

It can be extremely beneficial for study purposes to retain some human tissues for more than eight years. You may choose to provide consent for the retention of tissue beyond eight years, and are within your rights to give consent for certain organs or body parts only or to nominate any you wish to be excluded from this consent. You are strongly encouraged to consider this carefully if you have particular preferences in this regard.

Can my family donate my body?

The University does not accept donations from next of kin of deceased loved ones. The University is only able to receive donations that are made by the donor during his/her lifetime.

Memorial Services

Religious and memorial services may be conducted in the normal way, and are the responsibility of the family of the donor.

The University has a Memorial Garden located at Lakeside Memorial Park and Crematorium at Kanahooka in recognition of those who have donated their bodies to science and whose ashes are scattered there. Visitors are welcome to view the memorial within the crematorium's operating hours.



UOW BODY DONATION PROGRAM

AN INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION
CONNECT: UOW BODY DONATION PROGRAM

CONTACT DETAILS

Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health
University of Wollongong NSW 2522

Ph (02) 4221 3800

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PEOPLE WHO DONATE THEIR BODIES FOR MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH MAKE AN INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE.



The training and research this unique gift enables, can lead to important health discoveries that have the potential to alleviate suffering and improve community wellbeing. For this reason, it is greatly appreciated by medical researchers, teachers and students.

The University of Wollongong operates a Body Donation Program on behalf of the Faculty of Science, Medicine and Health to help us train doctors, nurses, medical scientists and other health professionals.

This brochure provides information about the UOW program for potential donors and their families.

Dignity, respect and anonymity

People donating their bodies to the University of Wollongong are guaranteed that their remains will be treated with dignity, respect and anonymity. Our researchers and students are at all times aware of the special privilege that has been accorded them by the generosity of donors and their families.

How do I donate my body to medical science?

The first step is to contact the UOW Body Donation Program through the contact details on the back of this brochure.

You will be sent an information package in the mail that includes donor consent forms which you can complete and return to the University if you wish to go ahead. We strongly advise you to discuss your plans with your family and medical advisor, so that they can carry out your wishes in the event of your death.

However, you should be aware that there are certain circumstances and medical conditions which preclude the University from accepting a human body. Final acceptance depends on the condition of the body at the time of death. This is determined at the time of notification. Next of kin or attending medical staff, when speaking to the Body Donation Coordinator, will be asked a series of questions. From this information, conditional suitability for the Program will be determined. Final suitability will be determined by blood tests once the body is at the University.

Other reasons why the University may be unable to accept your body, despite your signed donation consent form, include storage limitations, body weight, organ donation or autopsy at time of death. These and other issues affecting acceptance are outlined in information provided with donor consent forms at time of enquiry. If the University cannot accept the body, next of kin will be notified as soon as possible so that they can make alternative funeral arrangements.

What happens after I die?

When you die, your immediate next of kin or medical staff should notify the Body Donation Program as soon as possible, by calling 02 4221 3800.

An initial assessment of your body will be performed based on the information provided over the phone. If it is deemed suitable, the donation will be conditionally accepted and the body will be collected and transported either by our designated Funeral Director or that of the family's choice – at no cost to your next of kin. Further assessment (blood testing) will occur once your body is at the University to determine its final suitability.

If accepted, your body will be embalmed to preserve it and keep it in a sterile condition. It will then be kept in cold storage until required for our research and teaching programs.

If you die outside of business hours, your family will be directed to call the University's approved Funeral Director on (02) 4272 4900 who will make arrangements with your family to collect your body. The Program Coordinator will be in contact with your family as soon as possible after that in business hours to establish suitability for the program.

The University may retain your body for as little time as a month or up to eight years, at which time your body will be cremated or buried according to your wishes. Costs of cremation will be carried by the University with your ashes returned to your next of kin or scattered at the University's Garden of Rest at Lakeside Memorial Park and Crematorium. Costs associated with burial and any additional services will be a private arrangement between your next of kin and the provider of the service. In the case of burial, the University recommends potential donors purchase a pre-paid plot of their choice.