

The Academic Regulations Appendix 25: Honorary Awards

2026-2027

The Academic Regulations

Appendix 25: Honorary Awards

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Regulations

1. The University's powers to confer honorary awards are outlined in the Academic Regulations (A2 and A3).
2. Under authority delegated by Academic Board, the decision to confer an honorary award rests with the University's Honorary Awards Committee.
3. The University may confer the following honorary awards:

Honorary Award Title	Designated Letters
Honorary Doctor of Arts	HonDA
Honorary Doctor of Business Administration	HonDBA
Honorary Doctor of Education	HonDEd
Honorary Doctor of Laws	HonLLD
Honorary Doctor of Literature	HonDLitt
Honorary Doctor of Medicine	HonMD
Honorary Doctor of Philosophy	HonDPhil
Honorary Doctor of Science	HonDSc
Honorary Doctor of Sport	HonDSp
Honorary Doctor of Sport and Wellbeing	HonDSpWb
Honorary Doctor of Technology	HonDTech
Honorary Doctor of the University	HonDUniv

Note: Honorary award holders may use the approved designated post-nominal letters, but the award of Honorary Doctorate does not confer entitlement to use the title 'Dr' in front of their names.

4. Criteria for awards

The criteria for conferment of an honorary award of the University will reflect a high level of personal achievement in academic, professional, or public life in areas of importance to the University or its stakeholders. Individual nominees will support the mission of the University and be held in high regard within their field.

Specific criteria are given below:

Honorary Doctorate

- Exceptional and outstanding contribution to the development of the University over a prolonged period; or
- Recognition of national/international excellence in an area relevant to the University; or
- Significant contribution to the national cultural, academic, educational, professional, or economic arena from an individual with roots in or connections with the region.

5. Approval of Nominations

Nominations may be made through Faculties, Services, the Executive, or the Board of Governors and should be submitted to the Assistant Registrar: Events & Operations who will instigate an annual call for nominations. The University may also receive nominations from other sources. Nominations must include a brief resume and supporting statement indicating how the nominee meets the criteria for award.

All nominations will be considered by the Honorary Awards Committee which comprises:

Vice-Chancellor (Chair)

Pro-Chancellor (Chair of the Board of Governors)

Two members of Academic Board (nominated) one of whom must be a member of the Students' Union

A member of the Board of Governors (nominated)

Director of PR, Corporate Communications and External Relations

Director of Governance and Assurance and Clerk to Governors

Assistant Registrar: Events & Operations (Secretary)

The proceedings of the Honorary Awards Committee are confidential, and no discussions should be held with the nominee until approval of the award has been given by the Committee. Nomination papers will be destroyed following the meeting except for the file copies.

Recommendations will be followed through to acceptance and then reported to Academic Board and Board of Governors.

6. Awards are conferred at an appropriate University ceremonial occasion, usually at graduation. No honorary award will be made in absentia.
7. Exceptionally, the Academic Board may revoke an honorary award if, in the opinion of the Board, the award holder has been discredited and continued association is felt to bring the University into disrepute.
8. Honorary awards are not normally conferred on serving politicians, serving members of the Board of Governors or staff in the employ of the University.

Key to Relevant Documents

The full list of [Academic Registry Appendices](#) can be found [here](#).

Annexes

There are no annexes to this policy.

End matter

Item	Information
Title	Appendix 25: Honorary Awards
Policy Owner	Director of Academic Registry
Policy Manager	Assistant Registrar: Events & Operations
Approved by	Regulations Review Sub-Committee
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