

# Alumni Awards Policy

## Table of Contents

1. Purpose
2. Scope
3. Eligibility Criteria
  - 3.1. Convocation Medal
  - 3.2. Distinguished Alumni Award
  - 3.3. Early Career Alumni Award
  - 3.4. John Moriarty AM Impact Award
4. Confidentiality
5. Nomination
6. Selection
7. Notification
8. Presentation of Awards
9. Revocation
10. Related links

## 1. Purpose

- a. Flinders University acknowledges the significant contributions made by its graduates by awarding the following alumni awards:
  - i. Convocation Medal
  - ii. Distinguished Alumni Award
  - iii. Early Career Alumni Award
  - iv. John Moriarty AM Impact Award.
- b. This policy provides the basis upon which Flinders University awards these alumni awards.

## 2. Scope

This policy applies to alumni awards awarded by Flinders University and alumni award nominees and recipients.

## 3. Eligibility Criteria

### 3.1. Convocation Medal

- a. The Convocation Medal recognises a graduate who has made a substantial and outstanding contribution to the local, national and/or international community through one or more of the following ways:
  - i. leadership in their field or profession
  - ii. the advancement of knowledge
  - iii. the advancement of professional practice
  - iv. community service.

- b. The Convocation Medal will not normally be awarded to a recipient of another University honour, or someone who would more appropriately be considered for such other honour (such as an Honorary Degree or Emeritus Professorship), unless the nominee has made a significant further or separate contribution that merits recognition by the Convocation Medal.
- c. Only one Convocation Medal may be awarded in any one year, or the Alumni Awards Selection Committee may recommend that no award is made.

### **3.2. Distinguished Alumni Award**

- a. The Distinguished Alumni Award recognises graduates who have distinguished themselves in one or more of the following ways:
  - i. contributions which have benefited Flinders University and/or the alumni
  - ii. contributions which have benefited the community, locally, nationally, or internationally
  - iii. humanitarian services and contributions to society
  - iv. professional achievements
  - v. services to the University (provided that such service is not the sole criterion or a mandatory criterion)
  - vi. a significant role in a single incident or activity in one of the areas identified above.
- b. A person may be awarded only one Distinguished Alumni Award.
- c. The Distinguished Alumni Award will not normally be awarded to a recipient of a Convocation Medal, or a person who would more appropriately be considered for that award.
- d. A recipient of a Distinguished Alumni Award may in the future also be nominated for a Convocation Medal, if the nominee has made a significant further or separate contribution that merits such recognition.
- e. Up to four Distinguished Alumni Awards may be awarded in any year, or the Alumni Awards Selection Committee may recommend that no awards are made.

### **3.3. Early Career Alumni Award**

- a. The Early Career Alumni Award recognises the outstanding achievement and contribution of graduates in their early career who meets the following criteria:
  - i. have received their most recent degree from Flinders University in the past five years
  - ii. have been awarded a Bachelor Degree or higher award from the University
  - iii. demonstrate significant contribution within their chosen field or to the community at a local, national or international level (either as part of their employment or in a voluntary/not-for-profit role).
- b. A person may hold only one Early Career Alumni Award.
- c. The Early Career Alumni Award will not normally be awarded to a recipient of a Convocation Medal or a Distinguished Alumni Award, or a person who would more appropriately be considered for those awards.
- d. A recipient of an Early Career Alumni Award may in the future also be nominated for a Distinguished Alumni Award or Convocation Medal (whichever is the more appropriate at the time of nomination).

- e. Up to six Early Career Alumni Awards may be awarded in any year, or the Alumni Awards Selection Committee may recommend that no awards are made.

### **3.4. John Moriarty AM Impact Award**

- a. The John Moriarty AM Impact Award recognises a graduate whose exceptional efforts have significantly enhanced the wellbeing, empowerment, and advancement of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities in one or more of the following ways:
  - i. a demonstrated and sustained contribution to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities leading to positive outcomes for Indigenous people
  - ii. as a passionate leader of reconciliation within Australia, driving change through their work in either a professional or volunteer setting
  - iii. demonstrating leadership or advocacy within Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities through the development of public and social policy, volunteerism or activism.
- b. A person may hold only one John Moriarty AM Impact Award.
- c. The John Moriarty AM Impact Award will not normally be awarded to a recipient of a Convocation Medal, a Distinguished Alumni Award or an Early Career Alumni Award, or a person who would more appropriately be considered for those awards.
- d. A recipient of the John Moriarty AM Impact Award may in the future also be nominated for a Convocation Medal, Distinguished Alumni Award or Early Career Alumni Award, if the nominee has made a significant further or separate contribution that merits such recognition.
- e. Only one John Moriarty AM Impact Award may be awarded in any year, or the Alumni Awards Selection Committee may recommend that no award is made.

