

**Naming Policy**

<b>Operational owner:</b>	Patrick Degg, Director of Advancement and Events
<b>Executive owner:</b>	Greg Melly, Senior Vice-President, Advancement and Community
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<b>Related documents:</b>	Ethical Conduct: Bribery, Fraud, Gifts, Hospitality and Conflict of Interests Policy Philanthropic Gift Policy Data Protection Policy

**Approval History**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Reviewed by</b>	<b>Approved by</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	New policy created by Patrick Degg	Advancement Committee	04/12/2018
1	New policy created by Patrick Degg	Executive Board	28/03/2019

## **1 Introduction**

### **1.1 Purpose**

1.1.1 The purpose of this policy is to describe the principles that the University of Surrey will follow to name or rename buildings, facilities, research centres, academic posts, scholarships, bursaries and prizes, and other sponsorship including events which for the purposes of this policy will be collectively called “naming opportunities” or “naming rights”.

1.1.2 If naming rights are being considered, then the operational owner of this policy, the Director of Advancement and Events, should be consulted and involved at the earliest opportunity. Only Advancement can take forward a recommendation to Advancement Committee, which then makes a recommendation to the Vice-Chancellor, Executive Board and Council.

1.1.3 Naming may be associated with three scenarios:

- To honour individuals for particular achievement.
- To recognise significant benefaction (on a discretionary basis).
- As part of a commercial contract or agreement.

The policy will outline, in each of the above scenarios, the line of responsibility for the final decision of the naming opportunity.

1.1.4 Naming or changing the name of naming opportunity is something that should be considered thoroughly, and not based on a strong sentiment that may fade over time. This is particularly the case when considering building and facilities, but not exclusively so, due to the:

- Cost of signage and associated literature.
- Confusion arising from the need to re-orientate staff, students and visitors.
- Relatively small number of naming opportunities available.
- Any potential embarrassment arising from name changes.
- Any potential unexpected tax charges.

1.1.5 In the same way that the physical appearance of the campus and the behaviour of its staff and students can add to or detract from the institutional brand, so too can the naming of buildings, events, facilities, scholarships, bursaries, etc.

1.1.6 In general, the naming of buildings or facilities should not be discipline-specific due to the fluid nature of occupancy. However, in circumstances where a facility is discipline-specific, eg a specialist laboratory, a name which reflects the current discipline and use may be appropriate.

## **1.2 Scope**

- 1.2.1 This Policy applies to all University staff who are involved in any activity relating to naming or renaming buildings, facilities, research centres, academic posts, scholarships, bursaries and prizes, and other sponsorship including events which for the purposes of this policy will be collectively called naming opportunities.

## **2 Policy principles**

- 2.1 Naming opportunities should enhance the brand of the University, ensuring that names are consonant with the mission, values and goals of the University.
- 2.2 Names used for existent structures such as buildings or facilities, on campus or in surrounding areas, should not be reused.
- 2.3 Consideration should be given to the most appropriate naming convention e.g. house, hall, scholarship, studentship.
- 2.4 The naming opportunities must comply with any legal agreements entered into by the University, for example with funding bodies or planning authorities or written agreements with donors or sponsors.
- 2.5 Naming opportunities where they arise from a financial contribution should only be offered in line with the financial guidelines below and must be approved by the University before being confirmed with the donor. Until that approval is given, it must be made clear to the donor that any naming opportunity is unconfirmed and should not, for example, be referred to by the donor.
- 2.6 The consideration of a naming proposal will be informed by a due diligence report on the donor produced by Advancement in accordance with the Philanthropic Donor Due Diligence Policy.
- 2.7 Where used in this Naming Policy, the term “naming rights” should be understood in its conventional meaning as referring to the ongoing practice by the University of acknowledging a philanthropic gift by naming a project, building, position or other aspect of the University by reference to the name of the donor. The term should not be construed as creating any actual, legal right to be acknowledged by the University which is exercisable by a donor. Correspondence and other documentation regarding naming rights, both internal and external, should make this position clear.
- 2.8 The University should ensure that the arrangements are gratuitous and not contracts for sponsorship or other services.

## **2.5 Honorary naming opportunities**

- 2.5.1 Names of current staff, students or lay-members of the University should not be used in naming opportunities as a recognition of contribution. Names of recent or past staff, students or lay-members may occasionally be used for exceptional service for example, if associated with major change within the University or academic achievement of the highest excellence. In either case, the name would merit special recognition for outstanding achievement and distinction in a field or activity consonant with the mission of the University. It would normally be expected that the name would have clear recognition outside the University, for example by a Nobel Prize or similar

award.

- 2.5.2 Names of people from outside the University can be used for buildings. Ideally there would be an association with Guildford and or the County of Surrey or the University, but this is not a fixed requirement. The name would merit special recognition for outstanding achievement and distinction in a field or activity consonant with the mission of the University. It would normally be expected that the name would have clear recognition outside the University, for example by a Nobel Prize or similar award.

## **2.6 Naming of capital projects**

- 2.6.1 The naming of buildings or facilities in recognition of a major philanthropic gift is at the University's sole discretion. Any decision related to the naming of buildings or facilities will be made by the University on a case-by-case basis and with regard to the specific circumstances of the gift. The University may consider awarding naming rights where it considers that a *significant amount* of the fundraising appeal target or project cost of the building(s) or facility/facilities has been met by the donor's gift. An award of naming rights may also be considered where exceptional philanthropic gifts are pivotal to the success of a project by virtue of their scale or by unlocking key government or private funding. The University may also consider exercising its discretion to name a building in recognition of extraordinary philanthropic contributions made by long-standing benefactors to the University, but where no gift has been made towards the cost of the specific building in question.

