

Scheme for the Award of University Honours

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.

The University wishes to honour those who have strong connections to the University, City and/or the Ceremonial County of Lincolnshire.

Honorary Awards

The University makes the following honorary doctoral awards:

- 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 Engineering Hon D Eng
- Doctor of the University Hon D Univ

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 and to have connections to the University, City and/or the ceremonial County of Lincolnshire.

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 expects those honoured to espouse values aligned to those of the University. Honorands are a role model for our students and staff, and strengthen the identity and prestige of the University through their association with us.

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 dealings²
- Public servants with whom the University is in partnership in any activity other than educational or academic³
- 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.

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 (the '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 Committee is only quorate if three members are present, with at least one from each senior represented body.

The Committee 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 Committee to ensure impartial consideration of the candidate. Where a member of the Committee has made a nomination, they 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 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.

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.

² This refers to those currently employed; it excludes those who have retired.

³ This refers to those currently employed; it excludes those who have retired.

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 Committee.

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

The Committee 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, normally held in September and Springtime 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 choose to invite a guest of honour or a senior member of the University to give a graduation address