



Provost's Office

Honorary Doctorate Policy

MBZUAI-HD-PO-POL-V1.0

Effective Date 07/12/2023

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1. Document Control Information

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Policy Review

Person responsible	Workflow	Date
Provost	Initiate	13 Sept 2023
General Counsel/Legal	Review	14 Nov 2023
A/ Dir. IEQA & Strategy	Endorse	20 Nov 2023
Senior Management Team	Review	28 Nov 2023
President	Approve	07 Dec 2023

2. Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
Coming into disrepute	To lose a previously good public or community reputation through actions, speech, or associations that are unlawful or criminal or are widely regarded as reprehensible, unethical, or highly inappropriate. A person may come into disrepute through actions, speech, or associations connected with their public or private lives.
Conferral	The granting or bestowal of a title, degree, benefit or right.
Honorary Doctorate	An honorary doctorate is a prestigious academic degree which a university awards to recognize a person's outstanding achievements or contributions to a specific field, as aligned with the mission of the university.
Proposed recipient	A person that is suggested or intended to receive something

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3. Introduction

This policy describes the requirements and principles governing the bestowing of an MBZUAI honorary doctorate.

4. Objective

The objective of this policy is to guide the nomination and awarding of honorary degrees.

5. Scope

This policy applies to proposers and approvers of all honors at the university. It does not apply to student awards.

6. Honorary Doctorate Award Policy

6.1. Nomination and Approval

6.1.1. The nomination and approval of an honorary doctorate must:

- Align with the University's objectives, values, strategies, policies, and community expectations;
- Respect and reflect the diversity of the community;
- Not damage the University's reputation or other interests, including the University's commitment to maintaining high standards of integrity, academic freedom, and freedom of speech; and
- Be commensurate with the contribution recognized by the honorary doctorate.

6.1.2. Nominations for honorary doctorates must include:

- a. Written evidence of support from the nominator.
- b. A one-page narrative explaining why the candidate is worthy of an honorary doctorate from MBZUAI.
- c. A curriculum vitae.
- d. Written evidence of support from the Provost.
- e. A summary of the nominee's achievements.
- f. A citation evidencing the nominee's credentials relevant to the award, to be read out at the conferral ceremony (up to 250 words).

6.1.3. MBZUAI President's approval of the Honorary Doctorate.

- For the MBZUAI President to approve the recipient, the following criteria must be adhered to:

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6.1.3.1 The President is satisfied that the recipient is a person of probity and shows distinguished eminence in some discipline or branch of learning associated with the proposed program.

6.1.3.2 Once the MBZUAI President has approved the potential recipient, the proposal will be sent to the University’s Board of Trustees for approval. Upon Board approval, MBZUAI will seek approval from the Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA) of the intent to award an honorary degree and provide a justification for the recipient who will be awarded the honorary doctorate.

6.1.4. Following the above approvals, the proposed recipient will be advised of the offer of the degree.

6.1.5. If the proposed recipient accepts the offer of the Honorary Doctorate, the General Counsel informs the relevant stakeholders.

Related: CAA Honorary Doctorate Award Criteria 26 June 2023

6.2. General

6.2.1. Upon conferral, a recipient of an honorary doctorate is an alumnus of the University.

6.2.2. Conferral of an honorary doctorate under this policy does not give the recipient any special privileges or any control or responsibility, nor must it be used to seek material benefits from the association of the name with the University.

6.2.3. To avoid doubt, nothing in this policy requires an honorary doctorate to be approved if no candidate or nominee meets the selection requirements for the honorary doctorate.

6.2.4. Honorary doctorate awards are conferred at a graduation ceremony or other suitable University conferral ceremony.

6.2.5 Records of actions taken per this policy must be created and managed within the University’s Records Management Policy guidelines.

6.3. Withdrawing an honor

6.3.1. In the event of a change in the recipient’s circumstances (for example, if the recipient comes into disrepute), the President may, on reasonable grounds, withdraw the honorary doctorate.

7. Related Documents

Section	Related Document(s)
6.1	CAA Honorary Doctorate Award Criteria – 26 June 2023

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8. Version History

Version number	Person responsible	Date of change	Comments
V1.0	Provost	new	First approved version
V1.0	President	07/12/2023	Approved by president

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