- 2.6.2 The term of the naming of a building or facility is limited to 25 years, though this might be extended by approval of the University, in consultation with the donor or his/her heirs and/or successors.

## **2.7 Naming of non-capital projects**

- 2.7.1 The naming of non-capital projects in recognition of a philanthropic gift is at the sole discretion of the University. For example, an award of naming rights may be considered by the University when the University considers that a *significant amount* of the cost of the activity is covered by a philanthropic gift. Qualifying philanthropic gifts may be in cash, gifts-in-kind, or in the form of a pledge agreed in writing in the form of a gift agreement (although an undertaking by the University to award naming rights will not form part of any gift agreement – see clause 2.10.1 below). Any philanthropic gift does not have to be directly used for the particular entity being named. For example, a donor may give a sum or several sums over a period of time for various purposes and be honoured at the University's sole discretion by the naming of a building or an activity such as a Centre or Institute.

- 2.7.2 Typically, naming rights will persist for as long as funding continues for the non-capital project, though this might be extended by approval of the University, in consultation with the donor or his/her heirs and/or successors.

## **2.8 Guidance for commercial naming of buildings or facilities**

- 2.8.1 Unless bespoke from the outset, buildings should not, in general, be named after specific disciplines. However, alongside, albeit distinct from commercial partnerships or agreements it may be appropriate. These require a thorough degree of due diligence to avoid any appearance of commercial influence or conflict of interest.

2.8.2 Where naming rights are granted pursuant to a philanthropic gift from a company, advice should be taken to ensure that such arrangements are not considered contractual and/or commercial. In these situations further guidance should be sought from Finance who will discuss with Legal and/or seek guidance from the University's external advisors as appropriate.

## **2.9 Approval process**

2.9.1 The University may initiate an open call for suggestions or an individual/group may submit suggestions. Proposals for naming of buildings, facilities and other named items should be submitted to the Advancement Committee for approval and recommendation to Executive Board and Council, after seeking endorsement as stipulated below.

2.9.2 Appropriate naming proposals may be agreed/declined summarily by the Advancement Committee, following any necessary consultation, where the buildings or facilities are deemed to be relatively low-profile.

2.9.3 The naming of a building or a facility is in the gift of the University and entirely at its discretion. All building and facility names will be reviewed by the University periodically. The University may revoke an award of naming rights at any time and for any reason. Termination of naming rights shall be managed by Advancement Committee, reporting to Executive Board and Council.

## **2.10 Gift agreements**

2.10.1 Where naming is associated with a gift to the University, a gift agreement should always be used. A gift agreement should acknowledge the existence and application of this Naming Policy, in particular the discretion of the University in granting naming rights. No gift agreement will create an obligation for the University to award naming rights, although this should not be interpreted as meaning that the University will not consider exercising its discretion to make such an award, where appropriate. In the case of legacy gifts, it should not be the normal expectation that recognition of the gift through naming should occur before the gift is received. But this should not be interpreted as meaning that a naming opportunity should not be granted in recognition of the legator where other factors apply, such as other contributions to the University.

## **2.11 Termination of Naming**

2.11.1 Naming is in the gift of the University and entirely at its discretion. All gift agreements should acknowledge that the University has no obligation to award or continue to award naming rights, and that it may revoke any award of naming rights at any time and for any reason. This should not be interpreted as meaning that the University will take the decision to terminate naming rights gratuitously and unexplainedly. Examples where the University may terminate an award of naming rights include where it considers the association with the name to be damaging to its reputation or if the donor is in breach of the gift agreement, for example through non-payment of agreed contributions. In the case of early termination, the University will generally write to the donor outlining its intention to revoke an award of naming rights and invite an opportunity to respond within 30 days, unless there are circumstances, which the University will consider at its sole discretion, that justify not doing so. Termination of naming rights shall be managed by Advancement in conjunction with the relevant approving body.

### **3 Governance requirements**

#### **3.1 Implementation / communication plan**

3.1.1 This policy is communicated to all staff as part of the University Policy website. University staff who regularly work with Advancement and those new to our activity will be routinely directed to the policy. Relevant information is also published on the Advancement pages of SurreyNet.

#### **3.2 Exceptions to this policy**

3.2.1 Unless detailed herein, there are no exceptions to this Policy.

#### **3.3 Review and change requests**

3.3.1 This Policy is regularly reviewed by the Director of Advancement. Minor changes will be reviewed and agreed by Advancement Committee. Major changes will be reviewed through Advancement Committee and submitted to Council for approval. Review will generally be every three years.

#### **3.4 Legislative context**

3.4.1 The University is acting within the guidelines of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as highlighted in the Data Protection Policy.

#### **3.5 Stakeholder statements**

3.5.1 In addition to Advancement staff, several stakeholders have been consulted on this revised Naming Policy. This includes Finance, Research and Innovation, Legal, Internal Audit.

##### 3.5.2 Equality

The University is strongly committed to equality of opportunity and the promotion of diversity for the benefit of all members of the University community. The University's approach is to promote equality across the full range of its activities, in employment, teaching and learning and as a partner working with and within local, national and international communities. Equality analysis is a process which examines how the impact of the policy has been considered on the diverse characteristics and needs of everyone it affects.

##### 3.5.3 Health & Safety

Health and Safety implications have been considered during the drafting of this policy and are incorporated (where necessary) into the policy.

For further information please see the University Health & Safety policy  
<https://www.surrey.ac.uk/about/our-policies>