

Honorary Degrees Committee
(a standing committee of the Senate)

Terms of reference

- (i) To receive nominations for the award of Honorary Degrees and Honorary Fellowships and consider these against agreed criteria.
- (ii) To consider the due diligence work provided on nominated individuals.
- (iii) To make recommendations to Senate on persons whom Honorary Degrees and Honorary Fellowships of the University should be conferred.

Committee Composition

(ex officio)

Pro-Chancellor
Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair)
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
President of the Students' Union

(appointed)

a Pro-Vice-Chancellor with most relevant portfolio as determined by the Vice-Chancellor
up to two members drawn from academic staff from each of the four faculties, appointed by the Chair, on the recommendation of appropriate Faculty Dean
one lay member of the Council appointed by the Council

(in attendance)

Chief Administrative Officer and Secretary
Head of Stakeholder Relations and Events

Procedure

The Committee will normally meet twice a year.

The Committee Secretary will be a member of staff from Governance Services.

The quoracy for this Committee is half the number of members plus one, to include the Vice-Chancellor or Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

The term of office of the appointed members is for a maximum of three years. Terms will be renewable once for a maximum of a further three years.

The lay member term of office will be renewable twice; each term will be for a maximum of three years, co-terminus with lay Council membership.

The Vice-Chancellor will allocate an alternative Chair in the event of their absence.

The Committee shall receive an annual report on decisions made by Honorary Degrees Committee Chair's Action on nominations from the Alumni Awards Committee.

Criteria for the award of an Honorary Degree

Candidates nominated for Honorary Degrees should have an outstanding international reputation in their field or in exceptional cases a leading national reputation, and meet at least two of the following additional criteria.

- (i) They should have existing or potential links with Lancaster University.
- (ii) They should have strong links with the local region.
- (iii) They should be a suitable role model for current students and potential future students.
- (iv) Their work should be associated with a core area of the University's research.
- (v) The award should contribute to the University's aspiration to become a leading global University.

Candidates may be nominated to receive an honorary degree at an overseas campus or partner college (such as LU Ghana). In this case, the nomination may outline existing or potential links to the overseas campus or partner; and/or its local region.

Honorary Degrees are highly prestigious awards and there is a limit to the number the University can award each year.

Criteria for the award of an Honorary Fellowship

Honorary Fellowships may be awarded to people who have made an outstanding contribution to Lancaster University or the local region, but who may not meet the criteria for an Honorary Degree. Honorary Fellowships may be given to, for example, recently retired members of staff who have given long or distinguished service beyond the remit of their post.

There is a limit to the number of Honorary Fellowships the university can award each year.

Nominations for an Honorary Degree or an Honorary Fellowship may be put forward by any Member of the University (as set out in the Statutes).

Individuals may not nominate themselves. Honorary awards are not normally given to:

- (i) Serving politicians;
- (ii) Serving members of Council;
- (iii) Staff employed by the University;
- (iv) Candidates already in receipt of a significant number of Honorary Degrees from other HEIs, unless they have demonstrable and strong links to Lancaster University.