University of St Andrews

Policy on the appointment of Emeritus Professors

1. The title of Emeritus, indicating that a professor is retired, is conferred by the University Court on any colleague who retires from a professorial post in the University. While some such retirements may be marked by academic events or tributes in Schools, conferences, learned societies and publications, within the University the conferral of the title is automatic and is handled by Human Resources.

2. Colleagues are not eligible for the title until they retire fully, which is defined as moving from a salaried position to taking a pension and ceasing to work for this or any other university in an academic capacity.

3. An Emeritus Professor will normally have the right to the following privileges:
   a. Access to library and IT facilities of the University at a level to be determined by the University Librarian and Chief Information Officer, as well as the University sports facilities at staff rates.
   b. Invitations to selected graduations, special University events and occasions as deemed appropriate by the Office of the Principal.
   c. A direct connection and ongoing relationship with the Emeritus Professor’s former School, including selected invitations to attend academic events, opportunities to continue making contributions to research and impact, and other related academic activities at the discretion of the Head of School.
   d. Access to appropriate School facilities at the discretion of the Head of School. It should be noted that Emeritus professors are not automatically entitled to office or laboratory space and should expect to make way for current students or staff if space is limited.
   e. Use of the title 'Emeritus Professor'.

4. Once Emeritus status has been conferred and accepted, the normal duration of the status is for life unless it is suspended, surrendered or withdrawn. Professors are expected to inform Human Resources of any circumstances that may require suspension (such as re-engagement in an academic post by the University of St Andrews) or surrender (such as employment in an academic post at another University). The title may also be withdrawn at the discretion of the Principal’s Office as a consequence of contravention of policies, abuse of privileges or matters likely to be of reputational concern to the University.

5. There is no remuneration attached to Emeritus Professor status.

6. Emeritus Professors may occasionally be asked to carry out certain tasks on behalf of the University, such as membership of advisory or appeals panels. Such tasks will not normally be remunerated.
7. Emeritus Professors are not full professors of the University in terms of the University Acts, nor are they University employees or members of the Senatus. As such, they have no right or capacity to vote or to nominate candidates in University processes such as Senate elections or nominations for Honorary degrees.

8. Notwithstanding the provision at 7 (above), Emeritus Professors are subject to the policies, rules and regulations of the University.