

Biography of Professor Vassilios G. Agelidis



Professor Vassilios G. Agelidis was born on 17 October 1965 in Serres, Greece. He possesses dual nationality: Greek and Australian.

He earned a Bachelor of Engineering degree in Electrical Engineering from Democritus University of Thrace in Greece in 1988 with first-class honours. He pursued advanced studies in Canada, securing two prestigious scholarships—one for tuition fees from the Quebec Government and another for living expenses from Concordia University—before completing his Master of Applied Science in Electrical Engineering at Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec, in 1992. He was awarded a PhD degree in Electrical Engineering from Curtin University in Perth, Western Australia, in 1997. Additionally, he holds a graduate diploma in Business Administration from the Curtin Graduate School of Business in Western Australia, earned in 2000, and a postgraduate diploma in Teaching and Learning in the Higher Education sector from Curtin University, awarded in 1994.

Dr Agelidis has an extensive employment history being appointed at various positions and in many prestigious institutions. His academic career started with his move to Canada in 1989, where he attended Concordia University, in Montreal, Quebec as a graduate student while he was working as a teaching and research assistant until the time he migrated to Australia. He then worked at Curtin University in Perth, Western Australia, from 1993 to 1999, where he held positions first as an Associate Lecturer, then as a Lecturer, and before moving to the UK as a Senior Lecturer through promotion. From 2000 to 2004, he worked as a Senior Lecturer and Research Manager for the Intra-University Glasgow-Strathclyde Centre for Economic Renewable Power Delivery at the University of Glasgow in Scotland, U.K. Following that, Dr. Agelidis was appointed Chair of Power Engineering at Murdoch University in Perth from 2005 to 2006. His dynamism and endless energy to deliver results, one of his strengths and his transformational academic leadership were noticed. He was highly regarded by his peers from the eastern coast of Australia given that he very quickly moved to the top appointment in Australia for his field, taking up the only industry-funded-named-chair in Australia, the EnergyAustralia Chair in Power Engineering at the University of Sydney, Australia, from 2007 to 2010 at the very prestigious oldest university of Australia. Professor Agelidis became very influential and generated research funding at an unprecedented level through Government, industry, and philanthropy. He was involved in the planning and delivery of a notable research program of AUD 10 million for the “Smart grid smart city” research and demonstration portfolio of projects awarded to his sponsor EnergyAustralia by the Australian Commonwealth Government at the level of AUD 100 million. He established the ABB Technology Center with AUD 1 million in funding from a global company based in Switzerland and Sweden. He also provided the vision and the design for the late Sir William Tyree Laboratory in Power Engineering, one of the most generous philanthropists in Australia. In 2010, he was offered a strategic hire position at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Sydney. While his research funding was already very high and historically at all-times high, he secured even more competitive funding for his research from the Australian Research Council, including a significant grant of AUD 19 million, as a sole investigator, through the Solar Flagships investment in a once in a lifetime research infrastructure program funded by the Australian Commonwealth Government and the State Government of New South Wales, further solidifying his leadership in energy research in Australia. Professor Agelidis was a crucial stakeholder of the Tyree Energy Technologies Building built to house energy research at UNSW, named after his benefactor at the University of Sydney. Before he returned to Greece, he worked as a professor with Special Duties at the Technical University of Denmark in Copenhagen from 2016 to 2020. In June 2024, he joined the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Democritus University of Thrace in Greece as a professor.

Dr Agelidis was a visiting professor at Beijing Jiaotong University in China from 2011 to 2017 under generous funding from the Chinese Government's High-End Experts Program. Initially, this commitment involved being in Beijing for two months over four visits per annum, which was later reduced to one

month over two visits annually. He also held a visiting professorship in the Department of Electrical Engineering at Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN) from 2009 to 2018. Additionally, he was appointed as a Mentor in the Outstanding Fellows Programme at the Norwegian Institute of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim, Norway, from 2019 to 2023. In 2007, he received an Endeavour Executive Award from the Commonwealth Government of Australia, allowing him to engage in high-level academic collaborations for three months at Seoul National University of Technology in South Korea.

As an undergraduate student at Democritus University of Thrace, he was awarded scholarships from the Hellenic Scholarships Foundation and while in Canada from the Hellenic Scholarships Foundation of Canada. He also won a teaching and learning award at Curtin University for his innovations on the educational front and the Best supervisor of the year award at UNSW in Sydney. He has successfully supervised 23 PhD students through their defence.

His extensive research output includes over 200 journal articles published in periodicals with high-impact factors and more than 300 papers presented at international conferences. In 2004, he received the prestigious and extremely competitive Advanced Research Fellowship from the UK's Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) for young researchers paving his way to global leadership. He was awarded the first prize at the Electrica Awards in May 2010, an international technology competition organised by AREVA Transmission & Distribution in Paris, France, which included a €50,000 prize, winning among over 50 international research groups. He was the Technical Chair of the 39th IEEE Power Electronics Specialists Conference held in Rhodes, Greece, in 2008. He was elected the Vice-President of the IEEE Power Electronics Society in 2005 for a two-year appointment attesting to his global visibility, influence, and leadership in his field.

Dr. Agelidis has evaluated research grants and strategic research programs for fourteen countries, including Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Canada, the United Kingdom, Italy, Norway, Chile, Kazakhstan, and Latvia. His h-index is 91, with over 31,000 citations (Source: Google Scholar). In 2011, he served the Australian Commonwealth Government's Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR) as an expert, working under the strategic direction for an environmentally sustainable Australia to define the Strategic Roadmap for Australian Research Infrastructure, which outlined the needs of the Australian research community and provisionally allocated AUD 1.3 billion in funding over the next few years of the then Government's commitment to research.

Professor Agelidis is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE, USA, class of 2016), recognised for his outstanding contributions to power electronics, renewable energy conversion, and integration with the electricity grid. He has also been a Fellow of the UK's Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) since 2016.

He served on the International Board of Beijing Jiaotong University from 2016 to 2018 and the International Board of Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN), Malaysia, from 2016 to 2019. He was a Board Member of the Business Higher Education Round Table (B-HERT), a not-for-profit organisation in Australia that fosters collaboration between academia and industry. At B-HERT he held the position of Director from 2011 to 2016 and Chair of the Finance Committee from 2013 to 2015, where he was responsible for financial matters in compliance with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. Dr Agelidis was also a Distinguished Lecturer for the IEEE Power Electronics Society, serving two terms from 2017 to 2020, a position taking him travelling to the world to promote the field of power electronics and energy conversion to universities, inspiring young undergraduate and postgraduate students in countries like India, Malaysia, and others.

In his spare time, Professor Agelidis enjoys travelling, discovering new places and cultures, and meeting people from around the globe. He is passionate about music, digital media, photography, and sports, including biking and sailing.