of posthumous awards, this policy defines:
- The conditions under which an award can be considered; and
  - The mechanisms by which the decision to grant such an award should be made
- 4.3 At all times, these situations must be handled with considerable sensitivity and discretion, avoiding the possibility of giving the family concerned unreasonable or incorrect expectations as to the eventual outcome.
- 4.4 When considering the granting of a posthumous award at ECU, the following conditions must be met:
- 4.4.1 At the time of death, the student had an enrolled status in an award at the University, but had not completed the requirements of the award;
- 4.4.2 Application for conferral of such an award should be made by an advocate for the student with the consent of the family;
- 4.5 Application should be made to the School in which the student was enrolled;
- 4.6 For a *Coursework Award*, at the time of death a student must have satisfactorily completed at least two thirds of their course at ECU and the University must be satisfied that the student's performance in the award would lead to the conclusion that the student would have successfully completed the award;
- 4.7 For a *Research Award*, at the time of death the student must have completed sufficient laboratory work, papers and publications, literature reviews, or other tangible evidence to satisfy the University that had they lived, in the normal course of events, the requirements of the degree would have been satisfied.

#### *Exceptional Circumstances – Coursework Awards*

- 4.8 An exceptional circumstances case may be made for the conferral of a posthumous award, where the deceased student had not completed at least two thirds of the coursework degree, but was very close to that level, and had performed meritoriously in the degree. The case should be made by the relevant Executive Dean to the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, who will seek the endorsement of the Vice-Chancellor.

#### *Approval Sequence*

- 4.9 The approval sequence for ECU coursework awards:
1. School (initiates the process after application by family or advocate)
  2. Relevant Executive Dean (School Approval)
  3. Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor
  4. ***Exceptional circumstances only*** – Vice-Chancellor (see 4.8 above).
  5. Academic Board
  6. University Council

4.10 The approval sequence for ECU research awards:

1. School (initiates the process after application by Family or Advocate)
2. Relevant Executive Dean; (School Approval)
3. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
4. Academic Board
5. University Council

4.11 Due to its incomplete nature, the presentation of a Posthumous Award contravenes rule 76 which relates to the requirements to complete an award. Under Rule 91, the University Council, on the recommendation of Academic Board, may grant exemptions from the Rules in individual cases.

## 5. ACCOUNTABILITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In relation to this policy, the following positions are responsible for the following:

### *Policy Owner*

The Policy Owner Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor has overall responsibility for the content of this policy and its operation in ECU.

### *Staff/students*

Staff/students are required to comply with the content of this policy and to seek guidance in the event of uncertainty as to its application.

## 6. RELATED DOCUMENTS:

Nil

## 7. CONTACT INFORMATION

For queries relating to this document please contact:

Policy Owner	Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor
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## 8. APPROVAL HISTORY

Policy Approved by:	Vice-Chancellor
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