



**Classification:** Governance

**Approving Authority:** President

**Responsible Authority:** Board of Trustees

**Implementing Authority:** President's Office

**Effective Date:** February 2026

**Review Date:** January 2028

## ***Awarding of Honorary Degrees: Policy & Procedures***

### **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for awarding honorary degrees by the American University of Iraq – Baghdad (AUIB). Honorary degrees recognize individuals of exceptional distinction whose life, work, and contributions reflect AUIB’s mission, values, and commitment to advancing education, knowledge, and societal progress in Iraq, the region, and the world.

### **2.0 Scope**

- 2.1 This policy applies to all honorary degrees conferred by AUIB. It outlines:
- 2.1.1 Eligibility criteria
  - 2.1.2 Nomination and selection procedures
  - 2.1.3 Approval authority
  - 2.1.4 Conferral guidelines

### **3.0 Types of Honorary Degrees**

- 3.1 AUIB may confer the following honorary degrees, consistent with international academic norms:
- 3.1.1 Doctor of Humane Letters (D.H.L.) – Exceptional contributions to the arts, humanities, social sciences, or public service.
  - 3.1.2 Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) – Distinguished achievements in scientific research or technological innovation.
  - 3.1.3 Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) – Significant contributions to government, diplomacy, human rights, or legal scholarship.
  - 3.1.4 Doctor of Business Administration (D.B.A.) – Exemplary leadership and innovation in business, economics, or industry.
  - 3.1.5 Other degrees – Upon recommendation and approval, honorary degrees in other disciplines aligned with AUIB’s mission.
- 3.2 Eligibility Criteria  
Nominees for honorary degrees must meet one or more of the following criteria:
- 3.2.1 Demonstrated excellence in education, research, or scholarship.
  - 3.2.2 Distinguished achievements in public service, diplomacy, or leadership.
  - 3.2.3 Significant impact on Iraqi society, culture, science, technology, or economic development.
  - 3.2.4 Exceptional philanthropy that advances higher education or social well-being.
  - 3.2.5 Internationally recognized achievements that enhance AUIB’s reputation and mission.

#### **Exclusions:**



- Current AUIB faculty, staff, trustees, or active government officials directly involved with AUIB's operations are generally ineligible while in office or service, unless extraordinary circumstances are approved by the Board.
- Honorary degrees shall not be awarded in exchange for gifts, financial contributions, or favors.

### 3.3 Nomination Process

#### Who May Nominate:

- 3.3.1 Any member of the Board of Trustees
- 3.3.2 The University President
- 3.3.3 Senior faculty through the Faculty Council (if applicable)

### 3.4 Nomination Packet

#### Each nomination must include:

- 3.4.1 A formal letter of nomination
- 3.4.2 The nominee's biography and list of achievements
- 3.4.3 A statement explaining the alignment with AUIB's mission and values
- 3.4.4 Supporting documentation, references, or letters of endorsement

### 3.5 Submission Timeline

- 3.5.1 Nominations should be submitted at least six months before the intended conferral date, typically tied to commencement ceremonies or special university events.
- 3.5.2 Nominations shall be submitted to the Office of the President, which shall forward completed packets to the Honorary Degrees Committee.

### 3.6 Honorary Degrees Committee

- 3.6.1 A standing committee appointed by the Board of Trustees, composed of:
  - Two trustees
  - The University President
  - Two senior faculty members, provided there is no conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest
- 3.6.2 Committee members shall serve renewable three-year terms, appointed by the Board.
- 3.6.3 The committee reviews all nominations and submits recommendations to the full Board.

### 3.7 Board Approval

- 3.7.1 Final approval requires a two-thirds majority vote from the Board of Trustees.
- 3.7.2 The Board may defer, decline, or request further information on any nomination.

### 3.8 Conferral Ceremonies

- 3.8.1 Honorary degrees are normally awarded at commencement ceremonies or special convocations.
- 3.8.2 Recipients are encouraged to deliver a short commencement address or participate in a dialogue with students and faculty.

### 3.9 Rescission of Degree

- 3.9.1 The University reserves the right to rescind an honorary degree if the recipient later engages in conduct inconsistent with AUIB's values and mission.
- 3.9.2 A decision to rescind requires initiation by the Honorary Degrees Committee and approval by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Trustees.

### 3.10 Record Retention and Publicity



- 3.10.1 The Office of the President shall maintain official records of all honorary degree nominations, approvals, and conferrals.
- 3.10.2 Public announcements must be coordinated with AUIB's Marketing and Communications Office to ensure consistent messaging and appropriate recognition.
- 3.11 Effective Date and Review
  - 3.11.1 This policy is effective upon approval by the Board of Trustees.
  - 3.11.2 It shall be reviewed every three years to ensure alignment with AUIB's mission and evolving best practices.

**Related Policies and Documents:**

Conferral of Degrees Policy  
Commencement Ceremony Policy  
Conflict of Interest Policy  
Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy  
Revoking Degrees Policy  
Graduation Policy