Policy Document Administrator	Registrar, registrar@aut.edu.au; (02) 9262 7890
Policy Document Approver	Academic Board
Responsible Body/Person	Academic Board
Next Review date	October 2029
Superseded documents	Death Affliction Policy for Research Awards
Related documents	*Conferral Policy*
Related HE Standards	1.5.1
Related National Code Standards	N/A

1. PURPOSE

To outline the process for considering the awarding of a qualification to students who are unable to complete their course of study due to passing away or suffering a debilitating ailment or affliction before completion of all requirements for an **award**.

2. DEFINITIONS

Definitions for any words in **Bold** in this document can be found in the Policy Glossary.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to **students**.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

AUT wishes to recognise the achievements of students who have completed or nearly completed the requirements of their award, but before completion or conferral, pass away or suffer a debilitating ailment or affliction which will impact their ability to complete the requirements of the course. This policy outlines the principles used to determine eligibility for the conferral of a posthumous or major disability award. The Academic Board may confer an award of the **University** in such cases. The ability to confer awards under this policy may not be delegated.

5. POLICY APPLICATION

Higher Degrees by Research:

Should a candidate decease after submission of a thesis or major project but before it has been awarded and the examiners recommend the degree be awarded, then on the advice of the Research Committee, at its discretion, the Academic Board may confer the award posthumously provided that any corrections required would not have involved a substantial rewriting of the thesis. In such cases a note prepared by the Vice-Chancellor of the circumstances relating to the thesis and the lack of the required corrections is to be appended to the copies of the thesis lodged in any libraries.

Should a candidate suffer a debilitating ailment or affliction after submission of a thesis or major project but before the degree has been awarded and the examiners recommend the degree be awarded, then on receipt of written advice from attending medical expertise and the advice of the Research Committee, at its discretion, the Academic Board may confer the award provided that any corrections required would not have involved a substantial rewriting of the thesis. In such cases a note prepared by the Vice-Chancellor of the circumstances relating to the thesis and the lack of the required corrections is to be appended to the copies of the thesis lodged in any libraries.

Should a candidate decease after the completion of requirements for an award but before it is conferred, a posthumous award will be conferred.

Coursework awards:

Should a candidate decease or suffer a debilitating ailment or affliction before completion of all requirements for an award, but have completed all but an insubstantial portion of the requirements, on the advice of the candidate's primary college and such other advice as the Chair of the Academic Board may request, at its discretion the Academic Board may confer a posthumous or major disability award. In considering the matter, the Academic Board may consider conferring an award for which the student had met all requirements.

If an award is issued under this policy, a note prepared by the University Registrar of the circumstances relating to the award and the lack of the required credit points is to be appended to the student's record. In addition to this, the University Registrar, on behalf of the Academic Board, will write a letter of condolence to the family of the deceased or disabled student.

The wording of all posthumously conferred awards would be as follows:

Example: J Citizen, PhD (*awarded posthumously*)

6. VERSION HISTORY

Version	Approved by	Approval Date	Effective Date	Changes made
1.x	Academic Board	18/10/2019	18/10/2019	Initial policy
2	Academic Board	04/08/2023	04/08/2023	Updated policy
3	Vice-Chancellor	Feb 2025	Feb 2025	Implementing University template and minor editorial updates
4	Academic Board	24/10/2025	24/10/2025	Updated policy

Any hard copy of this electronic document may not be current as the University regularly reviews its policies. The latest version can be found online at aut.edu.au