## **4. Confidentiality**

- a. Alumni award nominations must be treated with the strictest confidence.
- b. During the nomination process, the University will liaise with the nominator only to advise them of the outcome. If the nomination is successful, both the nominator and nominee will be advised of the outcome.
- c. The names of successful nominees will not be released until after the nominee has formally accepted the award.

## **5. Nomination**

- a. The closing date for alumni award nominations will be determined by the Chief of Staff (or nominee).
- b. Alumni Relations will place notices on the call for nominations in relevant publications at least two months before the closing date.
- c. Any graduate, current or former staff member, current or former student or member of the public may nominate a person who meets the eligibility criteria for an alumni award.
- d. Self-nominations are not accepted.
- e. Nominations specifying the proposed alumni award and addressing the selection criteria for that award are to be submitted in confidence to the Senior Alumni Relations Manager.
- f. Posthumous nominations will be considered for all awards. The nominee must have been deceased for no more than five years at the time of the nomination.

## 6. Selection

- a. A University committee convened by the Chief of Staff will review nominations and recommend a shortlist to the Alumni Awards Selection Committee, along with the full list of nominees. The shortlist will be distributed to Alumni Awards Selection Committee at least two weeks prior to the committee meeting.
- b. In the case of the John Moriarty AM Impact Award, the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous) (or nominee) will review nominations and recommend a shortlist to the Alumni Awards Selection Committee.
- c. The Alumni Awards Selection Committee will evaluate the shortlisted nominations against the eligibility criteria for the awards and will recommend nominees to the Vice-Chancellor for approval at least six weeks before the awards are to be presented.
- d. Recommendations to the Vice-Chancellor must be supported by not less than two thirds of the Alumni Awards Selection Committee members present at the meeting at which they are considered.
- e. The Alumni Awards Selection Committee is comprised of:
  - i. a member of the University's Council nominated by the Chancellor (Chairperson)
  - ii. a member of the Senior Executive Team nominated by the Vice-Chancellor
  - iii. up to six other Flinders graduates, including where possible, past alumni award recipients, appointed by the Chairperson on the recommendation of the Chief of Staff.
- f. Members are appointed for a three-year term and may be re-appointed.
- g. Members are not eligible to be considered for an alumni award while they are appointed to the Alumni Awards Selection Committee.
- h. A quorum for meetings of the committee is four members.

## 7. Notification

- a. Following the Vice-Chancellor's approval of the awards, the Chief of Staff (or nominee) will advise the successful nominees and invite them to accept the award. In the case of posthumous nominations, the Chief of Staff (or nominee) will advise the executor and/or the immediate family of the nominee, as appropriate.
- b. In the event a nominee declines to accept an award, the award will be deemed to be rescinded. The Alumni Awards Selection Committee may recommend a new nominee to the Vice-Chancellor for the award for that year.

## 8. Presentation of Awards

- a. The alumni awards will be presented each year at an appropriate University function.
- b. The awards will be in a form determined by the Chief of Staff (or nominee) and will include the recipient's name and an appropriate citation.
- c. If a recipient of an award is unable to attend the function to receive the award in person, the award may be presented at the function in absentia or, if timing and resources are available, be awarded at a separate, appropriate event.

## 9. Revocation

- a. A recipient of an alumni award will not, by means of any action, association or inaction, bring the University into disrepute. The University reserves the right to revoke an alumni award if the recipient engages in activities that are not in line with the University's values or brings disrepute to the University.
- b. The decision to revoke an award will be made by the Vice-Chancellor on the recommendation of the Alumni Awards Selection Committee.
- c. A recipient of an alumni award may surrender the award by giving written notice to the Vice-Chancellor.

## 10. Related links

[Alumni awards and past recipients](#)

<b>Approval Authority</b>	Vice-Chancellor
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Chief of Staff
<b>Approval Date</b>	25 March 2025
<b>Effective Date</b>	25 March 2025
<b>Review Date*</b>	2028
<b>Last amended</b>	
<b>CM file number</b>	CF16/498

\* Unless otherwise indicated, this policy or procedures still apply beyond the review date.

Printed versions of this document are not controlled. Please refer to the [Flinders Policy Library](#) for the latest version.