

University of Leicester Honorary Degrees and Distinguished Honorary Fellowships

Criteria and Nominations Process 2022

Criteria for the consideration of nominations for Honorary Degrees

The Honorary Degrees Board has adopted the following criteria, which should be taken into account when preparing a nomination:

An honorary degree is one of higher education's most significant accolades. It is the policy of the University to award honorary degrees, on a selective basis, to distinguished individuals who merit special recognition for genuine achievement and distinction in a field or activity consonant with the mission of the University. The Board will apply this fundamental criterion in assessing nominations and making its recommendations to Council and Senate.

Subject to this, the following characteristics (which are neither exclusive of each other nor all required) in a candidate will tend to strengthen a nomination:

- Exceptional academic achievement, particularly in fields for which the University is renowned
- Outstanding achievement – public, civic, intellectual, business, cultural or sporting
- A strong connection with Leicester, Leicestershire or Rutland
- A close University connection, for example:
 - as an alumna/alumnus
 - as a result of sustained and productive academic collaboration
 - as a volunteer or collaborator in other areas of University life
- The award will create or strengthen a relationship which will add to the University's standing, and offers potential for the future
- The recipient provides a role model to graduating students or is otherwise likely to add value to a degree congregation, engage the interest of the students and enhance the graduation experience.

Accomplishments such as the following will not *in themselves* be sufficient reason for an award: holding public office, acts of philanthropy, enjoying popular acclaim or celebrity, service to the University or to another educational institution.

Honorary degrees will not normally be awarded posthumously or *in absentia*.

The Board will at all times take full account of the University's commitment to equality and diversity in its deliberations.

Honorary Degrees Nomination Process (2022)

1. Calls for nominations will be issued periodically through normal University communications channels with an appropriate closing date given. Nominations may also be made *ad hoc* at any time.
2. Nominations may be submitted, **in confidence**, through the Assistant Secretary to the Board (via governance@le.ac.uk).
3. In all cases, full nomination cases are required in support of any nominations made. Nomination cases need not be overly lengthy but must set out clearly how individuals meet the criteria stipulated above, and must include:
 - detailed reasons for the nomination

- a brief curriculum vitae (to the extent that this is possible without consulting the candidate)
- other background information that may be useful (e.g. Wikipedia or Who's Who entry)
- any information known which would be likely to appear in a due diligence search
- the candidate's contact details where possible

Incomplete cases will not be submitted for consideration by the Board.

4. It is **essential** that the candidate should not be aware that the nomination is being considered.
5. Recommendations and approvals of candidates for honorary awards will be made subject to satisfactory full due diligence reports being carried out. These reports will normally be reviewed by the Registrar and Secretary and Chief Marketing and Engagement Officer, with any issues escalated to the Vice-Chancellor (as Chair of Honorary Degrees Board) and Chair of Council as required.
6. Ordinance IV.2 permits the award of any degree of the University as an Honorary Degree, but the Honorary Degrees Board will ordinarily restrict its recommendations to the award of Doctorates and (more rarely) Master's degrees (MA, MSc and LLM). The D.Sc. is normally awarded for contributions in science, medicine and engineering; the D.Litt. for contributions in the arts, humanities and social sciences; the D.Mus. for distinction as a musician, composer or academic student of music; and the LLD may be awarded either for distinction in the field of law or in recognition of a major contribution in such fields as public service, business and industry or sport.

Criteria for the consideration of nominations for Distinguished Honorary Fellowships

There will be a maximum of 24 Distinguished Honorary Fellows at any one time.

The overarching criteria for the award of Distinguished Honorary Fellowships are the same as those for the award of Honorary Degrees.

In addition Fellowships will be awarded only to persons who:

1. Have a substantial and sustained* record of personal service to the University;
2. Already hold an honorary degree of the University; and
3. Represent, reflect or demonstrate the University's values: Inclusive, Inspiring and Impactful.

Nominations may be made only by the Vice-Chancellor and members of the Honorary Degrees Board, which will make recommendations for consideration by Senate and Council. Fellowships will normally be awarded at Degree Congregations.

*normally at least 5 years following receipt of original Honorary Degree

Approved by Honorary Degrees Board

4 May 2022