2U: Scheme for the conferment of Honorary Degrees and Honorary Titles

Honorary Degrees

1. The University will confer honorary degrees of the University on persons of distinction who have made a major contribution to the work and/or development of the University and/or have earned local, regional, national or international distinction in activities associated more widely with learning, the professions, commerce, the arts, media, sciences, engineering or public affairs.

2. Subject to the terms of paragraph 1 above, the University will offer the following awards:

i. Honorary Doctorates:
   Doctor of Arts (DArts)
   Doctor of Business (DBus)
   Doctor of Design (DDes)
   Doctor of Economics (DEcon)
   Doctor of Education (DEd)
   Doctor of Engineering (DEng)
   Doctor of Fashion (DFash)
   Doctor of Human Sciences (DHSc)
   Doctor of Laws (LLD)
   Doctor of Letters (DLitt)
   Doctor of Maritime Studies (DMar)
   Doctor of Media (DMedia)
   Doctor of Music (DMus)
   Doctor of Science (DSc)
   Doctor of Sport (DSport)
   Doctor of Technology (DTech)
   Doctor of the University (DUniv)

ii. Honorary Masters
   Master of Arts (MA)
   Master of Design (MDes)
   Master of Business Administration (MBA)
   Master of Economics (MEcon)
   Master of Education (MED)
   Master of Law (LLM)
   Master of Science (MSc)
3. Nominations will normally only be considered where persons do not have an equivalent honorary award from another university.

4. Honorary Masters degrees will normally be considered for alumni of the University who have made a major contribution in their area of expertise. Only two awards will be issued annually and the alumnus must have normally completed their studies more than 3 years prior to any award being made.

5. Subject to paragraph 6 below, the University will not normally consider nominations for active politicians (local or national), current members of staff, suppliers of business to the University, or any such case where a perceived conflict of interest may arise.

6. Persons currently active in political life may be considered for an honorary title subject to the criteria below but may not be considered for such a title within an anticipated twelve-month period either before or after the scheduled date of a General Election;
   i. for contribution beyond party politics and for services to public life;
   ii. for their association with the region or the University;
   iii. for their contribution to developments in higher education; and
   iv. for their sympathy with and relevance to the Mission of the University, in particular with the development of the University’s strategic plan.

**Honorary Fellowships**

7. University Honorary Fellowships will normally be considered for persons who have rendered important and substantial services to the University over a sustained period of time and have been a member of or closely associated with the University.

8. The title of Honorary Fellow is not an academic title of the University and does not involve the award of an honorary degree.

**Community Fellowships**

9. The University may award one Community Fellowship per year to a nominee who has made an outstanding contribution to the local community.

10. The title of Community Fellow is not an academic title of the University and does not involve the award of an honorary degree.

**Process**

11. Nominations will be considered by the University’s Honorary Degrees Scrutiny Committee, before recommendations are submitted to the University’s Academic Board. The Terms of Reference and Composition of the Committee are set out in the Academic Handbook in Section 3.

12. The University will be flexible in the interpretation of the guidelines on honorary awards, recognising the contribution and impact of the individual rather than unduly focusing on any previously earned awards.
13. Honorary Degrees normally will be awarded annually at one of the University’s awards ceremonies. Normally, only one honorary graduand will be presented at each University awards ceremony, although where more than one school is attending there may be a matching number of honorary graduands. Awards may be presented at a different ceremony from that of the sponsoring school to provide a reasonable spread of awards across the schools.

14. Awards may be made at other suitable occasions and locations with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor.

15. Honorary Degrees will not be awarded in absentia but may, exceptionally, be awarded posthumously.

16. Nominations for the award of Honorary Degrees may be made at any time by members of the senior management team on behalf of their school/service and by prominent members of the community, through the Vice-Chancellor’s Office. Nominations must be made on forms obtainable from the Policy, Governance and Information service.

17. Nominations for Honorary Degrees are strictly confidential and must not be discussed with the persons concerned until the award has been approved by the University’s Academic Board, and the offer of the award made to the nominee by the Vice-Chancellor.

18. Where a nominee has an entry in a biographical reference book (e.g. Who’s Who) then the location of the entry should be noted and an extract provided, but awards will not be made solely upon a biographical reference.

19. The statement in support of the nomination must indicate clearly how the nominee meets the criteria set out in paragraphs 1, 3, 4, 5 or 6 above. The University’s Honorary Degrees Scrutiny Committee will pay particular attention to this statement before making a recommendation to the Academic Board.

20. The Vice-Chancellor will formally issue an invitation to the nominee after the nomination has been approved by the Academic Board.

21. Honorary graduates may publicise and use the relevant abbreviated title after their names. Honorary graduates may not use the title ‘Dr’ before their name, unless academically entitled to do so (i.e. through successful submission of a doctoral thesis).

22. Honorary degrees are not academic qualifications.