



Scheme for the Award of University Honours (Jan 2016)

Purpose

The University makes honorary awards to persons of eminence, excellence and leadership to celebrate their personal and professional standing, and to engage them in its long-term development as an institution of quality and distinction.

The University looks to its honorary graduates to provide role models and inspiration for the students and staff and expects recipients to develop a continuing relationship with those faculties and departments in which they have an interest.

The University sees its honorary graduates as enhancing its reputation and as key ambassadors for the University in the wider world.

Honorary Awards

The University makes the following honorary awards:

- ◇ Honorary Doctorates
- ◇ The Magna Carta Doctorate
- ◇ The Chancellor of the University's Medal
- ◇ Honorary Master of Business Administration
- ◇ Honorary Fellowship of the University

Doctoral Awards

The University makes the following honorary doctoral awards:

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|-------------------------------------|------------|
| ◇ Doctor of Arts | Hon D Arts |
| ◇ Doctor of Education | Hon D Ed |
| ◇ Doctor of Business Administration | Hon DBA |
| ◇ Doctor of Laws | Hon LLD |
| ◇ Doctor of Letters | Hon D Litt |
| ◇ Doctor of Music | Hon D Mus |
| ◇ Doctor of Science | Hon D Sc |
| ◇ Doctor of the University | Hon D Univ |

The special Magna Carta Doctorate may be awarded to a nationally or internationally renowned figure whose work had contributed to the advancement of democracy or human rights in some recognised field. The title of the Doctorate itself is taken from the University's approved list of honorary doctoral awards.

The title, **Doctor of the University**, is used for those honoured for their public service at national or international level or for **sporting** achievement. It is also used for those who have contributed significantly and exceptionally to the development of the University at a senior level.

Criteria for Honorary Doctorates

The University expects its doctoral honorands to have made a major contribution to their chosen field at national or international level.

That field might be education and academia, public service and the community, business and industry, the arts, politics and national leadership, philanthropy or any other area of public benefit in which the honorand has shown pre-eminence.

The University does not honour celebrities or public personalities in themselves unless they meet the criteria defined above in addition to their celebrity.

While honours are not confined to those whose life's work is largely achieved, recipients must have a proven, acknowledged and substantial body of service behind them before they will be considered.

The Chancellor's Medal

The Chancellor of the University's Medal was established in 2008 to offer a separate but prestigious and distinctive recognition for those worthy of honour for what they have done for the city and county.

The criterion for this award is exceptional contribution to the people and communities of Greater Lincolnshire.

Honorary MBA

The University awards an Honorary Masters in Business Administration (Hon MBA) to those who have made a significant contribution as business or public sector leaders at local or regional level.

Honorary Fellowship

The University awards an Honorary Fellowship of the University to those who have served the University in an outstanding capacity as members of staff or governors.

Integrity

To protect the integrity and independence of the honour, the University does not make honorary awards to

- Serving politicians¹
- Business leaders or others with whom the University has substantial commercial dealings
- Public servants with whom the University is in partnership in any activity other than educational or academic
- Benefactors of the University who do not otherwise meet the criteria for receipt of an honorary award
- Any other person to whom the award of an honour could be seen as reward for specific services rendered to the University and who do not otherwise meet the criteria for receipt of an honorary award.

¹ This refers to those currently active in party political activity at whatever level; it excludes those who have retired from active party politics or those without specific party affiliations.

Where a connection exists between the University and the proposed honorand, notwithstanding that the proposed person meets the criteria for the award, care must be taken that the conferment of the award would not give rise to speculation that it was given solely because of the connection.

The University Honours Committee

Honorary awards are made jointly in the name of the Board of Governors and the University's Academic Board.

The University Honours Committee is an independent committee and is responsible for inviting, scrutinising and deciding on nominations for honours on behalf of the Board of Governors and Academic Board. It may also agree new award titles within the current framework. Major changes to the scheme must, however, be approved by both Boards.

Membership comprises four Governors, including the appointed staff and student Governors, together with three members of Academic Board nominated by the Vice Chancellor, including the DVC responsible for the oversight of the scheme. It is chaired by one of the independent Governors. The UHC is only quorate if three members are present, with at least one from each senior represented body.

The UHC normally meets twice per year in the autumn and the spring, but may be convened at other times if appropriate.

Nominations

All members of staff and members of the Board of Governors may nominate suitable candidates. The person making the nomination is not disclosed to the UHC to ensure impartial consideration of the candidate. Where a member of the UHC has made a nomination, s/he must declare an interest before participating in the discussion, and take no part in the Committee's formal determination in respect of that candidate.

Confidentiality

The process for nominating and approving honorary awards is wholly confidential and should not be discussed with the proposed honorand or made public in any way before the Vice Chancellor has invited the honorand to accept the award and the award has been accepted.

In the interests of confidentiality, the names are not included in the published minutes of the University Honours Committee.

Process

The Vice Chancellor appoints one of the Deputy Vice Chancellors to be responsible for overseeing the arrangements for the nominations and the process of conferment.

Nominations may be submitted to the responsible DVC at any time, although nominations will be solicited by email at least three times per year, normally in October, January and May.

Those submitting nominations should provide the nominee's full name, contact address and the reason for the nomination. They may be asked for further supplementary information before the nomination is considered by the UHC.

The names are collated, and the data checked for accuracy, before being submitted to the UHC.

The UHC considers each nomination and either approves, rejects, or defers a decision on them. A nomination may be deferred to seek further information or advice, or because the Committee believes the nomination to be too precipitate or the circumstances to be untimely. All confirmed names are entered on the list of approved persons for University honours.

At the appropriate time, the Vice Chancellor writes to a selection of approved names to invite them to accept the honour proposed.

Conferment

Honorary awards are conferred at the University's awards ceremonies, held either in September or January each year.

There is no set number of awards to be conferred in any academic year, the criterion being solely the worth of the recipient and not the need for an honorary award within an award ceremony. In the absence of an honorary award, the Vice Chancellor may chose to invite a guest of honour or a senior member of the University to give a graduation address.