

Mohamed bin Zayed University
of Artificial Intelligence



جامعة محمد بن زايد
للذكاء الاصطناعي

Provost's Office

Honorary Doctorate Policy

Honorary_Doctorate-AD-POL-V2.0

September 2025

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1. Statement

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

2. Purpose

This policy details the nomination and awarding of honorary degrees.

3. Scope

This policy applies to proposers and approvers of all university honors, but it does not apply to student awards.

4. Nomination

4.1 The nomination and approval of an honorary doctorate must:

- i. Align with the University's objectives, values, strategies, policies, and community expectations.
- ii. Respect and reflect on the diversity of the community.
- iii. Not damaging to 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
- iv. Be commensurate with the contribution recognized by the honorary doctorate.

4.2 Nominations for honorary doctorates must include:

- i. Written evidence of support from the nominator.
- ii. A one-page narrative explaining why the candidate is worthy of an honorary doctorate from MBZUAI.
- iii. A curriculum vitae.
- iv. Written evidence of support from the Provost or the nomination committee.
- v. A citation evidencing the nominee's credentials relevant to the award, to be read out at the conferral ceremony (up to 250 words).

5. President's Approval of the Honorary Doctorate

5.1 For the MBZUAI President to approve the recipient, 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.

5.2 Following the President's approval, the proposed recipient will be advised of the offer of the degree.

5.3 If the proposed recipient accepts the offer of the Honorary Doctorate, the BoT Secretary informs

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the relevant stakeholders.

6. Upon Conferral of the Honorary Doctorate

- 6.1 Upon conferral, a recipient of an honorary doctorate is an alum of the University.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 Honorary doctorate awards are conferred at a graduation ceremony or other suitable University conferral ceremony.
- 6.5 Records of actions taken by this policy must be created and managed within the University's Records Management Policy guidelines.

7. Withdrawing Honor

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.

8. Reference(S) and Related Document(S)

None are applicable.

Definitions

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 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 that a university awards to recognize a person's outstanding achievements or contributions to a specific field that aligns with the university's mission.
Proposed recipient	A person who is suggested or intended to receive something.

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Document Control Information

Version number	Person responsible	Date of change	Comments
V1.0	Provost	New	First approved version
V1.0	President	2023-12-07	Approved by the President
V2.0	President	2025-03-20	Deleted the reference to the requirement to advise CAA. Changed 5.3 from General Counsel to BoT Secretary.

Approval List (as per the Delegation of Authority)

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Sequence Number	Sequence Roles	Responsible Role	Comments	Date
1.	Business Owner/Initiator	Provost		2025-03-20
2.	IEQA Review	Head of IEQA		2025-03-20
3.	Legal Review	Legal Counsel		2025-03-20
4.	Endorser	DSQA		2025-04-16
5.	Approver	President		2025-09-23

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